

## Introduction

### A Good Reader

What makes a good reader? The goal of the reading is two fold:

- To be an instrument of God to enable the people to hear His Word and be changed.
- To prepare the way for the homily or “word of encouragement” which will follow the reading.

A good reader will show serious reverence and respect by the tone of voice and the quality of presentation. The word of the Lord will come forth clearly because the reader has prepared. There will be no hurry; rather, God’s word will be given ample time to penetrate the heart.

Oftentimes, when a reader thinks the pace of speaking is too slow, it is actually just the correct speed. Few persons read too slowly; nearly all read too quickly. The reader will have done the work well if people praise the word of the Lord. The idea is not to get it done with but to give the assembly a message for which it can say “Thanks be to God!”

**Do Not Forget----Preparation...makes for the best readers!!**

### First Reader

- Carries in the book in the procession
- Goes up to read after the opening prayer.
- Wait until the assembly has settled and are reasonably quiet before you begin.
- State a reading from...and **pause**. (A silent Glory Be to the...is a good pause)....(don’t be nervous and say out loud!)
- **Do Not** raise the lectionary, but **pause** when you say “The Word of the Lord”, and look at the assembly while they respond.

**\*\* These pauses are important.\*\***

They raise the anticipation of the Word that is about to come and surrounds it with reverence with a pause at the end.

- **Do Not** read any “red” print in the lectionary.
- The Announcements are found with the Prayers of the Faithful and should be sitting on the lectern before Mass begins. They are done after communion and sit down after you are done.
- For the procession out, the first reader joins the second in the line across the front between altar server and Eucharistic minister, bows and processes out without the lectionary. The book now stays on the lectern to signify the presence of the Word staying with the people and does not go with the procession out.

## Second Reader

- After Psalm is completed (and/or first reader has returned to seat), wait for a few moments of reflection before going up.
- Go to the center of the aisle and bow to the altar and cross before going to the lectern.
- **Do Not** read any “red” print in the lectionary.
- State a reading from...and **pause**. (A silent Glory Be to the...is a good pause)....(don't be nervous and say out loud!).
- **Do Not** raise the lectionary, but **pause** when you say “The Word of the Lord”, and look at the assembly while they respond.
- After proclaiming SLOWLY, LOUDLY, WITH PAUSES and WORD EMPHASIS, return to your seat (unless you doing the Responsorial Psalm) and bow again to the altar from the center aisle.
- Come up for the Prayers of the Faithful immediately after the Creed is finished...not before.
- Read the prayers as reverently as the readings and look at the assembly while they respond.
- After the last prayer, take a step back, and wait for Father to conclude his prayer, respond “Amen” (no one will hear you if you take a step back) and return to your seat.

## Procedures:

### 1. Arrive 15 minutes Early To:

- a. Put your name down on the "I'm Here" sheet and say hi to Father.
- b. Participate in brief prayer before and after mass with Father and other ministers.
- c. Locate correct reading in the lectionary.
- d. Adjust the microphone—is it on?
- e. Read through the Prayers of the Faithful.
- f. Read through any Announcements.
- g. Verify with musicians if you are to read the Responsorial Psalm.
- h. Check with priest regarding, choice of shorter selections when applicable, name pronunciations and possible changes from ordinary procedure in Mass (i.e. baptisms).
- i. ***Note that both readers process in and out.***

## 2. Liturgical Logistics

- a. In the procession, readers position themselves behind the candle bearers with the Book of Gospels or the Lectionary if there is only one book.
- b. The first reader carries in the Lectionary comfortably high enough to be seen by the standing assembly.
- c. The readers get in line at the front positioning themselves to the right (in front of the lectern) between the altar server and Eucharistic minister. The first reader does not stop but continues with the book, lowering it to chest level and places it on the lectern.
- d. The first reader returns to the line-up and bows with everyone and goes to their seats.
- e. Sit close to the front, and if possible, on the aisle to facilitate approach to lectern.

## 3. Scheduling

- a. Scheduling lists are prepared for 3-4 month periods. Readers will be notified in the bulletin and in announcements when the new schedule is available.
- b. Christmas and Easter schedules are prepared separately.
- c. Each schedule will include a list of all reader's names and telephone numbers.
- d. On the schedule, First name denotes the first reader who also proclaims the Responsorial Psalm (if the choir isn't singing it) and the announcements at the end of Mass. Second name denotes the second reader who proclaims the second reading and the Prayers of the Faithful. In rare cases, the second reader would also read the gospel acclamation when there's no one to sing it. Ask Fr. for clarification.
- e. Every reader is responsible for getting his/her REPLACEMENT if you are unable to read when scheduled. Every reader should be prepared to read under exceptional circumstances when only one can make it, however, this situation should be rare.
- f. \*\*\*\*Repeated failure to find a replacement will result in a\*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*request to withdraw from the schedule. \*\*\*\*

## 4. Dress Code

- a. **Please** dress appropriately for the celebration of the Eucharist. Please use discretion in the matters of modesty, casual clothes, cleanliness and neatness.

## **5. Preparation Reminders**

- a.** To begin your preparation, find a quiet spot where you can have privacy for some moments.
- b.** Consider all three scripture readings and, as an aid to understanding the whole liturgy of the Word for this specific Sunday, the Responsorial Psalm.
- c.** Pray with the one reading you will be proclaiming.
- d.** If your passage continues what was being read last week from the same author, reading that passage will help you understand your own selection.
- e.** “Classify” your reading: narrative?, progression of reasoning?, creation of mood?
- f.** Decide what the real unifying subject matter of the piece is.
- g.** Plan your pauses, phrasing and stresses.
- h.** Check individual words for definition and pronunciation.
- i.** Practice the reading aloud several times.
- j.** Pray