

Quick Tips for Lectors in The Parishes of Southern Stevens County

BEFORE THE MASS

- Practice, practice, practice: Read and re-read the readings of the day at least **3 times** before the Mass. You will find them in the current *Workbook for Lectors, Gospel Readers, and Proclaimers of the Word*.
 - You can read them online by going to <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings>. You can also *hear* the reading by clicking on “*readings – audio*” in the left column.
- If you’re not sure about the pronunciation, do one of the following:
 - Check the “Lector’s Pronunciation Guide” handed out at the training session.
 - Go to **Google** and type in the phrase “How do you pronounce _____”
 - Ask Father
- Arrive at least 15 minutes early so that the Celebrant knows we have a reader.
 - Dress appropriately—for men this means no shorts or sandals/flip flops. Men preferably should wear a dress shirt with long trousers and dress shoes.
- Check the *Lectionary* and make sure the ribbon is set at the beginning of the day’s readings.
- Check that the “Prayers of the Faithful” booklet is open to the prayers of that day.
- Pick up the *Book of Gospels* on the back table
 - Check that the ribbon marks the day’s Gospel
- Join the Celebrant, Altar Servers, and Eucharistic Ministers in the Vestibule by the front doors.

PROCESSION

- In the Procession, the Lector will be behind the Cross Bearer. If no Cross Bearer is present, the Lector will lead the procession to the altar.
- When the procession reaches the altar, move to the left or right of the Celebrant who will be in the middle.
- When the Celebrant bows, the Lector does NOT bow because they are holding the Book of Gospels.
- Place the *Book of Gospels* in the center-front (closest to the congregation) of the altar and take your seat.

Liturgy of the Word

- After the Celebrant prays the Opening Prayer (also called the “*Collect*”) and takes his seat, the Lector goes to the Ambo (“lectern”).
 - Make sure the microphone is pointed at your chin.
 - Pause, take a breath, scan the congregation visually, and then begin the first reading.
- If the “*Responsorial Psalm*” is not sung, the Lector will read it.
 - Read the Response slowly and loudly then pause.
 - Read the verse, ending by “dropping” the last word(s). Pause. Then say the Response
- When you finish reading the 2nd Reading, take the Lectionary and put it on shelf between the 2 candles. Make sure you don’t pick up or drop the Celebrant’s homily!
- After the *Nicene Creed* is prayed, go immediately the Ambo to read the petitions from the *Prayers of the Faithful*.

RECESSION

- After the Final Blessing, the Celebrant will sing one verse of the Recessional Hymn and will then will “reverence” (kiss) the altar. **When the Celebrant goes to the Altar, you will go to the Ambo and take the *Book of Gospels*. Holding the Book of Gospels in front of you, stand on either side of the Celebrant. After the bow (remember, you do not bow!), turn and following the Cross Bearer to the back of the church.**