

The aroma of pumpkin bread will soon fill not only our parish kitchen, but hundreds of other residences this Thanksgiving.

It begins two Sundays before Thanksgiving, on Nov. 11, when volunteers will gather in our kitchen after the Christian Formation hour to measure ingredients for about 750 1.5-pound loaves. In 2006, a Girl Scout troop did the work in 2.5 hours, said Lynn Treiss, who is coordinating the “1,000 Loaves” project.

The following Friday, on Nov. 16, the J2A and Rite 13 groups will begin baking for the weekend. While Rite 13 will leave early, J2A will bake until around 2 a.m. Then the process begins again at 6 a.m. Saturday, and will continue until about 2 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 18, all through volunteers who sign up during November, said Treiss.

“The limitation on the number of loaves we can bake is how fast we can cook them,” she said. Cooks can bake 48 pans per hour in the convection oven and 16 pans in the regular oven.

The recipe is no secret—it will be published in the upcoming parish cookbook being coordinated by Mary Malotke.

The “1,000 Loaves” ministry got its name during the first year when 1,000 1-pound loaves were baked. The following year, the ministry used 1.5-pound pans and baked about 750 loaves.

Donations this past year included 16 gallons of milk from UDF. “This year I’m trying to get more things donated,” said Treiss. “Whatever is not covered by donations will be covered by outreach through the gift card program.”

Gift cards can be purchased during the second Sunday each month in the parish entrance hall.

During 2006, the ministry donated 150 loaves to Inter Parish Ministry, 200 to the YWCA in Batavia, 100 to Thomaston Woods, 20 to the Clermont County Homeless Shelter, 100 to Milford-Miami Ministries, 75 to the Loveland Interfaith Food Effort, and some to a few other locations.

To volunteer on Sunday, Nov. 11, or Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 17 and 18, watch for sign-up sheets on the church bulletin boards or contact Lynn Treiss at 774-0305.