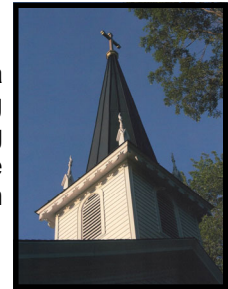


Ushers: Revised on July 20, 2009

Mission: We, the Ushers of St Mary's Parish, are called by God to maintain a prayerful and respectful atmosphere in church. This role includes assisting parishioners to find seating, selecting families to bring forth the gifts, and providing assistance to the handicapped, and in cases of emergencies. In addition, we are called to collect offerings and provide for orderly services on special parish occasions.



Organization: Ushers ordinarily serve weekly at their regular Masses throughout the year, for Holy Days, and for special occasions as requested. Ushers provide a welcoming atmosphere conducive to liturgical worship by assisting parishioners with seating, collecting offerings, recruiting gift-bearers, directing parishioners for Communion, distributing bulletins after Mass, and generally being available to assist with any concerns or problems that may arise, especially in regard to emergency medical needs. Members of this ministry have a hospitable spirituality that manifests itself in their willingness to be of service to all parishioners, and especially to visitors. Long-term weekly commitments are required of this ministry. Ushers are scheduled by the Liturgy Coordinator in consultation with the usher representative.

Membership: A representative from the Ushers serves on the Worship Commission, and assists the Liturgy Coordinator in the recruitment, training, and updating of the participants in this ministry. This person works closely with the Liturgy Coordinator in the fulfillment of these duties. Each year, the Liturgy Coordinator asks the Ushers to propose the names of individuals from this ministry for consideration as their representative. After consulting with the Pastor, the Liturgy Coordinator selects the representative from this ministry to the Commission.

Greeters: Currently, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion welcome people in the Narthex as they come into church. Once people are in the nave of the church, the ushers assist them in being seated. Consideration is being given to developing a new Narthex Welcoming Ministry which would not only greet people, but also host a concierge-type desk in the Narthex to assist people with questions and other needs regarding the parish community.

Special Seating: Parishioners with mobility issues are asked by the ushers to sit in the front rows of the church or the chapel, or in the choir chairs (when there is no choir), and in the front baptismal font chairs. Communion will be brought to them if they sit in these special places of honor in our church. There are also several wheel chairs in the back of church for helping people get in and out of church, and for coming up to Communion as well.