

FISH FRY ALTERNATIVES

Many of us have enjoyed Lenten “fish fries” for decades and the sense of community these have brought together is what has made them so important. Small business owners in our communities need our support right now and we have an opportunity to help them, while sharing in a much-loved tradition.

Consider the restaurants in your church neighborhood or food trucks that may be available. Ask how you can partner together and see what ideas you can come up, to create new community connections. Sometimes, it’s not about raising funds, but increasing good will and showing how we can care for one another.

If you are working with a local restaurant on a Fish Fry alternative, we want to hear from you. Contact [Canon Twila Smith](#) to share your plans.

Here are some ideas to get you started:

- Find out what restaurants in your area will be offering a fish dinner during Lent and promote these to parishioners, neighbors, etc. In exchange, ask about a small discount for anyone mentioning the church when they place their order.
- Work with a food truck business to adapt menu items for a fish fry option (fish and chips, anyone?), give them space to park at your church, and help promote it.
- See if a local restaurant will offer a fish takeout special on one or more Fridays in Lent and work together to promote it. Maybe offering a lunchtime or early evening special will help increase their business.
- Encourage church members to show their support by ordering takeout, making social media posts, and sending notes to restaurant staffs.
- Get creative! A restaurant may not offer what we’d recognize as a traditional fish fry dinner and maybe they can help us try new things in place of the usual option: fish tacos, calamari, or a plant-based alternative.