

St. Jude Catholic Church
Guidelines for Readers
(Last Revised November 2005)

BEFORE MASS

Please sign in 15 minutes before Mass time. There is a sign-in sheet on the table in the narthex. Do not go up to the ambo to read if you did not sign in.

If you are unable to serve at an assigned Mass, please arrange for a substitute from among the regular readers – preferably far enough in advance to allow the substitute time to make a proper and prayerful preparation of the reading.

Please dress in keeping with the dignity of the ministry – at all masses.

For Sunday Mass, the 1st Reader ensures that the Lectionary is on the ambo before Mass, open to the appropriate reading.

The 3rd Reader obtains the Prayers of the Faithful from the sign-in table.

(If there is any doubt about the pronunciation of any name, please check with Jeanne or Father to be sure that it pronounced correctly.)

As you are facing the altar, choose a seat along the aisle by the windows on your LEFT or in the WEST transept. The idea is that YOU SHOULD NOT CROSS IN FRONT OF THE ALTAR as you proceed from your seat to the ambo when it is time for you to read.

ENTRANCE PROCESSION

(The 1st Reader only participates in the entrance procession if there is not a deacon.)

The 1st Reader carries the Book of Gospels in procession behind the servers and in front of the presider. The servers will line up at the step in front of the altar. The reader stands behind the servers and beside the priest. **When the priest genuflects, the reader genuflects also.**

When the server with cross ascends the steps, the reader steps up to the front of the altar and reverently places the book on the altar. The reader then steps back down off the steps of the sanctuary and goes to his seat.

FIRST READING

After the Opening Prayer, the 1st Reader remains standing as the congregation is seated and the priest blesses and dismisses the children for their liturgy. **Wait** to begin walking to the altar until the children have processed from the church.

From your seat, go to the place at the side of the altar that is the shortest, most direct ascent to the ambo and go up there for the reading.

The opening to the reading is simply “A Reading from...” The closing is “The Word of the Lord.” No more. No less.

After the reading is complete, **pause** with head bowed for a short time – try reciting the Our Father – to allow the congregation to begin reflection on the Word just proclaimed.

Then return to your seat. The choir will not begin the psalm until the reader steps down from the altar.

SECOND READING

After the responsorial is finished, the 2nd Reader proceeds to the ambo in the same fashion as did the 1st Reader.

The 2nd Reader follows the same formula as the first, including allowing a reflective **pause** after the reading.

After the moment of reflection, the 2nd Reader closes the Lectionary and carries it down off the altar and places it on the shelf of the credence table (where the chalices, etc. for communion are arranged) and then returns to his seat.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

At the end of the Nicene Creed, the 3rd Reader proceeds to the ambo (same fashion as others) for the Prayers of the Faithful. Try to arrive about the time the Creed finishes.

The presider will make an introduction to the prayers.

At the conclusion of the Prayers of the Faithful, the reader remains at the ambo with his head bowed until the presider has offered the concluding prayer and then returns to his seat.

RECESSIONAL

The lector does not participate in the recessional. Ever. With or without a deacon does not matter.

AFTER MASS

It is the responsibility of the first reader to make sure that the lectionary is back on the ambo – open to the appropriate page – in preparation for the next mass and that the Book of the Gospels is returned to the vesting sacristy (off the narthex).

WEEKDAY MASSES

Usually, no readers are assigned for the weekday masses. If you would like to read, just check with the presider before Mass.

Masses on Holy Days of Obligation follow the format of a Sunday Mass.

MY KNEES AREN'T WHAT THEY USED TO BE

Genuflection is the NORM for anyone entering or leaving the sanctuary. If you cannot genuflect – or even if you could but it would be so awkward that it would be a distraction rather than an expression of reverence, you may bow instead.

CLOSING THOUGHTS

Please bear in mind that the lector is – in a very real way – a facilitator of worship. The pauses and non-verbal cues help direct the faithful in focusing and in appropriate response.

It is very important to WAIT to approach the altar for the readings until the appropriate time. The short walk to the altar – taking only a few seconds – allows the congregation to focus on what is coming next.

Approach the altar with all possible reverence. Fold your hands in front of you. Don't rush.

At the end of the reading, PAUSE and bow your head and close your eyes. It may feel awkward, but it helps the congregation understand that this is a time to reflect on the Word they have just heard.

Please keep in mind that the Lectionary is the Tabernacle of God's Holy Word and should always be handled with reverence and respect.

QUESTIONS ?????

Call Victoria Sublette at 972-678-2264, vsublette@hotmail.com

OR call the church office at 972-727-1177.

In trying to build the database of lectors at St Jude for communication purposes, please do the following:

If you have received a copy of these guidelines, please email vsublette@hotmail.com with your

Name
Mailing Address
Phone #
Mass Preference
Best way to contact you

I will assume you sent the email from the address where you would prefer to receive information. Any email I send that is not to YOU personally will be blind cc and there will be NOTHING that is not related to the lector ministry.

GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!!!!