

READER GUIDELINES

“The Word of God is living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword . . . and able to discern reflections and thoughts of the heart.” (Hebrews 4:12)

The Scriptures are stories, letters, poetry, or prophetic proclamations. Tell the stories, read the letters, sing (not sing-song) the poetry, and proclaim God's wrath or consolation. The Spirit works through us from within when we are open. We are telling God's people the Word of God not reciting a monologue. **Communicating by making eye contact and speaking slowly is very important.**

Before the weekend:

Pray the scripture you will be reading.

Practice the 7-fold reading out loud: once paying attention to enunciation, once to phrasing, once to pauses, once to projecting, once to looking up, once to practice all of the above together, and once to make sure you really have it.

You are responsible for finding a substitute in plenty of time ahead if you can't make your assigned Mass.

Before Mass:

Reader 1 and Reader 2 check off their names on the list in Liturgical Ministers Room.

Reader 1 and Reader 2 look at readings in the Lectionary. **Reader 1** looks at the General Intercessions before Mass, especially the names and asks for help if needed.

Reader 2 puts *Lectionary* and *Book of Intercessions* on ambo.

At 10 minutes before Mass begins, all liturgical ministers will pray together, and then take their places in procession or in assembly.

During Mass:

Entrance Procession--

Reader 1 carries the candle and **Reader 2** carries the *Book of the Gospels*. Readers follow the Altar Servers in the procession; be sure there are at least 4 pews between altar servers and readers. Readers **1 and 2** stand in front of altar and pause, then **Reader 1** places candle next to the Ambo and goes to his/her place in the assembly, while **Reader 2** places the *Book of the Gospels* in the stand on the Altar then returns to front of altar, bows to the altar and then goes to his/her place in the assembly.

Time for reading (after all sit after Collect):

Reader 1 walks to the Ambo with purpose, waits and begins to read.

On Sunday morning, after finishing the reading, Reader 1 puts Lectionary on shelf of ambo.

Reader 2 waits until the cantor singing the Responsorial Psalm is seated, then stands and moves to the ambo. **On Sunday morning, Reader 2 takes Lectionary from shelf and puts it on the ambo.**

- **Talk to the Assembly**, i.e., look at them (eye contact), speak slowly, use the microphone properly (do not adjust the microphone). It is especially necessary to **enunciate** even though you are using the microphone.
- **Read what is there**, do not embellish, e.g. don't add things like "Today is the 25th Sunday..." or "This is" in front of "A Reading from..." or "The Word of the Lord."

At the end of the reading, **Reader pauses slightly before "The Word of the Lord" and LOOKS AT the Assembly when speaking these words, waits for their response--STILL LOOKING UP--**and only then moves down the steps. **Reader 2** closes the *Lectioary* and places it on the shelf in the Ambo before moving.

During the Creed, **Reader 1** steps up to floor leading up to the ambo and when the Creed is finished, **Reader 1** will immediately step up to the Ambo, open the *Book of Intercessions* on the ambo, and face the Presider and wait there for him to read his opening prayer. When the prayer is finished **Reader 1** turns and begins to read the Prayers of the Faithful. **Reader 1 looks up** each time he/she says "We pray" or "Let us pray..." **Reader 1 pauses after reading the last prayer** which includes all our personal intentions, prays his/her own intentions, **then** looks up and says "We pray..." When finished, **Reader 1** turns and stands facing the Presider until he concludes the prayer. Then **Reader 1** closes the book, puts it on the shelf and walks back to place in the assembly.

After Mass:

After 5 pm Saturday and 9 am Sunday Mass, **Reader 1** should take *Lectioary*, *Book of the Gospels*, and *Book of Intercessions* back to the Liturgical Ministers Room; after 11 am Sunday Mass, **Reader 1** should take books to the sacristy.

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