



# Welcome Home to St. Joseph Church

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**Practice your faith so you can serve as a Witness to others!**

**A Catholic approach to sharing your faith with family and friends.....**

- ❖ Always witness your faith with your own family and friends by gently stating, “I believe .....” Don’t be afraid to express your faith in a positive manner.
- ❖ When someone you know has left the church:
  - Don’t nag them about their faith.
  - Don’t put “guilt trips” on them if an issue has come up in their lives.
  - Invite them to attend mass with you or to attend a church social function.
  - Introduce them to others in the parish community.
- ❖ When you see God working in your life, point it out to others. We are all enriched by the personal witness of others. Never be afraid to share your faith in a positive manner with someone who has drifted away.
- ❖ For your family or friends that have shared some personal concern or difficulty with you, tell them that you will pray for them.
- ❖ Likewise, respond “Thank God” when someone who has drifted away shares a success story with you.
- ❖ Always make the sign of the cross as you pray before a meal at home or eating out in a restaurant. It is amazing what a positive impact this will make on people.
- ❖ Talk to those that have drifted away about the positive experiences you have had at the Church.

- ❖ At home or out, tactfully change the direction of a conversation when things take an uncharitable or gossipy turn. Live the Christian life and be an example to family or friends on how a believer acts and speaks.
- ❖ Forgive someone who has wronged you. Ask for forgiveness from someone who you have wronged.
- ❖ Do not judge others. Do not speak unkindly of others. Always look for the good in others and point this out when they are being hostile.
- ❖ Display religious articles in your home.
- ❖ Offer to help your neighbor even when it's not convenient.
- ❖ Take time in your life for those who are suffering or in need. Remember, people are more important than tasks.
- ❖ Warmly greet others at mass who you do not know. Sometimes members of our community drift away from the Church because they feel alienated from others in the congregation.
- ❖ Volunteer your time for visiting shut-ins, elderly, etc. Share your favorite story in the Bible with them during your visit.
- ❖ Be generous with compliments, especially to those who appear to be stressed or discouraged.
- ❖ Share an unanswered prayer with a friend or family member. Remember to give thanks for what you have received.
- ❖ Wear a cross or other religious article. You will be surprised how many times this will start a conversation about your faith.
- ❖ Ask friends and family to pray for your special intentions.
- ❖ Serve your parish.
- ❖ Devote a specific amount of time to your daily prayer life. It is impossible to maintain a relationship with anyone without communication. Prayer should be viewed as a dialogue with God, not a monologue. Make sure you allow time for quiet reflection and listen with your heart on what the Lord tells you.
- ❖ Treat everyone you meet with dignity. No matter what they look like, how they try your patience, or how they speak, they are a part of the Body of Christ.
- ❖ Continue to comfort a grieving friend or neighbor well after a funeral. The process of dealing with a loss takes a long time. Offer to accompany the person who is grieving to social activities or make yourself available just to talk.
- ❖ Send sympathy or get well cards to neighbors or friends assuring them of your prayers.