

Ushers Responsibilities

Ushers need to be at the back of the church 45 minutes before the ceremony is scheduled to begin, as some guests will arrive early. Please consult the seating chart which may be downloaded from our Parish Web Site www.stjohnsfortworth.com or receive a copy from the parish Office.

Ushers are expected to fulfill two important responsibilities:

- The seating of guests,
- The ushering of the congregation to the Altar Rail to receive Holy Communion.

Please select adult males for this very important role. It is recommended that you have four (4) ushers. Conscientious ushers expedite the seating of guests and reduce both congestion and noise. It is the custom in this Church to remain silent in the Nave (the pew) before a service of the Church, allowing the congregation a quiet moment of reflection before the service begins. Good ushers model and facilitate such a silence, enhancing the service and its solemnity.

When specifically asked, ushers seat guests of the bride on left side of the congregation, while seating guests of the groom on the right side. When facing the Altar the bride's side is on your left and the groom's side is on your right. If a guest has a preference on which side they sit, seat them there.

Try to seat guests so pews are equal on each side. Example: if the groom is from out of town, you don't want the groom's side to be empty and the bride's side to be full to the last pew.

Ushering in family members

If you are assigned a family member to escort, be in place (the Baptismal font area) five (5) minutes before the start of the ceremony. Know who you are escorting and which pew they are assigned. This is detailed on the "Seating Chart." If you are escorting more than one family member hurry back to get in place for the next person you are escorting.

One greeter or usher will be asked to stand outside the front door to direct guests who have arrived late to use the side entry or have the guest wait until the bridal party has processed down the aisle, the guest will be directed to use the side/outer aisle to seat themselves. They are not to use the main aisle.

During the service all ushers need to remain at the back of the Church.

Communion Ushers (need two (2) ushers)

At the appropriate time walk to the 1st pew and stand blocking the walk until the bride and groom and wedding party have received Holy Communion and are seated in the choir pews. When ready, step back several pews to allow guests opportunity to proceed to the Altar. Watch the Altar, it should never be empty and there should be several people waiting in line to receive Holy Communion. Continue stepping back pew-by-pew, and please know that some pews may not have anyone taking Holy Communion. You do not have to wait for the other usher to move to the next pew.

You may take Holy Communion with the guests in the last pew; just follow them to the Altar. At the end of the ceremony please help open both outside doors for the bride and groom and guests to exit.

Ushering family members out

If you have been assigned to a family member please know who you are scheduled to usher out. Two (2) ushers can go to the front at the same time to escort out the mothers. But give the bride's mom a head start before getting the grooms mom. The bride's mom is the last one seated and the first person to be escorted out. Following the bride's mom will be the grooms mother and grandparents. Take the family members out just like they went in. Unless the bride requests, we don't always escort grandparents out, usually just the mothers.

Ushers offer their left arm to the lady being escorted to her seat, her escort following immediately behind. After the usher has seated the guest, he continues to the crossing, bows at the Altar, and returns to the back of the Church by the side aisle, thereby reducing congestion in the center aisle during the seating of the guests.

- For best results, a minimum of four ushers who are not serving as groomsmen are necessary and required for a wedding.