

An Usher's Prayer

*Almighty God, You have blessed each of us with unique gifts,
and You have called us into specific stewardship actions and duties to best utilize those gifts.*

*Enable us to use our talents to express our faith in You, and to communicate
your love in our daily lives and to those people we meet each day.*

*Empower us to be ministers of Your love, hope and forgiveness through
our responsibilities in welcoming and assisting all parishioners.*

*Keep us steadfast in our commitment to serve faithfully in Your name;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen*

Ushering – What it Means

- Yours is the first of Christ's faces to greet God's people as they assemble in prayer.
- Your greeting is the word that welcomes the stranger to be at home, or silence that makes of our congregation a foreign land.
- Yours is the task of discretion; knowing how to welcome; and when and where to seat the latecomer.
- Yours may be the last word that ushers the community to its week of work in the Lord's vineyard.
- Yours is the Lord's face and voice for those who enter and depart the ground of prayer.
- Come to your work and your post from your personal prayer; be as ready as the Lord to meet His people.
- Let your welcome and your smile be for all who enter; remember that you have time to see your close friends later in the week.
- Seek out the lost and confused; do not wait for them to come to you. When appropriate, lend a hand and an arm to the disabled, remembering their infirmities.
- Greet each person as the Lord, for that is precisely whom you meet.
- When taking up Offertory, remember that many who make an offering are themselves poor.
- Remember that you stand at the temple gates; some will come rejoicing and others in fear; some will come healed, and others to seek healing.
- Be sensitive and welcome all as best as you can.
- Some will rush and ignore you; let go of your disappointment and pray for the Lord's gentle touch on their heavy hurried hearts.
- Some may fall ill while at prayer; see to their needs, as you would have them see to yours.
- Be slow to judge those who leave early; be glad that they have shared in our prayer and recall that only the Lord knows the reasons of the heart.
- Be faithful in the work you do, for through it the Lord saves His people.