Plan a Parish Event at St. John the Merciful

Parish life grows when people take initiative.

Some of the most meaningful parts of our life together—meals, studies, gatherings, and acts of service—begin with a simple idea and a willingness to take the first step.

If you have an idea for a parish event, we want to help you bring it to life in a way that is thoughtful, well-ordered, and truly builds up the community.

This guide will walk you through a few simple steps to help you think it through. At the end, you can submit your idea so we can coordinate it within the life of the parish.

We've also included a few examples at the end—a fundraiser meal, a book club, and a women's gathering—to give you a sense of what this can look like in practice.

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Information needed to plan an event

1. What is the purpose?

Start here.

What is this event meant to do?

- Build fellowship
- Raise funds for a need
- Study and grow in the faith
- Serve others

A clear purpose keeps things simple and focused.

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2. Who is it for?

Think about the scope:

- The whole parish
- Families
- Men or women
- Children or youth
- A small group

Not every event needs to be for everyone—and that's okay.

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3. What do you need?

Keep it realistic and simple.

- Date and time
- Space (main area, kitchen, etc.)
- Food or materials
- Setup and cleanup

The simpler the plan, the more likely it is to succeed.

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4. Who will help you?

Parish life is shared life.

Try to identify at least one or two people who can help you:

- Cooking
- Setup
- Leading discussion
- Welcoming others

You don't have to do this alone.

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5. How will people know?

We'll help with communication, but it helps to think ahead:

- Bulletin
- Email
- Website

Giving people a little time to plan makes a big difference.

A Note on Coordination

All parish events are coordinated with the parish calendar and receive a simple blessing so that everything fits well within the life of the Church.

This isn't about adding barriers—it's about keeping our life together unified and peaceful.

Examples

These are simple starting points—not rigid templates.

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1. Fundraiser Meal

A shared meal after Liturgy to support a specific need (camp scholarships, building fund, almsgiving, etc.).

- Choose a simple, manageable menu
- Ask 2–3 people to help cook and serve
- Announce 1–2 weeks in advance
- Provide a clear way for people to give (donation basket or suggested amount)

Keep it warm, simple, and welcoming.

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2. Book Club / Study Group

A small group gathering to read and discuss a spiritual book.

- Choose a book (with Father's blessing if needed)
- Set a consistent meeting time
- Keep it to about 60–90 minutes
- Focus on discussion, not lectures

The goal is steady growth, not complexity.

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3. Women's Group Gathering

A regular time for prayer, conversation, and mutual encouragement.

- Keep it simple and consistent
- Consider beginning or ending with prayer
- Share responsibility if helpful
- Leave space for real conversation and support

These kinds of gatherings often grow naturally over time.

Submit Your Idea

When you're ready, use the form below to share your idea:

👉 https://forms.gle/WJR6XzWhKzJL9LgGA

Remember, even a small, simple idea can bear good fruit. Don't overthink it—this is just the first step.