



CHURCH OF ST. BENEDICT

MINISTRY OF HOSPITALITY

The atmosphere of any gathering, especially a liturgical one, sets the tone far more effectively than a thousand words will ever do. If we wish to be perceived as a hospitable parish, then we must show that we deem hospitality an essential component of our liturgical ministries.

It is a simple fact that a warm and welcoming environment puts people at their ease and encourages them to be more expressive and interactive. This is accomplished in liturgical settings in various ways, but certainly among the most obvious is the presence of hospitality ministers who offer a friendly hello and make people feel welcome.

Hospitality is a virtue so deeply a part of the Christian experience and is an essential sign of our life in Christ. Nothing is more basic to hospitality than the act of greeting and welcoming. If we gather without giving attention to the strangers in our midst (let alone those who are family, that is, the most familiar), then we proclaim a message that is contrary to the Gospel.

As a parish we are called to be a welcoming community, to be open and hospitable to all who come through our doors to worship with us. A greeter is the first face that visitors see as they enter the Church, and if that face is a warm and friendly one, newcomers and parishioners are more likely to feel welcome and to return again and again.

When the ministry assignments are scheduled, **ministers of hospitality** will be designated to serve either in the Church or in the Commons. For each Mass, five ministers will be assigned to the Church as ushers, and two ushers will be assigned to the Commons as greeters. Those serving in the Commons will have two primary responsibilities: (1) to greet people as they enter the building and (2) to assist the Church ushers in taking up the collection at the Offertory. Those serving as the Greeting Team will greet people before and after Mass as well as taking the gifts down to the celebrant at the offertory.

Specific duties and responsibilities for **ministers of hospitality** are outlined in the handouts available for your information. Please see the attached guidelines for ushers and greeters.

Thank you for your cooperation and help. Let us all work together to make the Church of St. Benedict a warm and welcoming community. **In keeping with the Rule of St. Benedict, let us take care to greet and welcome every person as we would welcome Christ himself.**