

About Funeral Luncheons

St. Wenceslaus Parish has a long tradition of preparing and serving “Funeral Luncheons” for families desiring this service. This provided by the Altar Society, but others may be called upon to be a part of this very important ministry. We have new parishioners who may not be familiar with the process here. This is an attempt to answer questions and clarify how things are done at St. Wenceslaus Parish. This is the process when there are not COVID restrictions.

When experiencing a death in the family, the family is faced with making many decisions in a short period of time. In the desire to be of service to the grieving family, St. Wenceslaus Parish continues the tradition of preparing and serving a luncheon following Funeral services. This is a visible way we show our care and concern for the families.

When meeting with the deacon/parish administrator and the funeral director to discuss funeral arrangements (Mass, readings, altar servers, music selection, floral arrangements, etc.) the family may request a luncheon. The parish administrator will notify the luncheon chairpersons who will contact the family to complete the luncheon arrangements.

The chairperson will start the fan-out call system so that all the ladies of the parish will be called, notified of the recent passing, and asked to bring a dish to pass. Others inventory paper products and other items needed for the meal, purchases the needed paper products and food: potatoes, bread or rolls, meat, milk, beverages, and ice as needed.

Before the meal, the hall is prepared, table covering replaced as needed, table set with cups, utensils, sugar and Coffee Mate. The day of the dinner, escalloped potatoes and meat are prepared and donated desserts are sliced and ready to serve. Signs are placed on the table to reserve seats for family members.

Along with the meat, potatoes, and bread, there is a smorgasbord of salads, fruit, bean dishes, vegetable side dishes, etc. and desserts all donated through the generosity of our parishioners. The Altar Society and the Parish pay for the paper products and purchased foods. Food will be served hot or cold as requested. Left over food usually goes home with the family and needs to be packaged. Sometimes the family of the deceased makes a donation to the Altar Society or to the Parish; this is appreciated but not required.

Dolores Houdek starts the call to the ladies who each have a list of about 7 people to call for food donations. Others will do the inventory and purchase the food and needed paper products.

At the luncheon help is always needed to serve coffee and other beverages, to put food on and to monitor the serving table. Then begins the clean-up: clear tables, remove condiments, sugar, Coffee Mate and put away, wash dishes, wipe tables, and sweep floors. Someone is designated to take the towels home to wash.

Our hope is that we can divide the work into three groups: setting up, kitchen help, serving and clean-up. There will be a clip board in the vestibule. Please sign for those areas that you will be willing to work. Signing does not mean that you must serve at every funeral; but anyone who wants to help is always welcome. Questions: Direct to Phyllis Korson.

Thank you,

The Funeral Luncheon Chairpersons