



Welcome Home

to

St. Joseph Church

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When Someone You Know Leaves the Church Opportunities To Help Them Return

The Catholics Come Home television ads are designed to encourage those who have been away from the Church to Come Home. This program was successful last year and throughout the Archdiocese of Chicago, an 8% increase in church attendance was observed in the months following the program. This translated to over 100,000 Catholics returning to the church.

When someone you know leaves the church, it is usually the result of years of trouble, boredom or whatever it was that caused them to drift away. You must muster enough patience and self-control to take a long-term approach and some gentle steps that may help them back to the Church.

With over 3000 ads appearing on TV from December 17, 2010 through January, 2011 the ads touch our emotions and encourage people to Return Home.

Here are your first steps to help those who have been away to Come Home:

- ❖ **P**ray for those who have fallen away always. Say “The Prayer to the Holy Family” card: The Catholics Come Home prayer. As a parish community we will also be saying this special prayer at mass for those who have been away.
- ❖ **P**lace the name of someone who has been away from the church in the Vase at the St. Joseph Altar. On an ongoing basis, prayers are said by priests and parishioners alike at the altar for those who have fallen away.
- ❖ **S**t. Joseph has started a new on-line newsletter that is designed to inspire the faithful by sharing in the Good News. It is also designed to gently encourage those who have been away from the Church to “Come Home”.

We need your email addresses: *We encourage you, your family, your friends and all those you know who have been away from the church to send us email addresses so all can obtain the newsletter. You need not be a parishioner to receive the newsletter.*

We have not yet merged all email databases in the parish. This is a new database for the newsletter and if you did not specifically fill out and return the Email Request Form in the month of November, you may not receive the newsletter. Please provide us with your email address.

- ❖ **L**isten to Relevant Radio in your car: Radio 950 AM or on-line. Watch EWTN Digital Cable TV -- Station 119.
- ❖ **V**isit the St. Joseph website regularly. If you would like to talk further to one of our priests and discuss your personal needs in greater detail, you may email in confidence. Parish priest email addresses are listed on the website.
- ❖ **Personal Invitation.** Many times, someone who has drifted away has done so because the secular world has simply overtaken their lives leaving no room for the Church.

For those who have drifted away and returned to the Church, the vast majority have indicated they came back to Church when someone they knew invited them to join them at mass. They were simply afraid to take that first step back until they came to Church with a friend.

- ❖ **S**t. Joseph Church and St. Joseph School sponsor many social functions throughout the year. Invite someone who has drifted away to one of these many functions.