

## TRINITY GIRLS CHOIR MEAL GUIDE

We'd like to provide some guidelines that will help make the dinner both well organized and fun. The purpose behind having the girls share a meal is two fold. One is to provide a relaxed social atmosphere where the girls (and the parents serving) can get to know one another and foster a sense of community. The other is to help provide a place to develop a set of expectations within the choir for public dining, which speaks volumes for the group whether at Trinity or traveling.

Families will rotate through a schedule and can expect to participate perhaps twice or three times a semester. Parents who are assigned to provide the meal are also need to attend the dinner, to help set up, serve and clean up. This is also a good time to get to know other choir parents, the music staff, and the Girls themselves. The names of the families will be listed on the calendar posted on the web, accessed by the link from the Men and Girls Music Page at [www.trinitynewhaven.org](http://www.trinitynewhaven.org). One of the meal preparation families will also be the Duty Parent for that rehearsal and meal. The name of that person is printed in all CAPS on the online choir calendar, as on non-meal days.

- The **first family** listed on the schedule provides the **main course AND** lets the other two families know, in advance of that day, what the main course is. This family should contact the other two the week **prior** to the Tuesday dinner in question.
- The **second family** brings a **salad** or **side dish**
- The **third family** brings **drinks** (no soda, please, though seltzer is fine) **and dessert**. Please expect to serve about 20 girls, plus 5-10 extra guests (choir staff, helping parents and siblings, etc.).
  
- **Substitutions:** If you cannot participate on your assigned day, it is your responsibility to find a substitute. Please let the overall Dinner Coordinator, the Music Office, and the first family on the list know of all switches. If you have trouble finding a substitute, contact the coordinator as soon as possible.
  
- We try as much as possible to take **special needs** into account—e.g., food allergies, vegetarian families, etc. It's important that, if your daughter has any special needs, you let Walden know in writing so he can inform all who prepare the meals.
  
- Please keep meals simple due to the limited amount of time available; the girls should eat and clean up within the 30 minutes allotted.
  
- Almost all Girls choir meals are on Tuesday nights, and we should normally have use of the Undercroft: The assigned parents may use the round tables in the

Undercroft and serve from the large island in front of the kitchen. Parents assist with set-up, serving, and clean-up.

- If the meal is, for some reason, on a Sunday: The meal will be eaten and served in the side rooms (the partitioned rooms on the side opposite the nursery) OR the Choir Room. Three tables can be set up end to end lengthwise, and a fourth (nearest the kitchen) used to put food for serving buffet style. School/Church School may not be packed up for the day yet, and there is a coffee hour in the Undercroft after the 11 am service – since we are using the same space, we want to be good neighbors. IF the Choir Room setup is needed, choir staff will let you know this and assist in setup. The tables should be set before hand.
- The **church kitchen** is well stocked with pots/pans, cooking and serving utensils, paper products, plates and tableware, etc. Everything is for our use—if you can't find something you need, just ask around. Parents bring all the food and condiments. You can use the ovens and stoves and microwave to heat/cook.
- Before eating the girls can line up, say grace, and serve themselves (or with assistance as needed). After the meal the girls should clear their places, help wash dishes, help wipe down the tables and put tables and chairs back where they belong. They should also help clean up the carpet and floor in that area.

**N.B.** The church is currently not able to **recycle** most materials, so it's best if one family can take recyclable trash (drink bottles, plastic containers, etc.) home to add to its weekly curbside recycling pile.

Most of all, enjoy, relax, and have fun! These meals help form stronger bonds between the Girls, and their parents too! Please share any suggestions for improvements to this system to the Duty/Dinner Parent Coordinator.