

St. Susanna Thanksgiving 2025

This year, our parish family witnessed extraordinary generosity. Because of the kindness and dedication of so many, **we were able to provide Thanksgiving meals to 482 families.** We are especially grateful to St. Francis DeSales, who opened their kitchen and welcomed us so we could safely—and joyfully—fry our turkeys.

Together, we accomplished something remarkable, ending the day fulfilled and united as one Body of Christ. We give heartfelt thanks for the many acts of generosity that made this ministry possible:

- Families who opened their hearts, shared their needs, and allowed us to walk with them in community.
- Drivers who delivered meals with care and friendly smiles
- The St. Francis DeSales community, whose support allowed us to **collectively fry 639 turkeys.**
- Our QC team, ensuring every turkey met the highest standards.
- Father Richard, pastor of our twinning parish in Uganda, for being with us and launching the first turkey.
- Volunteers who lifted prayers through the Rosary and personal acts of thanksgiving.
- Boy Scouts who moved supplies and organized the Meyer Center for volunteers arriving the next day.
- Stores and organizations that donated boxes and materials, and the volunteers who made countless trips to organize and prepare them.
- Local businesses that contributed funds and resources.
- Volunteers who braved a rainy night to clean, season, and prepare turkeys.
- Cooks who generously provided meals for our workers.
- Youth Group volunteers who welcomed neighbors, loaded cars, and unloaded turkeys.
- Volunteers who created joyful memories by making rosaries, pictures, and cards while singing songs with families.
- Our kitchen team who prepared hundreds of servings of mashed potatoes.
- Volunteers who boldly adapted when plans changed—relocating to a new frying site within 24 hours.

- Father Bernie, Deacon Lou, Deacon Pat, and Deacon Tim, for being present as witnesses to faith in action.
- The St. Francis DeSales community in Lebanon, who served 280 families.
- Additional parishes reportedly inspired to begin similar ministries.
- Faithful volunteers who stayed until the very end to ensure everything was complete.

Above all, we thank our Lord, whose mercy and love inspire us to give selflessly and serve joyfully for the glory of the Father and the good of others. Through His grace, families received full Thanksgiving meals, personalized cards, Rosaries, handwritten notes, and bags of non-perishable food to carry them through the week.

Keeping the Spirit of Generosity Alive

"A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed." Proverbs 11:25

Generosity is not just for one day. **We invite you to continue living this spirit throughout the year:**

- Volunteer at the Schuh Center.
- Join the St. Vincent de Paul Society.
- Take on a larger role in this ministry.
- Grow in faith through a Small Group.
- Connect with Mary Jo Burns to learn more about the Peace & Justice Ministry.
- Offer prayers of gratitude during Adoration.
- Invite others to join you in acts of generosity.

May our parish continue to grow in generosity, deepen gratitude among us, and glorify the Father through every act of love.

Karen and Ricky Mathews

