

*“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.  
Liturgy is essentially the Christian faith prayed; it is dogma set to prayer.”*

Dom Virgil Michel, Benedictine Liturgical Reformer

#### PREPARING FOR THE READING

- Check the schedule.
- Determine if you are the first or second reader.
- Read the Gospel and Reading I and Reading II to get the full context of the scriptural readings of the day. The theme of the Gospel is often related to that of the First Reading.
- Take time to study the background of your reading and the meaning of the text and sub-texts.
- Read the assigned text aloud, rehearsing until you feel comfortable with the phrasing, your enunciation, and the volume of your delivery. You may even ask someone to listen to you as you practice.
- If there are words that you are not sure how to pronounce, there are pronunciation keys in the lector workbook. You can also download a free app. It's called *Biblical Pronunciations* in the iPhone App Store or the Google Play Store. The app will pronounce the word in question for you.
- If there are alternate readings, check with Father ahead of time about which one he will be doing.

#### PROCLAIMING THE WORD

- Arrive 10-15 minutes before the start of Mass.
- For convenience, readers usually sit in the first two pews, closest to the Tabernacle—Reader I at the first pew and Reader II, behind.
- Go up to the lectern before Mass to make sure the Lectionary is opened to the correct page and to review the Petitions. Ask Father if there are names that you are unsure of how to pronounce.
- Decide who will carry in the book. Follow the altar to the right. The book should be placed face down on the altar. Bow to the altar before returning to your place.
- The **first** reader goes to the lectern after the Collect has been read by the priest. The **second** reader goes to the lectern after the cantor has sung the Responsorial Psalm and returned to her/his place.
- As you go up the lectern for your reading, pause at the first step and bow in the direction of the altar.
- Begin by establishing eye contact with the congregation.
- Proceed with the reading, remembering that you have an audience of interested listeners who will benefit from your understanding of the text as reflected in your delivery. At the conclusion, pause before you say, “The Word of the Lord”. The second reader should place the lectionary on the shelf of the lectern at the conclusion of the reading.
- As you return to your seat, pause at the foot of the steps and bow in the direction of the altar.
- The recitation of the Creed will give you the cue to return to the sanctuary for the Petitions. Step up to the altar when you hear, “I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.”

#### MISCELLANEOUS

- Dress appropriately, business casual at a minimum.
- If you are unable to read at your assigned Mass, you need to arrange for a substitute. You will receive a lector schedule that will include contact names and numbers. In the event of an emergency, call the rectory. Father or Bridget will ensure that someone will be available to take your place.
- If in doubt, ask an experienced lector or Father for advice.