



## **I. Preparation During the Week**

1. Proclaiming the Word of God is much more than just reading. It can be a powerfully prayerful experience for you - one that you share with the entire assembly. The key to effective proclamation lies in understanding the meaning, the lesson, which is contained within the words you are about to read.
2. Spend some time in prayer and contemplation during the week before you will be reading. Familiarize yourself with all three readings, so that you understand the tone and the flow of the entire Liturgy of the Word for that Sunday. Review the commentaries in your Workbook for Lectors and Readers, which will help you understand something about the purpose of the author and the historical setting out of which the passage arises.
3. Once you have an understanding of the content of the reading, begin to consider the tone and the pace at which it should be read. Read through the reading several times aloud. Decide where it is most appropriate to pause, and for how long. Review any words that you find difficult to pronounce (There is a pronunciation guide in the workbook. When in doubt - ask!) Become so familiar with the reading that it would appear you know it almost by heart. This will let you feel comfortable enough to lift your eyes from the page occasionally, to make eye contact with the assembly.

## **II. Some Things to Remember**

1. If you cannot be present to do the reading on the assigned day, ask the alternate listed for that day to sub for you. If that does not work, or if you are a lector at the 11 AM which does not have scheduled alternates, contact via phone or email other members of the lector corps and arrange for a sub at least 48 hours in advance. Once you have arranged for a sub be sure to email your lector captain so they know who is scheduled to read. In a last minute emergency one lector can do both readings.
2. The second reader also reads the Prayers of the Faithful.
3. The alternate should check with the readers in the rear of the church to see that both are there.

## **III. When You Arrive at Church**

1. Arrive at least 15 minutes before mass begins. If you are not there by that time, the alternate reader will take your spot.
2. Both readers should check the lectionary on the ambo and be sure that it is open to the readings for the day.
3. The second reader should check the Prayers of the Faithful on the ambo. Make sure that you know how to pronounce the names of the sick and deceased.

#### **IV. During Mass (5PM, 9AM & 11 AM)**

1. Both readers wait in the back of church. The presider will lead a short prayer and then the procession takes place. The order of the procession is cross bearer, altar servers, first reader, second reader, homilist, and presider. The first reader carries the gospel book in procession.
2. When the readers reach the base of the altar platform (on the north side) the first reader continues forward up the steps, and places the book of the Gospels in its stand on the altar. The first reader then turns right and exits the platform on the south side near the music ministry and goes to their place in the front row. The second readers remains at the base of the platform and joins with the others in the procession in the bow. The second reader then joins the first reader in the first row on the front south side of the altar.
3. When the presider has finished the Opening Prayer and is seated and children have been dismissed when the Children's Liturgy of the Word is taking place (9 AM ONLY), the first reader goes to the ambo by walking up at the railing and proclaims the first reading. Do not bow either before or after your reading. Begin the reading by looking at the assembly and announcing "A reading from . . .". Pause. (The lector should *not* say, "The first reading is from...") Then proclaim the reading. Pause, look at the assembly, and then say or sing, "The word of the Lord". Turn the lectionary to the second reading. Step down and return to the front row.
4. After the Responsorial Psalm, the second reader goes to the ambo by walking up at the railing and proclaims the second reading. Do not bow either before or after your reading. Begin the reading by looking at the assembly and announcing "A reading from . . .". (The lector should *not* say, "The second reading is from...") Pause. Then proclaim the reading. Pause, look at the assembly, and then say or sing: "The word of the Lord". Close the lectionary and put it on the shelf. Step down and return to the front row.
5. After the homily, the creed is usually said. Ask the presider before mass if there is going to be a creed. When we reach the place towards the end of the creed where the words are: "We believe in one holy, catholic, and apostolic church" the second reader moves to the ambo at the railing. Wait until the presider has introduced the Prayers of the Faithful and then read the Prayers of the Faithful. Wait in the ambo for the final prayer from the presider and then return to the front row when everyone responds: "Amen". Do not walk away from the ambo until the presider has finished the prayer.
6. At the conclusion of the mass, during the closing hymn, the presider will move to the altar to reverence it and then come down the stairs. At that time, the readers both go to the base of the altar and stand on either side of the presider and homilist. Walk together behind the altar servers to the rear of the church.

#### **V. During Mass (5:30PM)**

1. Simply skip steps 1 and 2 above.