

Loaves & Fishes

Loaves and Fishes of McDonough County has been in existence, serving countless families in need of food and other services in McDonough County for 30+ years. During the pandemic, Loaves and Fishes was forced to shutter services for those families.

In 2022 Loaves & Fishes reopened with a changed focus moving from a food pantry to offering monetary vouchers where clients can purchase items at designated local grocery stores. In December of 2022 Loaves & Fishes served 135 families.

A year later, in December 2023 the number of families seeking assistance grew to an average of 388 families per month. The average number was slightly less in December 2024 due to the temporary closure from August through October of 2024, but still the average of those seeking assistance was 366 families.

The past two years have seen a great increase in families needing assistance. December 2025 showed an average of 419 families, even though Loaves & Fishes was forced to close during October and November due to lack of funds.

The latest numbers collected for June of 2026 show an average of 524 families seeking assistance. Many of the clients include elderly residents and many children.

Loaves and Fishes has kept the doors open through grants and generous donations from the citizens of McDonough County. To make donating easier, Loaves and Fishes has worked with Clock Tower Bank to secure a QR code which can be found on the Loaves and Fishes Face Book Page.

Loaves and Fishes would like to thank the parishioners of St. Paul Church for their continued support of this important service.

