



A Word from Mercy Epperson

Our ministry, the Guadalupanas, is a small group of dedicated members. At present there are only ten members but we are very involved at our parish.

The purpose of the Guadalupana ministry is to promote in its members a deeper knowledge of their faith, the Doctrine of the Church, and a greater understanding of liturgical and fervent devotion to our Lady of Guadalupe.

We have bingo at the church hall every Tuesday of the month (except the last two weeks of December and the first week of January). The members of our ministry manage the concession stand two to three Tuesdays of each month.

Aside from helping at bingo, below are the lists of activities that our ministry was able to help:

- ✓ Every year our ministry helps prepare the Christmas baskets that we distribute to people who signed in for them or we deliver to those who are homebound.
- ✓ We cook lunch and decorate the hall for the graduating seniors and their immediate families every year.
- ✓ The fish fry during Lent is another activity that the Guadalupanas are involved in. Another church ministry fries the fish but we make the side dishes (homemade mac and cheese, hush puppies, and our famous coleslaw and tartar sauce).
- ✓ When a member of our parish loses a loved one, we help prepare the food for the mourners if they ask for it.
- ✓ Last Christmas we visited the first grade students of one of our members who is a teacher. We delivered goody bags and toys to all her students. You should have seen the excitement from their faces, it was priceless!!!
- ✓ After the devastation from hurricane Harvey, the Guadalupanas helped the other ministries in feeding approximately 1500 people on September 1, 2017. During the recovery effort donations were pouring in from different groups and individuals from all over. To better organize the distribution of these donations, three classrooms at the church were converted to store/issue supplies more efficiently. These supplies ranged from cleaning provisions, canned goods, personal items, baby foods and diapers as well as water. Ice was issued out of a tractor trailer parked in the church parking lot.

For two weeks, the members of the Guadalupanas, Altar Society and other volunteers took turns manning the 'grocery store' (as we named it) so that people could come and get what they needed. We also cooked lunch at the hall and delivered them to the National Guard units and other first responders.

It seems like all we do is work (which might be true!) but we all enjoy doing it!!! We had some fun times too, like going to a movie if it's not our turn to manage the concession stand, or "just to feel like a kid again", dress up for Halloween and give candies to small kids and big kids alike.

It may sound like a lot of work being a Guadalupana but we know deep in our hearts we are doing God's work.

So please, consider joining our ministry and experience the inner joy you'll feel knowing that in some small ways, you made a difference to someone.