

## **ST. PHILIP LECTOR INFORMATION GUIDE**

Our goal as Readers is to make a spiritual connection of the Lord's Word to our listeners at Mass. Our own preparation of the Mass readings is key to providing that spirituality and connection. Spirituality comes only after the "mechanics" of reading are mastered, and we, as individuals, become "invisible" during our task at the ambo.

### **POSITIVE PREPARATIONS for our READINGS**

- Check the liturgical schedule and see when you are Reading. Mark your calendar. Call a substitute if you know you can't read (maybe you can switch with another reader too). Yvonne Depiro prepares the schedule, if you know in advance of the new Schedule that you have specific dates you will be gone/unavailable let her know.
- Locate your readings in the Readers Workbook and practice no less than a week before your scheduled time.
- Read the whole story in the bible to get the context of the passage and/or refer to the workbook and its notations.
- Practice out loud. Familiarize yourself with the periods, commas, pauses and inflections.
- Practice eye contact; know when you are going to look up from the Lectionary.
- Check your pronunciation; refer to the pronunciation guide and Workbook.

### **ON READING DAY - BEFORE MASS**

- Dress appropriately so as to project reverence for the Word and not to distract from the Word by your appearance.
- Arrive early at church, at least 20 minutes prior to mass
- Check Reader's Binder: read the Prayer Intentions and announcements. .
- Place Reader's Binder at Reader's chair. (if not already there)
- Check the volume of the microphone at the ambo.
- Check the placement of the ambo microphone don't place to close to mouth as words with "P's" will make popping sounds.
- Check Lectionary to ensure that it is marked at your reading. Read through it at least once, reminding yourself of where you will pause or look up.
- If you are reading the Responsorial Psalm be sure to read it prior to Mass, checking for any words that you may need help with. (verify with the choir)
- Find a quiet place to pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance and settled composure.

## DURING MASS

- Enter in procession right in front of Presider, holding the Gospel up in front of you, its front cover facing you so it is visible to the assembly. You will be on the Presider's left side in front of Altar.
- You will not Bow when the Presider and other ministers bow, you will be holding the Gospel book.
- Proceed to the front of the Altar and place the Gospel Book in the center above Fathers prayer binder. Then proceed to the Readers chair.
- Participate in the mass at all times by reciting the prayers, singing the songs without drawing attention to you. AVOID sightseeing, inattentiveness, and eye contact with members of the assembly when you are not reading.
- When seated or standing at the chair, be immobile. Unnecessary movement draws attention away from the Presider and what is going on at that time.
- MISTAKES HAPPEN! Don't get hung up on them!
- Critiques of your reading can be prearranged before mass. Seek out a fellow reader who will give you an honest evaluation so you can learn from them. Maybe not loud enough or to loud. Reading too fast or not understandable...

## THE READINGS

- After the Presider prays the Gathering Prayer he will acknowledge to you to proceed to the Ambo for the first reading.
- While you settle at the ambo, scan the assembly. Wait momentarily, if necessary, as people settle down.
- Make your connection with the assembly with eye contact during the announcement of the reading. Listen to the volume of your voice as it broadcasts into the room. Adjust your distance from the microphone if needed, so the proper volume is obtained.
- Try not to force the words with choppiness or with too much speed. People will not listen and connect with your reading, if its delivery is too fast or distracting. Flat, mono-tonal readings don't connect with listeners either.
- After the first reading is complete and you are to read the Responsorial Psalm step back from the ambo and wait a moment and then step back up to the microphone to continue with the Psalm. saying: "state the psalm and wait for the assembly to repeat it, (at this time you may give a sign so they know when to repeat the psalm). If the choir is singing the responsorial psalm, then return to your chair and be seated.
- The second reading should start as soon as you return to the ambo. Announce it and take in (again) your voice's volume in the room. After the reading, ending with "The Word of the Lord" close the Lectionary and place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> shelf of the Ambo. Return to the Readers chair.
- During the Gospel you may stand with your family or remain at the Reader's chair. (If you join the assembly proceed as the Presider walks to the Altar and the assembly stands). If you stay at the chair, stay as

“invisible” as possible, so that you do not distract the listeners and detract from the Gospel and homily.

- Return to the ambo for the Prayer Intentions (bringing the Reader binder with you, if not already on the 2<sup>nd</sup> shelf of the ambo) during the Creed. Father moves along swiftly here, so you should be ready to read them at his cue.
- After you have read the Prayer Intentions stay at the ambo until the Presider finishes with the final prayer, then go back to the Readers Chair when he has finished.
- Announcements are said after Communion at the Ambo, the Presider will look to you when to proceed, usually just a minute or two after communion or the 2<sup>nd</sup> collection if one is done. When done with the announcements proceed back to the Readers chair.

## RECESSIONAL

- As the Presider and Table Servers leave the Altar pick up the tithing basket(s) proceed to the front of the Altar next to the Presider. YOU WILL NOT HAVE THE GOSPEL BOOK so when Presider bows you too will bow. You will recess out following the Eucharist Ministers and in front of the Presider.

After the assembly has left it is your responsibility to return the Gospel Book, Readers Binder and the Lectionary Book. Be careful not to loose the marked places in the book.

### **Special notes:**

For special Holy Day readings check with Fr. Michael to verify the correct readings, (sometimes they may change them).

***Check the bulletin for the weekly readings, again making sure you are practicing the correct readings.***