

# Notes on St. Nicholas Church Greeting Ministry March 2012

## I. Purpose

Biblical Hospitality – Welcoming those whom come in the name of the Lord, particularly guests  
Experience/History of Greeting ministry in the Church  
Dovetails with the outreach ministry of the Church -

## II. Who –

A. Who serves in this ministry - Identify those interested, willing and gifted to serve  
- hospitable spirit  
- willingness to serve, reach out  
- language skills - need to speak English well. Other languages can be helpful

B. Who is greeted?  
- guests  
- members

## III. What do Greeters Do?

### A. Establish a relationship

#### 1. Special Connections:

Religious/incl prior religious experience  
Ethnic background. If Orthodox - home parish/jurisdiction  
Work  
Employment/School  
Other interests

#### 2. Connecting them to other parish members - commonalities

This implies knowing these things about other parish members!

#### 3. Connecting them to the pastor (formal introduction)

#### 4. Assistance with Practical Matters

Rest Rooms (facility tour?) (signage?)  
Bookstore (practices) - browsing the bookstore is a great non-threatening way to encourage people to stay. Know what's in the bookstore or library you can point to books/resources  
Library  
Invitation to Coffee social, introductions to others

#### 5. Liturgical Participation

Help with books  
Instruction on Communion if necessary  
If not Orthodox – comfort level with icons, kissing cross etc (not required to do anything)

#### 6. Parish Resources Available?

Bible studies, teaching sessions, Church school.  
(Note - do not send children directly to church school!)

#### 7. Special Needs – Handicaps, emotional needs,

Relocating?  
Need to see Father?

### B. Provide a Connection point to the community

#### 1. How did they find us?

## 2. What do they seek?

### C. Information Source

#### IV. Timing – how do we incorporate people into the Church

- Initial contact, simple information form, detailed form/database

#### V. Key Knowledge Base

##### A. Basic Orthodoxy

##### B. Local Landscape – various towns, geography.

##### C. St. Nicholas Parish

- people
- practices
- a little bit of history – Jurisdictional relationship and bishop

##### D. How we bring people into the Church in our parish – 4 step Process

Inquiry Discussion

Convert Classes

Catechumenate – formal instruction

Commitment – Baptism/Chrismation (Pascha/Christmas)

#### VI. Invitation - Response

- non-threatening, timing is everything

##### A. Sign guest book

##### B. Sign Up Card – only if particularly interested, engaged – basic contact information

##### C. Parish Information Form (database)

##### D. Introductions to:

- Pastor: I try generally to meet new guests on their first visit but for obvious reasons cannot always do so. But if I know that someone is responsible for greeting for that day, I will look for that person to do an introduction.

- Other parish members (first, before other guests) – particularly those who might have a connection Like:

Where they work      Home town      Ethnic background

Neighborhood      Interests or activities      etc.

So the more the greeters know the members of the parish the more effectively they can help the new guests find someone to connect to,

If when you introduce someone you can mention something about them, it is helpful.

“This is Mary Smith and her children John and Susan. Mary is new to Orthodoxy and works at the UVA Hospital.”

That way, they know you have been listening, and thereby valuing them.

#### VI. Follow Up

##### A. Same Week

##### B. Subsequent Week

##### C. Participation/Support for Inquiry Classes

##### D. Prayer for those new to our community

#### VII. Success – Failures

##### A. Learning to serve

##### B. Not all will respond affirmatively.

##### C. Dealing with conflict

- love and patience
- refer to pastor

