

Funeral Luncheon Ministry Reboot!

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted... (Matthew 5:4)

Before covid, St. Irenaeus was able to host beautiful funeral luncheons for our parish family members during their time of bereavement. *We offer our heart-felt thanks to Jewel Messina who beautifully coordinated this ministry for years, but has relocated a little too far away to continue her involvement.*

We hope to put our funeral luncheon ministry back in place once again this fall! In order to make that happen, we will need to rebuild our team of volunteers. There are a variety of ways you can help—whether you only have a little time in the evening, like to work quietly behind the scenes, love to openly shower hospitality on others, or have a gift of leadership you want to share. Whether you have been a part of this ministry in the past, or want to try something new... please prayerfully consider how the Lord might be calling you to get involved in this meaningful ministry!

There's a place for everyone! Where do you fit?

First Shift: Our morning kitchen crew!

Help cut up fruit; prepare potatoes and vegetable; arrange trays of cheese and fruit; toss salad; start the coffee; plate desserts; and ultimately prepare a beautiful palate-pleasing spread of comfort food for our bereaved families. (Approx 2 ½ hrs)

Second Shift: Our serving and clean up crew!

Help greet guests; replenish the buffet line; keep an eye on the refreshment table; refill cups; clear plates; wash dishes; package leftovers; and see the luncheon through to final clean up. (Approx 2– 2 ½ hrs)

Ironing Angels: Our table linen crew!

Pick up bags of soiled table linens and hangers; wash and iron the tablecloths in the comfort of your own home, and return them to the hall when you are done. You usually have a week to return them, but you will know before you volunteer if we will need them back sooner.

Dessert Makers: Our baking crew!

Sign up to bake a cake, pan of brownies, or a couple dozen cookies to put the finish on a beautiful luncheon.

Set-up: Our table-setting crew!

Help transform our hall into a place of welcome and warmth with linen tablecloths, centerpieces, salt and pepper, silverware, and everything the tables need to welcome our hungry guests. This might take place in the afternoon, evening, or early morning—depending upon other activities scheduled in the hall the day before the funeral luncheon. We will send out the timeframe, and if you are able, you can sign up to help!

Fruit prep: Our large fruit taskforce!

Help cut cantaloupe, pineapple, and/or watermelon into bite size chunks the day before a luncheon. We will purchase the fruit—it will be available for pick up by 3pm the day before the luncheon—take it home to tackle (or use our kitchen), and return it that evening or early the morning of the funeral (by 9 am).

Back-up shoppers: Our grocery-gathering crew!

Help pick up items we need for the luncheon. This is a short-notice job! We will call you with a list of items to be returned the day before the funeral.

Weekdays, Saturdays, evenings... And easy sign ups!

We are looking for helpers for **weekday** and **Saturday** funerals. Saturday funeral luncheons (and larger weekday funerals) will be catered, but we will still provide on-site support with set-up, clean-up, beverages, and serving.

We will have a few strong 'Team Leaders' to guide volunteers, and use Sign up Genius as much as possible to engage volunteers when funeral luncheons arise. We'll send out a link to a Sign up Genius page for each funeral luncheon, and **if it works in your schedule, you can sign up... if not—no pressure!** If you would prefer to be contacted by phone, we will call you!

The more people we can get involved in this ministry, the easier it will run without burning out just a handful of regular volunteers. Thank you for your support!

Interested? Questions?

Contact Cindy! 248-656-8720, cmonaghan@stirenaeus.org