

Serving as a Lector  
Sacred Heart of Jesus Church  
Updated July 2010

Thank you for bringing life to God's Word in our worship.

All lectors should have received the *Workbook for lectors and gospel readers*. If you have not received yours, please pick one up from the servers' sacristy. This book will give you some background about the readings, and help with which words to stress as well as pronunciation. If you need further help with pronunciation, there is a guide in the sacristy

Guidelines for Lectoring:

- ✦ Before you come to church practice the readings aloud. Be aware of any tricky pronunciations. When you arrive, check over the announcements.
- ✦ Dress should be business casual. Preferably no jeans, bare shoulders, t-shirts or tennis shoes. All lectors, but especially women wearing heels, need to be careful when going up and down the stairs.
- ✦ Arrive about 10 minutes early on the day you are scheduled.
- ✦ As lector you will read the First and Second Readings. Make sure the *Lectionary for Sunday Masses* is on the pulpit and open to the appropriate readings for the day.
- ✦ Entrance procession: Servers go first, then lector carrying the *Book of the Gospels* high, facing the book forward, then Father. Move to the right when you get to the peninsula. Wait until Father arrives and genuflects. Lector does not bow or genuflect. Move to the altar and place the book face down on the altar. Go to your seat.
- ✦ When coming up to do your reading, bow to the TABERNACLE, not the altar.
- ✦ Be sure to adjust the microphone to your level. Stand straight and keep your hands quietly at your side or on the ambo. Even though you have the microphone you still need to project your voice, speaking slowly, clearly and with feeling.
- ✦ If you feel comfortable, you can look up while reading, being careful not to lose your place.
- ✦ Pause after the introduction to the reading and before "the Word of the Lord".
- ✦ If there is no choir or cantor, the lector doing the first reading will also need to read the Responsorial Psalm. If this is the case, pause a few seconds after the first reading. Begin the responsorial by saying, "The response is....." Hold hand up and wait for response from the congregation. Read each stanza, raising your hand when it is time for the response.

- ✠ After the second reading, put the Lectionary on the shelf of the ambo to make room for the *Book of the Gospels*.
- ✠ If the deacon is present, he will read the Prayers of the Faithful. If not, read the Prayers of the Faithful as they are written (unless there is an obvious typographical error). Do NOT add your own petitions. If there is something you think should be added to the petitions, check with Barb before doing so. If Barb is present she will do the announcements. If not, you read them.
- ✠ Saturday lectors: Please leave the Prayers of the Faithful and the announcements in the podium for the Sunday lectors!
- ✠ Lectors do NOT process out.
- ✠ After Sunday mass, if you remember, please put the Lectionary back in the sacristy.