

Martha Ministry-Hospitality for Funerals

Martha Ministry is named after Jesus' friend Martha, who extended hospitality to Jesus when he was in her home. This ministry is a way that our faith communities can show their support, not only by praying for the family at Mass, but by reaching out and offering hospitality after a funeral. The death of a loved one is a very difficult experience; at times the loss may feel overwhelming. In a short time period there is the stress of making many decisions. This act of kindness helps take one of the many burdens off the family's shoulders, by offering a modest meal to the family and friends of the deceased. At St. Michael Church in Lyons, and St. Patrick Church in Savannah, the gathering takes place in the church hall immediately following the service or burial. At St. John the Evangelist Church in Clyde, the gathering takes place in the downstairs hall in the Parish Office/St. John School building.

There is no charge to the family for this ministry, but donations are always welcome to help defray any cost the parish may incur. Our parishioners that serve in this ministry help by setting up the hall, preparing food, serving, and cleaning up after the gathering.

There are some circumstances where it may not be possible to hold the Martha Ministry meal (if the funeral is scheduled during the holidays or when two funerals are scheduled on the same day.) Some families may choose to have a meal at another location (someone's home, a restaurant, or have it catered). No matter what the particular situation may be, we want to at least offer to our grieving families the possibility of having the Martha Ministry meal. In doing this, we can play a small part in making Jesus' words come true in this time and in this place: "Blest too are the sorrowing, they shall be consoled" (Matthew 5:4).

If you would like more information or wish to help out in some capacity, please call the Parish Office at 315-902-4130.