

Funeral Receptions The Basilica

The Food

We ask families to provide the food for their guests. You may choose a caterer to plan the type of meal you'd like to serve. We are able to accommodate your guests in Teresa of Calcutta Hall in our lowest level, called the Undercroft. You may choose to serve a plated meal, light buffet, or simply desserts and coffee. Homemade food is not allowed. All food items must be catered and should arrive ready to be placed on the serving table (already in bowls or on trays) and should be able to be served at room temperature. There is a beverage preparation area, but no kitchen or ovens at The Basilica, and very limited refrigeration.

Using a caterer. Catering services range from dropping off ready-to-serve trays to a full service event with servers. You can choose any caterer, but here are a few The Basilica has used for receptions:

- Panera Catering, Kelly Hinkemeyer—651-402-1347
- Bucca del Beppo - 612.288.0138
- D'Amico (hot food, with service) - 612.238.4444
- D'Amico and Sons, Golden Valley (cold food options, delivery) – 763-546-1166
- Kowalski's Catering - 1.888.972.7890
- Lunds and Byerlys – 952.897.9800
- Sammy's Avenue Eatery – 612.767.6278
- Patrick's Bakery (food options too)—612.861.7570

Please ask your family to let Wendy Caduff, Coordinator of Caring Ministries, know the name of the caterer and how many guests you are planning. Her number is 612-317-3474 and her email is wcaduff@mary.org

If you choose to serve hot food, you may want to consider hiring some of the catering staff to stay on site throughout your reception. If you choose not to pay for staff, The Basilica requires that you ask for and pay for a “driver set up” which means the driver will set up the hot food with chafing dishes before leaving the site. At that point, Basilica volunteers can take over the serving and management of the food. Lunds and Byerly’s charges \$35 for a driver set up. This minimal fee helps our senior volunteers do what they are good at: assuring your guests will be well taken care of.

You can bring in commercially prepared food, such as deli trays, from Costco, Sam’s Club or Kowalski’s. If you purchase trays for pick-up, it is a good idea to give that responsibility to a family friend who is willing to miss some of the funeral liturgy do the pick-up and delivery on your behalf. Ask them to connect with Wendy a couple days in advance of the funeral what the plan will be for arrival, menu, etc. Instruct them to park in the circle on 17th Street to haul food into the ground level doors and then use the elevator to come to the Undercroft. We have a couple small kitchen carts that can be used but realize it is still a labor-intensive work to ask of a friend. Please be sure all food comes ready to serve in large bowls or on trays, with serving utensils.

While your family is providing the food, volunteers from **The Basilica will provide** hospitality to greet and direct guests, linen tablecloths on round tables that seat 6-8 guests, with mirrors and votive centerpieces, beverages including water, lemonade, and regular and decaf coffee, paper plates, paper napkins, and compostable utensils. We prefer to provide all of the paper products and flatware so they are organic and can be composted. We will serve beverages, replenish the buffet table as necessary, and clean up the space afterward for your guests.

You are encouraged to take leftover food home with you. Friends and family may drop in or your own family may appreciate something ready-made later in the day. Ask a family friend who will not be going to the cemetery to be responsible for dropping things off at your home. Food not taken home can also be left here for our guests who come to the Sandwich Window or St. Vincent de Paul Outreach Ministries. At this time we are only able to keep and serve sandwiches, fruit and desserts—no salads. Other places such as Catholic Charities who serve a daily meal may be an option if you have large quantities of food you wish to donate. Again, please find a friend or family member willing to help you with that task.

Audio & Video Support

At the reception the sharing of memories is an appropriate way to honor your deceased loved one. The Basilica is able to provide the following at the reception (*these requests must be provided to Wendy at least 24 hours in advance of the funeral reception*):

- A handheld microphone can be provided through the Teresa of Calcutta Hall sound system for the sharing of memories and stories. It is recommended that you designate someone to facilitate/emcee this time of sharing.
- Projecting a slide show of memories on to the main screen of the Teresa of Calcutta Hall. The Basilica will provide the LCD projector. Please bring your own laptop computer along with adapters, especially if you have an Apple, to plug into our system. You may wish to have your show on a flashdrive as a backup; we could try to play it on a Basilica laptop if yours isn't connecting. PowerPoint shows created with Microsoft work the best. We are not equipped to play videos or DVDs.

Flowers, Photos, Guest Book

During the funeral Mass, we will do our best to move flowers, photos, and mementos to the reception site in the Undercroft and set them up in a pleasing manner. A few arrangements can be left with The Basilica but also please encourage your guests to take flowers home with them if you have many given in honor of your loved one.

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