



"Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink."

The Soup Kitchen is a very vital ministry that provides a hot meal to as many as 75 people in Newport County. St Mary's Church provides the meal on the second Thursday of each month and various other groups provide the meal on other days. The soup kitchen is hosted at St Paul's United Methodist Church in Newport, next door to White Horse Tavern.

Volunteers at soup kitchen are generally divided into two groups, kitchen volunteers and dining room volunteers. The kitchen volunteers are responsible for preparing the meal and the dining room volunteers are responsible for serving the meals. The meal that St Mary's prepares each month is meat loaf, boiled potatoes, vegetables, dinner rolls, fruit, apple sauce, and various treats for dessert. The meat loaves are prepared and cooked in advance by a number of parishioners so that they just need to be heated up on the day of soup kitchen.

The kitchen volunteers are led each month by a designated "cook" who is responsible for turning on the ovens and heating up the meat loaves. The cook also oversees cooking the potatoes and heating up the vegetables. The other tasks that need to be performed by kitchen volunteers include cutting up the potatoes to prepare them for boiling, putting the fruit into baskets, putting the apple sauce into bowls, and setting up the desserts. Frequently the dessert consists of packages of cookies or brownies which are then placed into small plastic baggies.

One or more of the kitchen volunteers also usually assists in the dining room setting up the tables and chairs. Once the meal is prepared, someone needs to slice the heated meat loaves, and bring the various food items from the kitchen to the dining room, periodically checking with the dining room volunteers to see if more food is needed. As soon as the various pots and pans are finished being used, the cleanup begins so that there is less work to do once the meal is over.

The dining room volunteers are responsible for setting up the tables and chairs, putting out the forks and knives, butter, salt and pepper, fruit baskets, and St Mary's prayer cards. They also help with preparing the fruit baskets, the desserts, and the apple sauce. Once the dinner actually begins, they are responsible for serving the food. Ideally, we have 3 to 4 people serving: one for the veggies and potatoes, one for the meatloaf, one for the apple sauce and rolls, and one to pour milk and juice as well as to be a runner to get things from the kitchen and to provide assistance to any guests who are disabled.

Once the meal is concluded the cleanup begins. This consists of wiping all the tables, putting all of the chairs back in the racks, getting all of the kitchen supplies and leftover food back to the kitchen, and sweeping the floor. If there is any remaining cleanup that needs to be done in the kitchen, the dining room crew frequently helps out with that as well.

Kitchen volunteers are asked to be at St Paul's around 3:30 so that food can be prepared and either put in the ovens or in pots on the stove. Dining room volunteers are asked to be at St Paul's around 4:00 to help with setting up the dining room and preparing the fruits and desserts. Typically, we need 3 or 4 people to work in the kitchen and 3 or 4 people to work in the dining room.

A reminder email is sent out on the first Thursday of the month, notifying people of the upcoming soup kitchen date. This serves not only as a reminder to those that volunteer to work at the soup kitchen but also as a reminder to those that volunteer to make meatloaves. And of course, you are more than welcome to do both.

Parking for soup kitchen can be found in the parking lot at the back of St Paul's (the kitchen entrance) located on Coddington St, or in the main St Paul's parking lot located on Marlborough St. Please use the kitchen entrance near the back parking lot because the front entrance is not open until the soup kitchen begins at 5:00 PM.

For more information or to sign up to volunteer, please contact Dave Brierley at dave@galaxia.com or Tom Jenkins at jenkins1711@cox.net.