

## Understanding the Mass Welcomers

*Each week, we are explaining the different parts of the Mass - what is in the church, what we use in the Mass, and why (and how) we celebrate Mass the way we do.*

*Today our topic is our **Welcomers**.*

When you enter the church - before or after you use the holy water in the holy water stoup to make the Sign of the Cross - you may be greeted by one of our parish **welcomers**.

These are members of our parish family - just like you - who have volunteered to welcome everyone as they enter the church for Mass.

They will smile at you, and may offer you a hymn book, the parish newsletter, or a handout.

You may wonder why we need welcomers, if we are all coming to Mass together?

Maybe it is the first time some people have ever been in our church. Some people may be visiting, with family and friends or on their own. Some people may have just moved into the area. And some people may have not been to church for a long time - or even ever before.

In the Bible, Jesus said, "I was a stranger, and you welcomed me." Our welcomers make sure the first experience anyone has entering our church - whether they have never been before, or have come for many, many years - is a positive one.

We can all be welcomers when we come to church together. Making space for people to sit in the same pew as us, greeting each other, and smiling are all ways we can welcome each other together to the celebration of the Mass. Saint Paul wrote in the Letter to the Philippians that we should "rejoice in the Lord, always", and being welcoming in the way we interact with others in the church is a beautiful way to do this.



### **For you to consider:**

- 1) How can you make people feel welcome when they sit near you at Mass?
- 2) Would your family like to be official welcomers? If you would, speak with Father Andrew or Father Matteo.