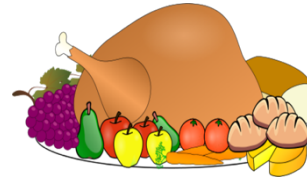


Moment for Mission: Oneonta Community Thanksgiving Dinner

Sunday, October 11, 2026 by Rebecca LaBarr

The Oneonta Community Thanksgiving Dinner has been serving meals since the 1940s when Rose Oliver ran a restaurant called The Rex. On Thanksgiving Day, she would close to the public to feed the railroad workers and their families at no charge. When she retired, this ministry continued at St. Mary's Catholic Church and expanded to serve the greater community with both a sit-down meal and deliveries to homebound neighbors.



Individuals who might be alone on Thanksgiving Day -- and families -- have always been encouraged to volunteer to prepare and/or deliver meals -- then to enjoy turkey and all the trimmings together. When the St. Mary's facility was outgrown in the 1990s the sit-down meal was moved to the Elks Club. That's when three kitchens started to be used to prepare and cook the meals -- First United Methodist, St. Mary's, and The Lord's Table. Since the pandemic began in 2020, the cooperative effort continues with take-out and delivered meals to the homebound within a 10-mile radius of Oneonta.

According to John Korb, Thanksgiving Dinner Coordinator, last year they prepared 1,000 meals that included take out, delivery and eat-in at the Elks Club. All leftovers were then sent to Your Safe Haven (formerly The Lord's Table). As you can imagine this all could not happen without Volunteers and donated funds from the community.

To Volunteer (drivers, cooks, food prep, serving, clean up from Nov. 23 to 26) -- contact Cindy Korb by Friday, November 20th at 607-267-0539 or thanksgivingvolunteer2026@gmail.com

To reserve for delivery for homebound or take-out meals, contact Deb Bruce by Monday, November 23rd at 607-433-0356 or oneontathanksgiving@gmail.com

Dine-in meals on Thanksgiving Day (November 26th) will be from 12:30 to 2:00 PM at the Elks Club, 84 Chestnut Street, Oneonta. Free Raffle.

Monetary donations are always welcome. Thank you in advance for helping with added expenses. Checks made out to the *FUPC* should have *Thanksgiving* on the memo line and be at church by November 6th.

To donate directly, make checks payable to *St. Mary's Church* with *Thanksgiving* on the memo line and send it to St. Mary's Church, 39 Walnut St, Oneonta, NY 13820.

This dinner is Sponsored by St. Mary's Church and the Oneonta community.

Thank you for supporting this hospitality ministry!