

LECTOR NOTES (From February 2015 Lector Training)

PREPARATION

- Technical preparation and practice are crucial, but above all, preparation must be spiritual.
- Read all of the readings ahead of time, understand how they are connected.
- Structure your prayers throughout the week around your reading, asking the Holy Spirit's help.
- Use the workbook, read the commentaries and the side notes as a guide.
- Practice your reading out loud, find the proper cadence, tone and points of emphasis.
- Find your readings in the bible and read the paragraphs prior to and following your reading.
- Use any additional resources you may have to help you prepare.

POINTS OF CONCERN

- Do not take the lectionary to the lectern before Mass until both readers have had a chance to go over their reading one last time.
- Help create the mood of prayer – walk slowly to the lectern, hands together & reverent.
- Carry the Book of the Gospels with reverence around head high. Do not hold above your head.
- Take command of the congregation with your posture, voice and tone.
- You are PROCLAIMING the Word of God, not reading it.
- Be vibrant with your reading but do not become theatrical or dramatic.
- DO NOT ADJUST THE MICROPHONE! Project your voice, speaking to the back pews.
- Read slowly enough so your words and their meaning are understood, pausing where there are pauses or when there are natural breaks or dialogues.
- Make eye contact, especially at the opening and closing of the readings.
- Pray to the Holy Spirit prior to and following each reading.
- Pause momentarily after each reading before going back to your seat.
- If we have a Deacon assisting, they will proceed with the Gospels and you sit down.
- First reader should turn the page to the second reading.
- DO NOT ADD ANY WORDS! Simply read the introduction and closing as written.
- Remember the focus should never be on anything you say or do, only on the Word of God.

As Ministers of the Word, we share in the sacred foundation of the Holy Mass. When the Scriptures are read, God himself speaks to his people, and Christ, present in his word, proclaims the Gospel. Therefore, the readings are to be listened to reverently by everyone for they are an element of the greatest importance to the liturgy (General Instruction of the Roman Missal)

Just as Eucharistic Ministers serve as the instrument that brings the body and blood of Christ to the faithful, Ministers of the Word are the instruments by which the Word of God is brought. We serve as the bridge between the Holy Scriptures and the faithful. Our mission entails a tremendous responsibility.

The homily is to be based on what the people have already heard in the readings and the Gospel. If the faithful did not properly hear or have been touched by the readings, they may not grasp the message of the homily nor be fully ready to receive Communion. Your reading of Holy Scripture may actually be the first, the only or even the last time someone will ever hear the Word of God.

SCHEDULING NOTES

- The ministry schedule can be found on our website and on the tables in the gathering spaces. They are written in the third week of the month and made available on the last weekend.
- The weekly bulletin will also show the list of who is scheduled for the upcoming week.
- Our office secretary, Jamie Clyde, prepares the ministry schedule. Her contact information is:

Email: office@dmallsaints.org

Phone: 265-5001, extension 209

- Please let her know by the second Friday of the month if there will be dates in the following month you be unavailable to minister.
- If you are unable to minister on your scheduled date, it is **YOUR** responsibility to find a replacement. You must also notify Jamie that you will be unable to serve, but she will not search for a replacement for you.
- If at the last minute you are sick or was unable to serve, let Jamie know so that we may note the circumstances.
- We will work on providing everyone a list of ministers, their contact information and the Mass time or times they are available and willing to minister at.
- If you find a replacement, or switch days with another, you must notify Jamie of the names and dates/times involved so the change can be made on the master schedule in the sacristy. It is very important that Father knows who he is to have as his ministers.
- Your attendance is crucial.

We are going to start keeping track of attendance. If we see that someone is missing several of their scheduled times and simply not show up or provide us with any notice, we will need to investigate if being a minister is still of interest to that person.

Ministering at your scheduled time is very important. Both Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers should be fully prepared to serve in their capacity prior to Mass and if they are missing, we must fill their position with other parishioners who may not be properly prepared not only in appearance, but spiritually as well.