



*St. Brigid's Pantry & Kitchen*  
*300 Broadway, Long Branch, NJ 07740*  
*732-222-1411 - Office      732-222-1472 - fax*  
*[www.stjames-longbranch.org](http://www.stjames-longbranch.org)*  
*Kevin Bates, Sr. Warde    Nancy Francese, Jr. Warden*

St. Brigid's Pantry and Kitchen located in the parish hall of St. James' Episcopal is quietly chugging along serving unprecedented numbers of clients. In 2023 we signed up over 800 new families. Throughout 2023 the number of adults and children fed each month at St. Brigid's Pantry grew from 1200 to 2700. The number of hot meals served every Monday and Wednesday has grown in 2023 from 320 per month to 680 per month. These numbers are staggering.

The costs of preparing meals in these quantities, and being able to store the amount of food required to feed this many people (we have 10 freezers and 10 refrigerators and a 12-burner stove) is also staggering. Think about your own kitchen and what is required to feed your family on a daily basis - and then quadruple it and add 680 to-go food containers each month, dish soap, prep gloves, aluminum pans for cooking, spices, additional pots, foil, plastic wrap - and you will see why when you add in a share of the cost for utilities and insurance and the salary of one part-time employee, the cost to keep open the doors of St. Brigid's is \$60,000 per year. St. Brigid's runs with the help of 25-35 volunteers. We could not sustain St. Brigid's without their help.

We need your help to keep St. Brigid's open. St. James' Church has always carried this important ministry, but is now no longer able to foot all the expenses. The community depends on St. Brigid's not only for food, but for health services offered by a representative of the Long Branch Family Health Center, a representatives from Aetna for low cost health insurance, Fulfill for SNAP benefits, Monmouth Medical and the Community Food Bank of New Jersey for nutritionists who help clients learn about the food they are receiving. We are also partnering with the Friends of the Long Branch Library who has set up a "wish list" for all things that promote literacy. We will be setting up a supervised children's reading room for the children of our pantry clients.

We welcome anyone who wants to help fulfill our mission to feed those in need. We are grateful for any financial donations that you can make. Every dollar makes a difference.