

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 in 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.