

MINISTRY OF HOSPITALITY: GREETERS

Jesus said, "Whoever receives you, receives me, and whoever receives me receives the One who sent me" (Matthew 10:40).

This booklet is designed to assist you in your participation in the liturgical Ministry of Hospitality at Holy Spirit Parish.

Your willingness to serve God in the capacity as an usher or greeter reflects your commitment to Christ. Your willingness to commit to a monthly schedule; to arrive on time and to be a friendly and welcoming presence to those coming to worship here at Holy Spirit is a further reflection of your commitment to serve this Parish. By assuring a welcoming presence and orderly seating at all Masses offered in this Parish, you enhance the beauty of the Liturgy and become an instrument through whom God may be present to those in worship.

THE MINISTRY OF HOSPITALITY

The usher and greeter are people chosen to reflect the warmth and welcome of Christ himself. Always conscious of Christ's words "For I was...a stranger and you welcomed me," (Matthew 25:35) the usher/greeter serves not only as a Minister of Hospitality, but also as a Liturgical Minister and a Minister of Evangelism.

Greeters/Ushers as Ministers of Hospitality

Greeters/Ushers are usually the first official representative of the church that people meet when they arrive. Your dress, attitude, words, demeanor, body language all speak a message to the worshipper. As God's servants to his people, greeters should take care that nothing interferes with the awesome character of this encounter between God and his people at this time and place.

Greeters/Ushers as Liturgical Ministers

Greeters /Ushers are leaders. As such they reflect the devotion, reverence and joy of encountering God in our worship service. Usher/greeters should not be physically or emotionally absent from worship. They must be mindful that they are there to assist those who are preparing to worship God by creating a quiet and reverent atmosphere within the church.

Greeters/Ushers as Ministers of Evangelism

There are some who may be wary of coming to a church and it would take very little to make this visit their last. If they feel genuinely welcomed and helped by the usher or greeter, then the greeter or usher has assisted in bringing the Gospel to these people.

The Ministers of Hospitality

Greeters and ushers are distinct ministries -

Greeter: the relational role is primary

Usher: the functional role is primary

However **All** ministers can welcome.

The model for an understanding of liturgical space is not that of a theatre or public hall,

but closer to that of a home, a place characterized by warmth and friendship, where all are equal before God, where dialogue and interaction are encouraged. Just as we greet guests to our home, make them feel welcome, and tend to their needs so we make one another feel welcome and comfortable as they gather. A person who feels welcomed and valued is more likely to enter into the celebration. Greeters and Ushers are the first ministers seen, and often leave a lasting impression. ***We are more than door keepers***; we are doors sharing presence and warmth. Greeters and Ushers are light; they shine out God's presence for others. Greeters and Ushers are salt; they add flavor so others can taste the goodness of God

MISSION:

GREET, ASSIST AND SERVE

- **Be there.** Remember that God's people need you and are depending on you. Put personal issues on the "back burner" for now.
- **Arrive early**, at least 30 minutes before the time of the Mass. Give a moment to silent prayerful preparation for your ministry. Arrange all those things that need to be readied and then be on hand to greet the people as they arrive. See "Duties of a Greeter" below.
- **Be at your best.** Look pleasant. SMILE!
Approach the worship space with a sense of reverence.
Attire is an outward sign of that reverence
Blazer, sweater, turtle neck, sport shirt, dress slacks
NO - jeans with holes, lettered shirts, shorts, tank tops
- **Make your first word a word of welcome.** Open door, say "Good afternoon/ good morning. Add other appropriate lines to your greeting. Keep on the lookout for new members of the Parish, for visitors, strangers, or the aged (anyone who may need special attention).
- When you recognize newcomers...**Help them to feel at home.**

A Greeter and Usher Should Exhibit:

JOY

Cultivate a sense of humor in the face of difficulty. Never show irritation. Have a nonjudgmental attitude for those who may arrive late.

DEPENDABILITY

If an usher or greeter cannot serve at a scheduled service, it is the usher's or greeter's responsibility to find a substitute, or at least let your usher captain know that you won't be there.

KINDNESS

When you lead people up the aisle, walk slowly or you will lose them. Do not merely point to a seat, but lead people there personally.

REVERENCE

There should be no conversations in the back of the church prior to Mass, least of all among the usher/greeters. Casual conversations by usher/greeters can be heard throughout the church and are distracting for those who are attempting to prepare themselves for the Liturgy.

DUTIES of GREETERS

Check Schedule in the Usher's room

Take places at doors

Darboy

2 greeters in narthex

Kimberly

2 greeters in narthex

1 greeter in east wing, 1 greeter in west wing

Bulletins - Hand out bulletins as people leave – not before Mass
Smile and wish people a good day or week

Help straighten the pews

Put missals in each rack with covers facing front

2 per rack in Kimberly – 3 per rack in Darboy

Pick up any left-over bulletins and papers

Schedules and Subs

Schedules will be emailed /mailed Thursdays prior to Sunday

Subs must be scheduled Friday before scheduled Sunday

Tina Keller does the scheduling every three months

busymom@clients.rotundasoftware.com

Feel free to call her for questions or concerns 788-0278