

St. Thomas More Parish Readers

Responsibilities

November 14, 2004

In order to standardize the functions of the Readers at all Liturgies, the following guidelines are to be used by all Readers beginning the First Sunday of Advent:

- Readers are asked to arrive at church approximately 15 minutes before Mass starts to prepare themselves for their service.
- Readers are to prepare themselves by practicing their readings during the week using the book provided. At church just before Mass is not enough time to really prepare to proclaim the Word of God with clarity and understanding.
- Check with the organist to determine if the responsorial psalm will be sung or recited.
- The Reader is not to carry the Lectionary in the entrance procession. The Reader is to walk in the procession behind the Eucharistic Ministers
- Upon arrival at the altar, the Reader is to bow to the altar with the Eucharistic Ministers and then proceed to the pew and not wait for the Celebrant.
- After the opening prayer and the Celebrant is seated, the Reader will leave the pew, bow to the Altar and proceed to the **Pulpit/Ambo**.

DO NOT RUSH, SPEAK SLOWLY, CLEARLY, AND ENUNCIATE

- The readings are to be announced as follows:
 1. A Reading from the Book of
 2. Our response to the psalm is
 3. A reading from the (i.e. First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians)
- The Readings (not the Psalm), after a short pause, will be ended with **"The Word of the Lord"**

- When the Psalm is read, take a short pause between readings to allow the people to reflect on what they heard. A slow count to ten is adequate.
- When the Psalm is sung, the reader should sit on the bench next to the Tabernacle. Do not return to the pew until after the second reading
- Prayer of the Faithful or Petitions:
 1. If a Deacon is present, the Celebrant will introduce the prayer, the Deacon will read the petitions and the Celebrant will say the closing prayer.
 2. If a Deacon is not present, at the end of the creed or when the Celebrant starts the prayer if there is no creed, proceed directly to the pulpit/ambo without bowing to the altar.
 3. After the Prayer of the Faithful, the Reader will read the announcements
- At the end of Mass the Reader may join the procession in the same position as the entrance procession. The Lectionary will not be carried out.

Your appointment as a Reader is a Call and a Privilege. With both come certain responsibilities some of which are:

1. Proper dress,
2. Being there when scheduled.
3. Arrive early enough to prepare spiritually.
4. Get a substitute when situations arise that will prevent you from being there.

Remember it is the Lord Who called You.