

FOYER GROUP FAQs

Q. I'm not much of a cook. Do I really have to be able to prepare a full meal for eight or ten 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 and beverages, with other members contributing the 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 Christ Church 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 The Apprentice: Martha Stewart, and they're not a cooking competition. They are casual gatherings where the focus is on fellowship and friendship, conversation and conviviality. We meet each other where we are, just as God does.

Q. My home/condo/apartment isn't large enough to hold eight to ten 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 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 be up-front with your group about these from 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 may children participate?

A. Whether your group's gatherings are for grown-ups only or include kids too, is largely up to the membership and will depend on the ages of the children in the group's families. Hosting a meal for just the adults allows for undistracted conversations, while including children unquestionably livens up the evening. The group should attempt to strike a comfortable balance.

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. There is no requirement for structured debate or religious experience (well, it would be nice if you say grace before eating!). However, if the group is so inclined, you could play a party game after dinner, or you could arrange to attend a movie together and then discuss it afterward over the meal. For some people who struggle to make small talk with those they don't know well yet, having something in particular to do or to discuss helps facilitate the process of becoming acquainted. Each family is encouraged to personalize their hosting turn according to their interests. Just chatting and nibbling is fine too!