

GUIDELINES FOR READERS

(Fall 2016)

Thank you for sharing of your time and talent by being a reader in our parish! This is a wonderful and very important ministry in the Church – you are proclaiming God’s Word to your fellow believers....what an honor! In order to help you carry out this ministry in the best ways possible, here are some guidelines and instructions:

1. Check your schedule. If you cannot read on your assigned weekend, you need to find your own replacement. Schedules will be made available in the mailbox on the vestry door and on the parish website www.stvitalparish.ca
2. Prepare for your reading before Sunday:
 - i. Read the text over, out loud, until you feel comfortable with it.
 - ii. Use the workbook provided in the vestry for helpful hints in proclaiming the reading.
 - iii. Pray that God may help you to proclaim His Word.
3. When you arrive (at least 10 minutes) before the Mass you are scheduled to read, please put a check mark beside your name on the master schedule that is posted in the vestry. Then proceed to the ambo and ensure the lectionary is opened to the proper reading. It is also good to review the prayers of the faithful, especially the names of the deceased.
4. When you have completed your review, Pick up the Book of the Gospels and bring it to the back of the church where you will join the procession (after candles). Carry the (closed) Book at your forehead height or a little higher; keep a slow pace as you walk. The priest is always the one who determines when the procession is to begin. When you approach the sanctuary, pause briefly (without bowing) and then proceed to behind the altar, always walking clockwise. Place the Book of the Gospels in the **MIDDLE of the Altar**. Leave the sanctuary also walking clockwise and back to your pew.
5. Once you have finished the second reading, please close the lectionary and place it on the shelf under the ambo. You do not need to process out with the Book.
6. Dress appropriately, reflecting the dignity of the task. (see attached dress code)

7. Please sit near the front of the church, at the end of a pew so you can easily and comfortably proceed to the ambo when it is time to read.
 8. When reading the first and second readings, and then again for the Prayer of the Faithful, readers are to enter the sanctuary from the centre and bow to the altar. You do not need to bow when leaving the sanctuary. There is no need to remain seated in the sanctuary between the second reading and the prayer of the faithful.
 9. When to proceed to the ambo:
 - i. **Readings:** after the opening prayer, the assembly sits down, including the reader. Once the assembly is quiet and settled, the reader then stands and proceeds.
 - ii. **Prayer of the Faithful:** while the assembly is praying the Apostles Creed (after the homily), the reader is to proceed to the ambo. The reader must be at the ambo before the Creed is finished.
 10. **Between the first and second reading, readers are to be seated on the chair behind the ambo.** The psalm will always be sung on the weekends. *(Only on rare occasions will the reader may also be asked to proclaim the psalm)*
 11. Read only what is printed in black. The red portions are called rubrics, and are never to be read out loud.
 12. Pauses/silence are important parts of Mass that the Church has asked us to restore:
 - i. Readings: before saying The Word of the Lord, pause and count “3 mississippi” in your mind
 - ii. After each intercession of the Prayer of the Faithful, pause and count “1 mississippi” before saying “we pray to the Lord”
 - 13. When saying The Word of the Lord – be proud, proclaim it boldly!**
 14. Readers do not need to ask parishioners to stand for the Gospel acclamation.
 15. If you make a mistake do not correct it unless it affects the meaning of the reading.
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Dress Code for Liturgical Ministers at the Altar (Fall 2016)

Mass, the celebration of the Eucharist, is the source and summit of all we are and do as Catholics. We believe that Christ is truly present in the Eucharist, nourishing and endowing us with the Grace needed not only to become like Christ but also continue His saving work. As Liturgical Ministers, we must show by example, our respect and reverence for the Eucharist while performing our Liturgical duties.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states: "*The Mass is at the same time, and inseparably, the sacrificial memorial in which the sacrifice of the cross is perpetuated and the sacred banquet of communion with the Lord's body and blood is made present,*" (CCC #1382). The Catechism also highlights the need to show outwardly what we understand inwardly, about exactly what is happening at Mass. "*Bodily demeanor (gestures, clothing, attitudes) ought to convey the respect, solemnity, and joy of this moment when Christ becomes our guest*" (CCC #1387).

Your attire should demonstrate your appreciation of how your role fits within the worship experience. Dress should express respect and reverence for the sacred mysteries that are being celebrated. Clothing that is too casual or flamboyant can also distract the congregation from where their focus should be, on the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. With this in mind, all Liturgical Ministers either serving in the church or outside of the church (eg. Minister to the Sick) are respectfully requested to follow the dress code:

Women

- Professional/modest attire
- Dress pants, no jeans or shorts
- No halter or tube tops
- No sleeveless, low-cut straps –a sweater or jacket should be worn over sleeveless blouses while ministering the Eucharist

Men

- Collared shirt, jacket or sweater
- Dress pants, no jeans or shorts
- Closed shoes and socks, no athletic shoes or sandals

ALL

- Please no athletic shoes, flip flops, etc.
- No jeans, shorts or sweat pants
- No sweatshirts, t-shirts or tank-tops