

Ministry Description

Title: Minister of Liturgical Hospitality (GREETER &/or USHER)

Servant Leader: Director of Liturgy

Description: Ushers and Greeters “are hosts who put a face on the parish. They welcome those who arrive and begin the process of forming them as a worshipping body. ... All who enter should feel the sense of Christian welcome. As an Usher or a Greeter, if you are on duty when someone enters your church, be on your toes. The next person who enters may be a saint or a sinner. Each one of us is a sinner, and each one of us is a child of God. The next person who enters the church will know whether or not you offered proper hospitality. That person is Christ.” [From “*Guide for Ushers and Greeter*” by Kerie Ferrell and Fr. Paul Turner, page 1]

Specific Tasks: Welcome people to worship, tend their needs, help them find a place, gather their gifts during the collection, and bid them farewell when the service concludes. GREETERS obviously greet the members of the assembly as they gather. USHERS handle seating, assist in the processions, take up the collection, and are ready to help in case of any emergency. Even in the midst of these duties Greeters and Ushers participate fully in the mass, taking great care to not distract others from worship and to give a good example to all.

Skills or Attributes Required: Ministers of Hospitality should express a genuine love for people, be comfortable in large groups, have excellent people skills, and be responsible and dependable. Ushers and Greeters are, by nature, people who want to help, people who like people. They have a deep faith in Christ, a love for the Mass, and a place in the community. Ushers and Greeters are active members of the parish, welcoming others into the life of the local Church – a life they share. Ushers and Greeters should be people who attend worship regularly, and are mature, trustworthy, confirmed Catholics. Young people can be fine Greeters or Ushers and could be mentored in those aspects of the ministry that call for experienced judgment. Children often enjoy serving as Ushers or Greeters along with their parents.

Time Required: GREETERS – about 20 minutes before scheduled masses, typically no more than one mass per month. USHERS – serve an entire month at a time, amounting to about 5 hours during each scheduled month. Also both take part in a 2 ½ hour annual ministry-wide formation session.

Training: Ministers of Hospitality receive both initial and ongoing training and resource support, including an annual 2 ½ hour Ministries Day.

Benefits (How does it fulfill the parish mission): The desire of Ushers and Greeters to serve helps the faithful worship from the moment they arrive in the Church. When people have begun forming the community before the start of Mass, they are better prepared to join in the community’s activities of singing, speaking, listening, and observing silence together. [From “*Guide for Ushers and Greeter*” by Kerie Ferrell and Fr. Paul Turner, pages 3-6]