

Hospitality / Greeter Ministry

The hospitality ministry is a ministry of evangelization and welcoming current parishioners and visitors to mass and special liturgical events. The ministry consists of mass greeters and hospitality ministers at the hospitality table.

Hospitality Mission:

It is important that each person be greeted as the body of Christ gathers together. The welcome of a greeter sets a tone of love. It reminds people that they are entering a special time of worship, where they will experience God, and God's love. Maybe someone has had a difficult week. A warm greeting can remind people that they are entering a place that will treat them differently than the way the world treated them. A warm greeting also reaffirms to each person that they belong. It's a way of saying, "You belong here, and we are glad that you do." After all, everyone is important to the body of Christ.

Hospitality Values and Outcomes:

These values and outcomes are taken from "Go and Announce the Gospel of the Lord, Pastoral Letter" by the Most Reverend Earl Boyea, Fifth Bishop of the Diocese of Lansing. April 5, 2012.

The parish will engage our Catholics more deeply, re-engage our fallen-away sisters and brothers, and be an evangelizing force in our community. (p. 1)

The parish will be a Household of Faith which is a place of hope, not fear; a place of energy and the Holy Spirit, not fatigue; and a place of enthusiasm and joy, not dourness. (p. 20)

The parish will find lost sheep and bring them back festively...(because) personal joy and warmth can go a long way in making someone feel that he or she has finally found a home. (p. 25)

The parish will be a Household of the Faith in which we are all missionaries. We need to meet people where they are—to value them and their experiences as preparation to receive the Good News of Jesus Christ. We invite them to Jesus because we believe in this Christian life and we are happy living it. We want to share our joy with others. (p. 30)

The parish will be a Household of Faith where the primary motive (of hospitality) is to love as Christ loves and provide a place for attendees to encounter Christ serving them, even as we encounter Christ in the ones we serve. (p.33)

Hospitality Calendar: (2012-2013)

The following dates will serve as hospitality events (a welcoming table and greeters). The dates include Saturday evening services.

First Sunday of Advent: Sunday, December 2, 2012

Christmas Eve: Monday, December 24, 2012

Christmas Day: Tuesday, December 25, 2012

K of C Pancake Breakfast Sunday for January or Epiphany Sunday

Ash Wednesday, Wednesday February 13, 2012

First Sunday of Lent: Sunday, February 16, 2012

Palm Sunday: Sunday, March 26, 2012

Good Friday: March 29, 2012

Easter Vigil: Saturday, March 30, 2012

Easter Sunday: Sunday, March 31, 2012

K of C Pancake Breakfast Sunday for April

K of C Pancake Breakfast Sunday for May

Basic hospitality table minister duties and procedures:

The hospitality minister will take the leadership for an assigned mass at a given church site.

The hospitality minister will be responsible to contact and assign greeters.

The hospitality minister will serve as a resource person to the greeters to extend hospitality services and to answer questions.

The hospitality table minister will be ready and prepared to explain in detail about being Catholic, our parish, and our parish programs.

The hospitality minister will wear a name tag.

The hospitality minister will have the table well stocked with program information and evangelization materials.

The hospitality table minister will be available ½ hour before the start of the service.

The hospitality table minister will stay at his/her post until “Welcoming” by the commentator.

The hospitality minister return to his/her post at the singing of the last hymn.

The hospitality table minister will attend the table and be available until the church is empty.

The hospitality table minister will assure the table orderly, complete and ready the minister of the next service.

Basic Greeter Duties and Procedures:

Greeters will be at all the major entrances to the sanctuary. Double up on greeters for major liturgical events (Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, Christmas, and Easter).

The greeters will wear name tags.

Greeters will be ready and in place 15 minutes before each service (earlier for major liturgical events).

Greeters will stay at his/her post through until the first reading.

Greeters will return to his/her post starting at the final blessing and stay until the church the church empty.

Hospitality Training Information: (We are working on it!)

“Welcome to the Catholic Church” brochures or small booklets.

“Frequently Asked Questions and Answer Sheets” for visitors.

“Mass Response Booklets” for visitors. (So they feel included in the service and can participate in the liturgy).

“Welcome to Our Parish” forms which give visitors and parish members a chance to register in the parish and volunteer for ministries.

For visitors a small gift: Like a holy card or religious book marker.

Literature for members of the parish and visitors that serves as evangelization based on events of the liturgical season.

Weekly bulletins for parishioners and visitors.

For members of the parish and visitors, “Request for Help” forms to go to our special ministries. (Like needing a ride to church, etc.)

Greeters will assure that the hospitality box is orderly, complete and ready for the greeters in the next service.

Encouraging Growth of the Ministry:

Invite entire families to serve as greeters so those attending service will see greeters of all ages and sizes.

Invite new families (persons) to serve for a few Sundays as greeters to give them a chance to meet people and be part of the welcoming ceremonies.

Continue to invite new greeters and table ministers to the ministry to welcome all keep us all fresh.