

The logo for the Church of the Incarnation features a stylized church building with a cross on its roof, a tree to the left, and a sun or moon in the background, all enclosed within a semi-circular arch.

CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

A ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY IN CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA

TO: THOSE WHO WILL BE HOSTING LITNICS
FROM: FR. GREGORY

So, you are preparing to host a Lit-Nic?! First of all, thank you and congratulations. We, the Community of the Church of the Incarnation are delighted that you have opened the domestic church that is your home to receive the gift of Eucharist in a new and exciting summer fashion. These moments of fellowship are not only great times but also opportunities for the Spirit to build up our community on a more informal level. They also allow the formal worship of our parish, our daily liturgy, to be celebrated in a new and exciting way. The gift of your hospitality and your willingness to host this faith celebration is testimony not only to the Spirit's movement in our community, but in you and yours as well.

What follows are some basic guidelines to assist you in offering hospitality to the parish community that will celebrate the liturgy in your home. While by no means exhaustive or all inclusive, we hope they provide some assistance to you as you prepare to open your home to the Lord Jesus and His people. Please remember that Lit-Nics are not an attempt simply to take the liturgy from one place (the church) and deposit it in another (your home). Rather, it is an attempt to create and fashion an encounter with the Spirit on a level more informal than normally experienced by most of our parishioners. So here goes...

PREPARATION:

In one sense the preparation for a Lit-Nic is fairly simple – the offering of hospitality as you would for any gathering of a large number of people in your home. We assume that all the parish community is welcome to participate in any given liturgical function, but we ask that you as a host or hostess pay special attention to the Roman Catholics of our parish who are in your neighborhood. While other neighbors and friends might also be invited, *please note that the Catholic Church does not have open communion for those not of Roman Catholic faith.* This would be true even in liturgy at home. A phone call or a card to the fellow parishioners of your neighborhood might be very helpful. Feel free to ask those planning to attend to assist you with the details of set-up or organizing. A general number preparing to attend the Lit-Nic should be obtained a few days before the Lit-Nic is to occur, so you can decide what area should be set up for this purpose. The host household should also place an announcement in the bulletin indicating how guests can get directions. Please note that announcements must be in the office on Tuesday by noon prior to the weekend bulletin.

Generally speaking, the location of the liturgical celebration should be a fairly quiet part of the house or yard. Areas greatly exposed to neighbors or noise may not prove suitable. The household is asked to provide for the Lit-Nic the basic needs of liturgical worship, i.e., a steady, cloth-covered table, goblets and plates or bowls suitable for holding the bread and wine, and the

wine itself. Bread may be made by the host household or brought from the church by Fr. Gregory. **If Fr. Gregory is not contacted, he will assume that he does not need to bring the bread.** If it is made at home, the approved recipe should be utilized. Copies of this recipe can be obtained at the Parish Office. Wineglasses and matching plates are, of course, suitable for Eucharist. Any porous material such as wood or unglazed pottery is not acceptable.

THE LITURGY:

Liturgy at home, though somewhat more informal, retains nevertheless the basic requirements and facets of public worship and Eucharist wherever it is celebrated. For this reason there are certain norms to which the persons planning to host the Lit-Nic are asked to tend.

Music of some nature is required for all of our worship. If no instrument is available, it is still expected that the community will sing, particularly the central portions of the liturgy. Please feel free to contact Deacon Chris Morash, Director of Worship, for assistance and suggestions. He would be willing to help print a song sheet. Choosing songs may well be a task delegated to another member of the area in which the Lit-Nic is occurring.

THE READINGS:

Normally the readings of the day from the lectionary are those to be proclaimed during the Lit-Nic. A statement of welcome may be made before or after the celebration of the liturgy, and this is particularly appropriate if there are many guests from outside the local area of the Lit-Nic itself. It is up to the host to designate who will proclaim the readings (normally one person is sufficient) and who will assist as Eucharistic ministers. Members of the host household may, of course, serve in these ministries.

OTHER LITURGICAL EXPRESSIONS: (e.g. renewal of baptismal or matrimonial rites, blessing of a new home, etc) can all be incorporated into the liturgy if cleared with Fr. Gregory beforehand.

THE "NIC" PART OF THE LIT-NIC:

The celebration of Eucharist pours over into the continuance of our prayer through fellowship. For this reason, the potluck picnic that follows the Eucharist is an important part of what we are doing for our Lit-Nic celebration. Members attending are expected to bring along what they would like to eat and a little extra to share. We ask the host family only to provide ice, plates, cups, napkins and cutlery. If the host household would also like to provide beer, wine, soda, dessert, etc., that is permissible, but not required. Generally speaking, Lit-Nics that begin at 6:30pm will end somewhere around 9:30pm. A place in the house or lawn where a buffet line can be set up for the evening meal works best.

Once again, thank you for your generosity in opening your home to our liturgical assembly and parish family. If we can assist you in any way, please do not hesitate to call the Parish Office.

Please call Fr. Gregory a few days before the Lit-Nic is celebrated so that the various details of the celebration might be finalized!