

## WHY USHERS?

This ministry is an integral part of our hospitality and security ministries at St. Theresa's Parish. Ushers perform a number of duties before, during and after the Celebration of the Eucharist.

Some of these duties include:

- Readying the church so that it is welcoming to the members of the congregation as they arrive.
- Welcome members of the congregation as they arrive for the celebration.
- Assist parishioners in any way before, during and after the Celebration of the Eucharist.
- Take up the collection and ensure its security after the celebration.
- Ensure that the church is secure and locked after the celebration is complete.



***“Do not neglect hospitality, for through it some have unknowingly entertained angels.”***

(Heb 13:2)

***“Lord Jesus, you were warm and welcoming to all who sought your company. Give me the grace always to be kind and hospitable to those whom I meet through my ministry as an usher. Inspire me with patience, a ready smile and willingness to help. Let me remember that everyone who passes through the door of our church is a member of your body, so that in ministering to them in hospitality I am not merely entertaining angels but actually welcoming you.”***

Speaking to God by Nancy Benvenga

Revised: July, 2008

# USHERS



## WHO TO CONTACT:

If you would like information or would like to be part of the Usher Ministry at a particular Mass at St. Theresa's Parish, please contact:

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## ST. THERESA'S PARISH

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## INTRODUCTION:

The Minister of Hospitality is a relatively new role for Catholics. Pre-Vatican II editions of the Roman Missal contain no mention of lay greeters. The words hospitality and greeter are not found in the “Constitution of the Sacred Liturgy.” The General Instruction of the Roman Missal lists among the liturgical ministers “those who, in some places, meet the faithful at the church entrance, lead them to appropriate places, and direct processions”, but no name is given to this ministry, nor is it described in any further detail.

Fortunately, this situation has changed in most Catholic parishes. Today, parishioners and visitors are greeted inside the church by Ministers of Hospitality – Ushers and Greeters, who welcome us into the Eucharistic assembly or other celebration that is taking place in the church.

**Ushers** play a key role in the living Body of Christ as the second contact believers have with the assembly when they arrive for Mass or other celebrations being held in the church. How Ushers greet and welcome both newcomers and longtime parishioners makes a world of difference in how people prepare for the liturgy or celebration about to take place.

The hospitality that Ushers show in greeting and welcoming parishioners and visitors, helping people find a seat, in collecting the gifts during the Offertory, presentation of the Offertory gifts, distributing of Sunday bulletins after the celebration and saying good bye to parishioners as they leave must reflect the idea that Church is our home.

Ushers also strive to ensure the solemnity and tranquility of the celebrations that are taking place. To do this, their duties include the following for each of the masses that we celebrate at St. Theresa’s Parish:

## HOSPITALITY MINISTER’S CHECK LIST:

- ❖ Smile
- ❖ Project your voice
- ❖ Wear a name tag
- ❖ Arrive at least 20 minutes before the scheduled mass time or special event
- ❖ If you feel comfortable, extend your hand in greeting, for a handshake
- ❖ Make eye contact with the person you are greeting
- ❖ Be available to answer general questions about the parish and its activities/programs (Refer people to the brochure rack or ask others if unable to answer their questions)
- ❖ Be familiar with the church and its facilities.
- ❖ Feel free to move around the lobby area to greet people as they enter the church
- ❖ In warm weather, feel free to move outside the church to greet people
- ❖ Remove your coats when acting as a greeter or usher
- ❖ Give everyone the ultimate respect when welcoming them to St. Theresa’s Parish
- ❖ Be yourself and enjoy the experience of meeting others through your Hospitality Ministry

***IT IS AN AWESOME  
RESPONSIBILITY  
AND PRIVILEGE.***

## THREE QUALITIES OF A GOOD LAY MINISTER:

A good Lay Hospitality Minister should have the following qualities:

**Attitude of Service** – We minister to others because we choose to follow Christ who “came not to be ministered unto, but to minister to others.” We do not volunteer for a ministry to have our own needs met, but to be of service to others, to aid their prayer, to help the assembly become a place where it can contact the living God.

**Competence** – A good lay minister must be competent, which is a combination of natural abilities and training. You must understand yourself well enough to know what you can do best and then be willing to participate in training sessions and practices for your chosen ministry.

**A Team Player** – Being of service to others is not a solo performance. It is a team consisting of yourself and the person you are ministering to at that moment in time. Liturgical ministers must work together as team players.

## CONCLUSION:

Hospitality is one of the signs of a Stewardship parish. Greeters and Ushers, by their loving reverence and respect they show for each person they greet, are a witness to the presence of Christ in the assembly.