

## **Mother of Sorrows Family Fellowship Program**

### **What it is:**

Family Fellowship is a means of building faith and fellowship by sharing a meal together with other families from Mother of Sorrows. This is an opportunity to get to know other parishioners on a more personal level with smaller groups of 4-5 families and a chance to build friendships for adults and children.

### **Q&A about Family Fellowship:**

- 1. Do I need to be a fantastic cook to participate?** Simple food is fine. Remember the guests bring parts of the meal.
- 2. Do I need to have a perfect house with lots of space?** Getting together is the objective. The most important reason for gathering is to meet new people, be social, and have fun while enjoying a meal and great company! Remember, your home is the domestic church, and the size of your dining room or table is not an issue—let's have fun getting to know one another!
- 3. What if I'm too busy to participate?** The commitment is three meals in the fall, three in the spring, and a potluck dinner at the parish in August. Consider a brunch after mass on a Sunday if that works better!
- 4. What if I'm not religious enough?** Aside from starting the meal with words of thankfulness, there is no major agenda, bible reading, or program unless you and the other families want to do that. The goal is to get to know one another better and share food and fellowship—just dinner, hospitality, and conversation.
- 5. What if I have dietary restrictions or allergies?** If you let the host know your needs, accommodations can be made.

We hope you will participate! It will be an opportunity to strengthen the bonds of Mother of Sorrows parish life and make new friends. Jesus knew that sharing meals is the best way to build community. Join and be a part of the table fellowship!

**“What a great favor God does to those He places in the company of good people!”  
-St. Teresa of Avila**

## **Guidelines:**

These guidelines are to help Family Fellowship function smoothly, and to help all members know what to expect. Be flexible, and remember that the purpose of this group is Christian fellowship. Families will take turns hosting dinner and partaking as part of the domestic church.

### Hosts

#### Responsibilities:

1. After the date has been chosen for hosting, do your best to keep it in order to honor those who have committed to it. If a change is necessary, let other families know far in advance. The new date should be agreed upon with the other families.
2. Contact other families two weeks before the family dinner to plan the menu. As the host, you will provide the main course, and other families will provide appetizers, salads, side dishes, or desserts as needed. Consider food allergies and diet restrictions.
3. The inclusion of beer/wine is optional. Hosts and guests should decide among themselves whether it is desired.
4. Give directions to your home.
5. Grace, words of praise or thanksgiving, or a scripture reading is appropriate.
6. Hosting family can share their faith journey over dinner.

### Guests

#### Responsibilities:

1. If you do not hear from the host at least a week before the scheduled dinner, contact the host to confirm.
2. Guests who cannot attend should contact the host as soon as possible. If it works with other families, you can discuss the possibility of rescheduling.
3. Provide an appetizer, salad, side dish, or dessert as discussed with the host.
4. Respect the set time and do your best to arrive on time.

## Overview and Sign-Up Information

Family Fellowship is a means of building faith, fellowship, and a meal with other families from Mother of Sorrows Parish. This is an opportunity to get to know other parishioners on a more personal level with smaller groups of 4-5 families and a chance to build friendships for adults and children. Each family will take turns hosting dinner at their homes.

Dinners will take place during the following:

- All Family Kick-Off at the Church
  - August (Date TBD)
- Fall Months
  - September
  - October
  - November
- Spring Months
  - February
  - March
  - April

Dates are to be determined by each individual group based on personal availability. Any questions or concerns, please reach out to Erin Patterson – [erinobyne@gmail.com](mailto:erinobyne@gmail.com)

