Free Thanksgiving Meals & Holiday Assistance

Ocean County, New Jersey | November–December 2026

PLEASE CALL AHEAD TO CONFIRM: This list is compiled from community announcements; not all details have been independently verified. Dates, times, locations, eligibility, registration deadlines, and supplies may change. Contact each organization before traveling. Some events require advance registration or may fill up.

Thanksgiving Meals, Events & Distributions

Sea Change Friendsgiving Dinner
Wed., Nov. 18 | 6–8 p.m.
Caribbean Pete's, 2 Point Rd., Waretown
Community dinner. RSVP by calling/texting 908-291-2688.

Toms River Housing & Homeless Coalition — Thanksgiving Agency Day
Thu., Nov. 19 | 11 a.m.–3 p.m.
Ocean County Housing Resource Center, 405 Washington St., Toms River
Meal 11 a.m.–1 p.m.; haircuts, showers, and service agencies. Walk-ins welcome. Focused on housing insecurity. Questions: 848-223-7284.

Fulfill — Thanksgiving Pop the Trunk
Fri., Nov. 20 | 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
B.E.A.T. Center, 1769 Hooper Ave., Toms River
Thanksgiving food distribution; announcement says no registration required.

South Toms River Thanksgiving Homecoming & Harvest Celebration
Sat., Nov. 21 | noon–6 p.m.
1 Drake Lane, South Toms River
Free admission; community celebration with food and family activities.

We Support the Homeless Organization — Thanksgiving Dinner
Sat., Nov. 21 | 6 p.m.
New Life Church, 700 Main St., Toms River
Food, drinks, haircuts, toiletries and music. Contact Alexis: 347-709-8790.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton — Thanksgiving Luncheon
Sun., Nov. 22 | time to confirm
30 Schoolhouse Rd., Whiting
Free luncheon sponsored by Mother Seton Cellar. Sign up by Nov. 18: 732-350-5001.

Tuckerton Red Men Lodge — Thanksgiving Dinner
Sun., Nov. 22 | noon
145 West Main St., Tuckerton
Free turkey dinner, dine-in or takeout. 609-296-1956.

The Nook Ocean County / Wingman Foundation — Meal Boxes
Tue., Nov. 24 | 5–7 p.m. pickup
The Union Market (confirm address)
50 boxes for Southern Ocean County families with sides, baking items, a small ShopRite gift card, and cleaning items. Reservations required via link in original post comments; confirm availability.

Visitation Parish — Take-Home Thanksgiving Dinners
Wed., Nov. 25 | 10 a.m.–noon pickup
Parish Hall, 730 Lynnwood Ave., Brick
Complete holiday dinners. Preregistration required; orders may already be closed. 732-477-0028 ext. 201.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church — Thanksgiving Dinner
Thu., Nov. 26 | 11 a.m.–2 p.m. (reported)
1500 Hooper Ave., Toms River
Sit-down or takeout dinner; announcement says no reservations needed. Confirm 2026 schedule: 732-255-4455.

Simon's Soup Kitchen — Thanksgiving Meals
Thu., Nov. 26 | 1–2 p.m.
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish Center, 168 Grant Ave., Seaside Heights
Takeout meals only.

Little Egg Harbor Italian American Club — Thanksgiving Dinner
Thu., Nov. 26 | 1 p.m. until supplies run out
105 Falcon Dr., Little Egg Harbor
Free traditional Thanksgiving dinner, open to the public.

Empanadivas Food Truck — Thanksgiving Meals
Thu., Nov. 26 | time to confirm
160 Railroad Ave., Tuckerton (near N. Green St./Route 539)
Free hot meals for families at usual truck location; confirm pickup time.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish and Center — Thanksgiving Dinner
Thu., Nov. 26 | noon–1:30 p.m. (reported)
Long Beach Island (confirm location)
Free dinner; reservations reportedly required by Nov. 20. 609-494-8861 ext. 250.

Pre-Thanksgiving Groceries & Food Pantries

Call for current hours, eligibility, holiday food supplies, and distribution requirements.

People's Pantry (B.E.A.T. Center) — 1769 Hooper Ave., Toms River. Mon–Fri, 9:30 a.m.–3 p.m.; 732-731-1417; client-choice pantry, fresh produce, and reported turkey baskets.

The HOPE Center — 253 Chestnut St., Toms River. Mon., Wed. & Thu., 9 a.m.–3 p.m.; client-choice pantry.

St. Joseph's Food Pantry — 16 Lafayette Ave., Toms River. Call for distribution times; reported holiday meats, breads, canned goods, and produce.

Abundant Grace Food Pantry — 108 Indian Head Rd., Toms River. Wed. & Thu., noon–2 p.m.; groceries and staples.

Lacey Food Bank — 102 Station Dr., Forked River. Mon–Sat, 10 a.m.–noon; assistance for families, seniors, and veterans.

Barnegat Food Pantry — 360A N. Main St., Barnegat. Tue., Thu. & Sat., 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.; baking supplies and nonperishables.

Other Holiday Gifts, Meals & Assistance

Salvation Army, Ocean County Citadel — 1738 Route 37 E., Toms River; 732-270-8393; Angel Tree / Adopt a Family

O.C.E.A.N., Inc. — 732-244-5333; holiday food baskets, gift cards and toys

Catholic Charities — 732-363-5322; holiday food and gift assistance

St. Francis Community Center — 609-494-8861 ext. 171; food boxes and gifts

Ocean County Sheriff's Office — 732-929-2044; toy drives

Ocean Christian Community — 732-240-5998; clothing closet and small toys

Island Heights United Methodist Church — 732-929-0444; holiday meals and small toys

St. Vincent de Paul — Original post lists 314-576-3993; verify appropriate local contact before use

St. Gregory's Pantry — 732-892-8105; holiday meals and toys

First United Methodist Church of Toms River — 732-349-8155; meal programs

St. Martha Church — 732-295-3630; grocery boxes

House of Hope of Ocean County — 732-341-4447; pantry and referrals

CLCL Gift Giveaway — Sun., Dec. 6, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.; 270 Chambersbridge Rd., Brick; confirm details

Need Help Finding Food?

Fulfill Food Bank: 732-918-2600 | NJ 2-1-1: Dial 2-1-1 for local food, holiday, and other assistance.