

## GUIDELINES FOR FUNERAL LUNCHEONS AT DIVINE MERCY PARISH

Funeral luncheons are offered to registered, practicing parishioners of Divine Mercy Parish.

If you have experienced the death of a loved one, you understand what a gift it is to have a luncheon prepared for family and friends following the funeral Mass. It is a way that we, as a parish, can express our caring, concern and compassion during a difficult time. It also enables family and friends to reminisce and share memories.

Divine Mercy Parish has a group of men and women who provide funeral luncheons to parishioners family and friends. This is an ALL volunteer group. In order for this program to continue, we are asking for more volunteers to join our group.

All parishioners, unless physically unable, are asked to participate by bringing a cake when called. If everyone took their turn, you might only get called once or twice a year. *(Thank you to all those who take the time to return the call when a message is left, even if you aren't able to bake one!)* We would like a few more people who would be willing to make phone calls.

**Set Up Crew:** We have parishioners that arrive at 8:00 am the day of the funeral to set the tables, which includes covering the tables, placing cups, napkins & silverware, salt & pepper shakers, and cream & sugars. Depending on how many people are expected for lunch, it could take 45 minutes, up to two hours, to set. Usually two to three people are called for each funeral. We would like additional people who would be willing to set tables. Grab a friend and do it together.

**Kitchen Crew:** The kitchen crew also arrives at 8:00 am. They prepare and cook all the food for the meal, except the cakes. There are generally three to five people preparing the food for a luncheon. We could use additional people willing to take the lead or assist in the kitchen. *Unfortunately, we've had at least one occasion where we knew no one would be available in the kitchen on the date chosen for a Funeral Mass, so the family had to hire a caterer.* The kitchen crew stays until the center is cleaned up.

**Decorating & Cake Plating Crew:** They arrive at 10:30 am. They decorate the tables, cut and plate the cakes, help serve the meal, clean-up the dining room and pitch in to clean up the kitchen. They stay until everyone has been fed and the center is cleaned up.

Both the Kitchen Crew and Decorating & Cake Plating Crew are usually able to take a break before serving the meal.

**Final Finish & Clean Up Crew:** This crew arrives at Noon. They help serve, clear tables and help clean up the kitchen. They also stay until the center is cleaned up.

More volunteers are needed! If you would like to become a part of this important ministry, please call the Parish Office at 723.2619 to add your name to the volunteer call list.

\*The family is asked when arranging the funeral to make a donation to Divine Mercy Parish so that a luncheon can be prepared for the next family in need.