

*Holy Rosary St. John Parish
and the
St. John Center*



The St. John Center

OVERVIEW OF HOLY ROSARY/ST. JOHN & THE ST. JOHN CENTER (AND RELATED ORGANIZATIONS)

Holy Rosary/St. John & the St. John Center

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Columbus, Ohio 43205

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Neighborhood Served

The St. John Center serves the near southeast side of Columbus. The 43205 zip code area in which the St. John Center resides is an economically challenged area.

According to the U. S. Census Bureau, approximately 30% of the population 25 years and older does not have a high school diploma. Additionally, almost 6% of the population (again, 25 years and older) does not even have a 9th grade education. Approximately 66% of the housing is renter-occupied. In this zip code area, 28% of the households have an income of less than \$10,000. Another 11.2% have incomes between \$10,000 and \$15,000. Over 68% of households make less than \$35,000. For families that include children under 18 years old, 55% are below the poverty level. Transportation is an issue: 31% of the households in the area do not have a vehicle, so having access to a variety of programs and assistance in the neighborhood is important.

Organizations Overview

The St. John Center is a community center (formerly the St. John School) on the near southeast side of Columbus. Organizations that reside in the St. John Center include:

- The Community Kitchen, Inc. (a separate nonprofit that grew out of the parish)
- Holy Rosary/St. John Youth Programs
- St. John Food Pantry (also a part of Holy Rosary/St. John parish)
- St. John Learning Center (a separate nonprofit that grew out of the parish)

Each of the organizations in the St. John Center provides important resources to the surrounding, low-income community. The following is a summary of what these organizations provide.



The Community Kitchen provides:

- A hot lunch six days per week
- Clothing room
- Toiletries (when available)
- Bus passes for medical appointments or new employment
- Fans for seniors during the summer
- Adopt a Family program at Christmas
- Health Screenings

Holy Rosary/St. John Church provides:

- Regular Masses and Sacramental Preparation
- Martin Luther King Day Mass (one of the oldest MLK Day celebrations in the city)
- Black History Month program
- Adopt a Family Program (Christmas)

The Holy Rosary/St. John youth program provides:

- Sunday School (weekly except summers)
- Vacation Bible School and Rites of Passage (summer)
- Book Bag and Schools Supplies Giveaway (just before school starts)
- Trips to colleges and universities for high school youth

The Holy Rosary/St. John Senior Impact program provides:

- Spiritual, social and material support for seniors

The St. John Pantry provides:

- A three day (minimum) supply of food for families in need
- Non-food items such as diapers, laundry detergent, etc. (when available)

The St. John Learning Center provides:

- G.E.D. classes and tutoring for adults trying to improve their education
- Computer classes
- Healthy Movement programs

In addition to all the services provided by the above organizations that reside in the St. John Center, the St. John Center also provides free space for community groups to meet.

Community groups that regularly meet at the St. John Center include:

- Livingston Avenue Area Commission Task Force
- Livingston Park Neighborhood Improvement Association
- Old Oaks Civic Association

The St. John Center is a vital part of the near southeast side community. In an otherwise struggling neighborhood, the St. John Center is truly seen as a beacon of light and hope.

Numbers Served

Every year, thousands of people in the surrounding community and throughout Columbus access programs and services located in the St. John Center. Following are some of the numbers served by each organization/program.

The Community Kitchen, Inc.:

- 104,430 hot lunches were served in 2009
- 4,997 people accessed the clothing room in 2009
- 1,385 bus passes were distributed in 2009
- Special events at Thanksgiving and Christmas
- Thousands of medical, housing, and other types of referrals were made

Holy Rosary/St. John Church (including the St. John Pantry):

- 8,310 persons (3111 families) were given three days (minimum) worth of food at the St. John Food Pantry in 2009
- 30 neighborhood children took part in Vacation Bible School in 2009

(area Vacation Bible Schools are a wonderful opportunity for families who cannot afford summer child care to keep their children busy during the summer months)

- 22 teens attended Rites of Passage in 2009
- Seniors were taken to medical appointments and provided with food and prescriptions when needed
- Over 300 children received school supplies in 2009
- Over 250 attended the Martin Luther King Day service in 2009
- Over 75 attended the Black History Month celebration in 2009
- Over 40 youth and adults attend Sunday School weekly at Holy Rosary/St. John
- Community organizations such as the Livingston Avenue Area Commission, the Livingston Park Neighborhood Improvement Association, and the Old Oaks Civic Association meet regularly in the St. John Center, the community center managed by the parish

The St. John Learning Center:

- 61 people attended G.E.D. classes in 2009
- 180 people attended computer classes in 2009
- Over 100 people attended Healthy Movement classes in 2009

**For more information, please contact Cynthia Newberry
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