

February 15, 2017

Dear Meal Ministry Volunteer,

Thank you so much for volunteering to make and deliver meals to those in need in our parish family. Below is information on how the program works. We have many dedicated volunteers, which is an amazing testament to the St. John's Family. If you are looking for an easy, small, and caring way to be involved at St. John's and you don't have a lot of time, this is a PERFECT ministry for you! It probably involves less than 10 hours per year of your time and the satisfaction you will have from your service will be immeasurable.

Program Details:

A congregant or priest will contact the coordinator (that's me) with a possible short term need. I will contact the person or family to determine when and how we can help and gather pertinent details. Next, I will create a meal schedule on <http://www.takethemeal.com/> which will be accessible to all of us in the ministry and the recipient. It will give you all the details you need: who, what, when, where, what they like, what they don't like, etc.

After I have a meal schedule set up, I will email you amazing volunteers to see who can be the Lord's hands for this particular need. Please be discreet with the information you are given as sometimes the needs are confidential. You can log on to the website, [takethemeal.com](http://www.takethemeal.com) to deliver a simple meal to the recipient(s). Generally, it includes a main dish, veggie, and side dish. Anything else such as a dessert, groceries, or beverages are great, but not necessary. The cool thing about this website is that we can see who is bringing what and when they're bringing it, so the recipient won't have to eat similar food every time we deliver. You pick the day you want to deliver and please try to include your main dish. Then, when someone else goes to sign up, they can see your entry. For instance, if you are delivering pasta today, they can take chicken tomorrow. Easy peasy.

The description will tell you how many people you're feeding and give you any pertinent details such as if the kids don't like onions or no salt or whatever. It will also give you a time window and anything else you'll need to know. I'm also trying to give a neighbor's contact information in case there is a snag with the delivery.

Tip on Food Prep:

Some of us don't cook well. Some are amazing cooks. The point is that it doesn't matter how you cook. You can create a masterpiece or pick up Wood Ranch or whatever. The world is your oyster. The recipient will likely be grateful for your effort. Sometimes when I deliver, I throw in some brownies and roses from my garden. Generally, I just make dinner for my own family, and enough for the recipient all at once. Just make it fun. Also, please deliver everything in

disposable containers. Most people who need this ministry do not have the energy to return your casserole dish to you.

How often would I be expected to prepare a meal?

It depends on the needs of our congregation, number of volunteers, and participation levels. I've been doing this for many years and I've been called upon probably less than ten times total. It's not a huge commitment, but it's one that is filled with a lot of joy. I estimate once or twice a year. You can always say no.

What if I'm too busy when you contact me?

The website will have all the days available for you to choose from, so the flexibility should be helpful to you. Sometimes you'll be on vacation or whatever. Just shoot me a quick email and let me know. Not everyone will have the time or be able to accommodate special needs. This should be a fun activity for you and not stress you out.

Are there any meetings to attend?

Nope. This is a very sweet ministry, but it's not one that requires meetings. I'll just communicate via email or text.

How will people learn about this ministry and ask for meal assistance?

Anyone is welcome to let us know if they become aware of possible short term needs perhaps due to a birth, surgery, hospitalization, death, or a caregiver in need of support. Most requests will come through the priests. Once I am made aware of the need, I will call the recipient to see how we can best accommodate them.

If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact me. Again, thanks for being part of this worthwhile ministry.

Sincerely,

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