

# Greeters Ministry

**Mission:** Welcoming others to share in Christ's joy is our single purpose.

**Patron Saint of Greeters:** Saint Martha

## **Greeters Prayer:**

Lord, as Martha, Mary and Lazarus welcomed you to their home on many occasions, let me welcome all those who enter the doors of St Thomas. Grant that I may have a welcoming spirit to stand with open heart before all who I will meet today. Let me look upon those who enter today with the same love you have shown even to your enemies. Help me to greet old friends and new faces with the same joy and recognition.

Amen.

## **Why we Greet:**

We greet to outwardly show the love of God present in our daily lives. As we are greeting we are welcoming those we meet to be a part of the St. Thomas community. We want people to feel the same goodness that you feel when you get a warm cordial greeting from family and friends. The joy we display should encourage and inspire our guests to become more actively involved in our parish events, programs and ministries.

When we greet before a mass we are greeting those present to share in the real presence of Jesus Christ himself.

## **Who we Greet:**

For those who live alone, we may very well be the first person that they talk to today.

For those who have not been active in practicing their Catholic faith, we may very well be the first person they speak to that encourages them to consider being part of a faith community.

For those who have left the church and are about to try again to become active practicing Catholics, we may very well be the person who shows them by example they have made the right choice.

For those who seem like they don't belong here either because of the way they dress or act, we may very well be the person who sets the example for them for future visits. We can only meet people where they are in their journey. Be extra special with a sincere welcome even as Jesus welcomes.

For those who are considering leaving the church for whatever reason, we may very well be the person who shows them in spite of the flaws in us the living church we continue to "practice".

For those who are always here and seem to be filled with all the faith they need, we may very well be wrong in our assumptions and if we only knew their personal struggles we might find they are close to leaving the church.

For us as we enter the parish early and prepare for our ministry we may very well be struggling with some issues ourselves. Use the opportunity to see Christ in each person you meet and feel the joy in knowing even as we greet we are being greeted as well.

### How we Greet:

How we act and what we say verbally as well as our body language is all a part of the message our guests hear and feel.

We smile, offer a welcome, engage in a warm friendly conversation and help as required, this will reflect the tone we wish to set for the parish.

Show and share your feelings and happiness about:

Being a part of growing the joy and happiness at our parish.

Being a part of a community that welcomes each and every person we meet with the same joy that Christ used to invite the disciples to join him at table.

Being joyous as we serve others.

What we say and do:

We say is "Good Morning" OR "Good Evening" and "WELCOME to St Thomas the Apostle" we say it with all the love we can show.

We open and hold the door.

We help those in need.

Try to remember names.

Ask open ended questions to encourage conversation.

We remind guests of events of the day, like hospitality Sundays, Pancake breakfast...

### Who we are:

We are "People Persons", Friendly, Warm, Cheerful and Helpful servants.

We commit ourselves to treating everyone we meet to a wholehearted smile. We are more concerned with greeting someone we do not know than chatting with a friend or neighbor that we can call later.

We do our best to know what is happening at St Thomas so that we can answer any questions those we greet may have.

We understand showing up early is a critical part of the greeters program.

We pray for the Holy Spirit to guide us by praying while on our way to the parish or by spending a minute or two in prayer after arriving.

We see the presence of Christ in every person we greet.

## Some practical Notes:

### Do

Do arrive early and be ready before the first guests arrive, give yourself enough time to put your personal struggles aside and to prepare to be the most welcoming person you can be.

Do dress appropriately.

Do stay long enough to send the last guests on their way.

Do greet everyone with the same enthusiasm.

Do brush up on current happenings in the parish.

Do know where the rest rooms are in case you are asked.

Do carry the ministries list for quick reference in case questions arise. Carry a small pad of paper and pen for giving phone numbers or taking notes.

Do bring unanswered question to your coordinator for help in directing guests.

Do ask questions that are open ended to encourage conversation.

Do try to remember people's names.

Do thank everyone for coming.

### Don't

Don't judge, ALL our guests are welcome.

Don't linger with friends and neighbors at the expense of our guests as they arrive or leave.

Don't ask "are you new here?" Instead try questions like "have we met?"

Don't arrive late or leave early.

Don't give out any handouts before a mass unless they are to be used during the mass celebration. Weekly bulletins should be handed out after mass only.

# St. Martha

**Feast Day: July 29**

Martha was the sister of Mary and Lazarus. They lived in the little town of Bethany near Jerusalem. They were dear friends of Jesus, and he often came to visit them. In fact, the Gospel tells us: "Jesus loved Martha, and her sister Mary and Lazarus." It was St. Martha who lovingly served the Lord when he visited them. One day, she was preparing a meal for Jesus and his disciples. She realized that the task would be easier if her sister would help. She watched Mary sitting quietly at Jesus' feet, listening to him. "Lord, tell my sister to help me," Martha suggested. Jesus was very pleased with Martha's loving service. However, he wanted her to know that listening to God's Word and praying is even more important. So he said gently, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious about many things, but only one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the better part."



St. Martha's great faith in Jesus was seen when her brother Lazarus died. As soon as she heard that Jesus was coming to Bethany, Martha went to meet him. She trusted Jesus and felt the freedom to say: "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." Then Jesus told her that Lazarus would rise. He said, "He who believes in me, even if he die, shall live. Do you believe this?" And Martha answered, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who has come into the world." Jesus worked a great miracle and raised Lazarus from the dead!

Later, Jesus came again to have supper with Lazarus, Martha and Mary. St. Martha served them at table as always. This time, though, Martha had a much more loving attitude. She served with a joyful heart.

Sometimes we don't like to do certain chores. They seem heavy and unpleasant. At those times, we can ask St. Martha to give us a joyful attitude. We can ask her to show us that the littlest thing we do becomes beautiful when we do it for Jesus.

[http://www.saintmarthachurch.org/saint\\_martha\\_biography.htm](http://www.saintmarthachurch.org/saint_martha_biography.htm)