

The Ascension Weekly

September 10, 2017

A Taste Feast You Won't Want to Miss!

On Sunday, September 17, the Ladies' Auxiliary Knights of St. John will be hosting their annual Taste Feast in Bates Hall from 2:00 to 5:00 PM. This popular fundraiser event is open to all Ascension parishioners and offers a tantalizing selection of various foods for guests to sample and enjoy. Several tables are set up, each hosted by one of ten to twelve KSJ Ladies' Auxiliaries from around the region. The offerings at each table can vary from year to year; in past years, one of the popular entries has been a Thanksgiving style meal, replete with turkey, stuffing, gravy and green beans. The Mexican food table has also always been quite popular, with mouthwatering fare such as enchiladas and spicy Mexican soup. Desserts have included ice cream sandwich cakes, ambrosia, fruit and pound cake. The foods are absolutely delicious and all homemade. As folks come into the hall, they are invited to take small plates and go from table to table, sampling a little from each. Festive fall colors adorn the banquet tables where people can then sit to enjoy the foods they have selected while chatting with others from the parish and community.

Since the event was first held at Ascension six years ago, it has grown more and more in popularity. Last year, close to 100 guests attended. It is both a fun social event and also one of two major fundraisers held by the Ladies' Auxiliary Knights of St. John, who travel in from Southern Maryland, Central Prince George's County, and Baltimore to participate. Proceeds go towards the organization's fund to help family members at the time of a member's death, and also to a charity that the members choose each year to benefit. Last year, which was the 100th anniversary of the group's founding, proceeds were gifted to Frontiers, a local education group to benefit students in need. The Taste Feast is one of many events the Ladies' Auxiliary participate in or host each year, in addition to other activities like the holiday toiletries drive, parish bake sales and Lenten soup and salad suppers.

Those kinds of endeavors are a huge part of what the Knights of St. John Ladies' Auxiliary is all about, says Ann Laverne Johnson, President of the KSJ Ladies' Auxiliary #109 (the local council based at Ascension). This local chapter is over 100 years old, having been founded at the parish in 1902. It is the oldest and longest-running organization at Ascension, and enjoys a rich history of being active and supportive of parish life. Ann Laverne, who has been a member since becoming a junior Auxiliary when she was 7 years old, recalls, "Members have always been involved in the parish. They have been extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, Religious Education teachers, you name it; whenever something came up and a need arose, there was always a representative from the Ladies' Auxiliary."



For now, the group hopes for a large parish turnout for the Taste Feast coming up on the 17th. The event promises to be a delightful dining experience with lots of fun and fellowship on the side. Those who attend may win one of the door prizes that will be awarded throughout the evening; they can also try their chances at a 50/50 raffle. New this year is an apron contest, where guests will help vote on which of the Ladies' Auxiliary members manning the tables are wearing the best aprons! This is one festive evening you won't want to miss--come and bring the whole family! Admission costs \$12 for adults and \$6 for children, and tickets will be available at the door.

Editor's Note: Joining the Ladies' Auxiliary Knights of St. John is a great way to get involved in the church within an organization with strong ties to our parish, and to develop strong friendships with other Catholic women. All ladies of the parish ages 16 and up, single or married, are invited to become members. If you'd like to learn more, please contact Ann Laverne Johnson at (301) 464-8920.