



Sundays are for Seekers

-- A brief tutorial for welcoming guests



Why Welcoming is Key

- Jesus sent his disciples to “make disciples of all nations, baptizing them and teaching them to obey all that I have commanded (Mt. 20:19)
- Building Christians for Service means:
 - Serving God
 - Serving each other
 - Serving the world
- Greeters and ushers are the first contact for seekers, shoppers, visitors and newcomers.



Visiting a church for the first time isn't easy!

- “Mom! Billy kicked me in the narthex, so I punched him in the nave!”
- New
 - People
 - Routines
 - Lingo
 - Logistics



Welcoming Routine

Narthex

– Activities:

- Greet guests at the door.
- Get a feel for their status (seeker, shopper, visitor, newcomer, parishioner) This is important for Fr. Tom or Fr. Chris to know.
- Encourage the guest to sign the guest book.
- Guide guest to Welcome Table and encourage them to complete a name tag. **NOT MANDATORY.**

“Welcome to St. Peter’s. It’s our honor to have you as a guest today. We like to wear name tags to here to help us get to know one another. If you’d like, we’ll be happy to make one for you this morning. If you have any questions about finding anything, I’d be glad to assist you.”



Welcoming Routine

Nave

– Activities:

- Greet and seat guests.
- Provide service bulletin.
- Point out yellow visitor cards in pews.
- Answer any questions.

“Good morning. Welcome to St. Peter’s. If I can be of help during the service, please let me know. I’d be glad to assist you.”



Ushers

Before the service ...

- Close doors 15 minutes before service.
- Encourage folks in narthex to be seated.
- Hand out bulletins.



Ushers

After the Announcements ...

- Take bread and wine to altar.
- Take up collection.



Ushers

After the priest says, “The gifts of God for the people of God ...”

- Direct communion traffic to the altar.
- Choir goes to communion rail first.
- Direct parishioners to the altar (Approximately 9 adults per side.)
- Keep a line waiting at all times.
- Count total attendance and number of persons both present and taking communion.



Ushers

At the end and after the service...”

- Open doors before final hymn.
- Tidy-up after service.



Welcoming Routine

After the service has concluded ...

- Encourage guest(s) to join us for coffee.
- Assist Fr. Tom or Fr. Chris in meeting the guest.
- Introduce guest(s) to at least one other parishioner.

“Thanks for visiting with us today. We hope to see you again. May I answer any questions for you?”



Final Thoughts

- Everything we do must be built on prayer.
- We are not a business or a club. WE are the CHURCH.
- Making disciples means practicing what the early church practiced. – Bringing outsiders inside to share God's love and blessings.
- Welcoming guests is everyone's responsibility.