



## Foyer Groups at Good Shepherd

Sign up now!

Foyer Groups are all about casual fellowship and good food—no agenda, no plan, just an opportunity to connect with others in our parish. These small groups bring together a wonderful mix of people—singles, couples, young adults, retirees, and everyone in between—offering a chance to meet and get to know fellow parishioners in a relaxed and welcoming environment.

Friendships flourish, and our large parish feels smaller and more connected. Newcomers are especially encouraged to join at any time. Come be part of the fun and fellowship—sign up today!

**Email your name and phone number to [mail@goodsheponline.org](mailto:mail@goodsheponline.org) to find out more about Foyer Groups or sign up!**

Q. How will Foyer Groups be set up?

A. Once you sign up, you'll be grouped with other singles and/or three other couples, or a mixed group of singles and couples (as you wish), potentially from different circles of the parish community and in varying phases of life. We will email you contact information for your group, as well as a list of suggestions for how to get started. The host/hostess will add an additional couple or two more singles of their choice for that dinner only, rounding the foyer group to eight. Families with children will be grouped with other families with

Q. I'm not much of a cook. Do I really have to be able to prepare a full meal for eight people in order to join a Foyer Group?

A. Foyer Group gatherings are intended to be shared meals, and that includes the preparation. Typically, the host might provide the main dish, with other members contributing the beverages, appetizer, salad, side dish, bread, and/or dessert. Many grocery stores and restaurants offer tasty, freshly prepared take-out dishes that you can serve. Those with the inspiration and capability to prepare a full meal on their own are, of course, welcome to do so, but that's not the expectation.

Q. I'm afraid my home isn't grand enough to host other parishioners. Will my standard of living be judged if I join a Foyer Group?

A. Here's what Foyer Groups are not: they're not a House Beautiful tour, they're not a Martha Stewart showcase, and they're not an Iron Chef cooking competition. They are casual gatherings where the focus is on fellowship and friendship, conversation and conviviality. We meet each other where we live, and accept our surroundings as they are just as God does.

Q. My home/condo/apartment isn't large enough to hold eight people for a sit-down dinner. Can I still join a Foyer Group?

A. Who says the meal must be a sit-down dinner? There are several alternatives. You could plan a menu of finger- and fork-food or a buffet that can be eaten from plates held on laps while sitting on sofas, chairs, or the floor. Or, when it's your turn to host, arrange for the group to meet at a local buffet-style restaurant, or reserve the picnic area at a county park and host a cookout.

Q. I have food allergies. How can I be sure that other group members' meal contributions will be suitable for me?

A. If you have food allergies, dietary restrictions, or strong taste preferences, please simply inform your group of your concerns at the beginning so that everyone understands what they must consider when planning their menus. All participants should make their best effort to accommodate the needs of their fellow group members.

Q. Are Foyer Groups for adults only, or are children welcome to participate?

A. Whether your group's gatherings are for grown-ups only or include kids too, will be one of the choices congregants will make as to which foyer group they would like to join. We will have "Family Foyer Groups" for those who would like to meet other families with children. Additional Foyer Groups will be for "Singles Foyer Groups (for those who would like to meet other singles)," and for "Adult Foyer Groups" which are a mixture of couples and singles. All will include new members and established ones. That way people who've been active in Foyer Groups for years some members have been doing it for 15 to 20 years, can still make new friends, and newcomers can meet a wider range of the Church of the Good Shepherd family. As usual, at Church of the Good Shepherd, "we have a place for you" even in the Foyers Groups.

Q. Is there some "program" or entertainment we should offer when we gather?

A. The primary goal of Foyer Groups is to extend and deepen ties within the parish by giving people a chance to get to know one another better, and that is most easily accomplished through conversation. Each month, two of the members (a couple or two singles) host a gathering. They convene the group and welcome all into their home. Foyer Groups are not a study or prayer group; they have no agenda other than spending time with one another, which is important for the building of Christian community in our parish. The uniqueness of the Foyer Group is its lack of formal structure, its openness of communication, and its free access given to the Spirit.

Foyer Groups are not intended to do anything, but simply to be what Christians are: groups of people who gather together and "love one another." Foyer Groups provide time to be with one another so that friendship may grow.