

Purpose of Narthex during Mass:

This area has two main purposes:

1. An area that can be used by parishioners who have some special seating needs during Mass other than using the first pews within the church.
2. An area that provides space for parents to go with their child or children who need special attention during the Mass to enable the parent to still hear and see the liturgy.

The ideal situation is where children of all ages accompany their parents at the liturgy, and we should encourage and support parents in bringing their children to church. Babies and small children benefit spiritually from the liturgy. First, through the habits of prayer and attention to the liturgy they begin to develop virtues. Second, liturgy has a direct effect on them.

This space permits the parent(s) to calm their children without disrupting the main celebration of the Mass. It also serves as an area for parents who are establishing a church discipline for their young toddlers.

If parents are driven out of our churches when they are having difficulties with small children, they will not come back later on. If we do not welcome parents, there will not be another generation of Catholics.

Ushers should be aware of the following:

- As an Usher, you are the Face of Christ. Be welcoming, inviting, and encouraging.
- Remember parents are doing their best to have their children with them at Mass and are bringing them to the back so they do not disturb the congregation.
- Should there be noise because of the children, please simply close the doors to the main church.
- Ushers may offer or ask parents if any help is needed (e.g. water, etc.).
- Ushers should not disparage or discourage parents who are attending to their children.