

The Catholic Parish of Corpus Christi Parish Readers and Commentators

Preparation

- ❖ Arrive 20 minutes before Mass and sign in.
- ❖ Remember to dress appropriately for the House of God.
- ❖ Prepare your reading ahead of time. Practicing will help you get through your reading in a smooth fashion. Know the Holy Spirit is with you.
- ❖ Take the time to find out how to pronounce difficult words. Refer to online resources or the pronunciation guide/Readers' Guide in the Vestry. Read through the Prayers of the Faithful and familiarize yourself with the names.
- ❖ Find the correct readings in the Lectionary and Book of the Gospels. Refer to the ORDO for the page number. If you are unsure which reading is the correct one, particularly for special celebrations, check with the Presider.
- ❖ Place the ribbon *to the side* in the Book of the Gospels at the appropriate Gospel reading. Placing the ribbon to the side, rather than the bottom, makes it easier to open.
- ❖ The Book of the Gospels will be carried in during the procession by the Deacon or 1st Reader if the Deacon is not present.
- ❖ Make sure the Lectionary is open to the first reading and the *current* Prayers of the Faithful are ready at the Ambo. The Stewardship Prayer will be behind the Prayers of the Faithful in the same transparent sleeve.
- ❖ Make sure the Corpus Christi Prayer is ready inside the lectern.
- ❖ Be in the Spiritual Meeting Room at 20 minutes past the hour for the group prayer.
- ❖ Reserve a seat close to the front on the Ambo side so it's easier and faster to get up to read.

- ❖ **Commentators:** *You will find the blank script in the top drawer in the Vestry. Saturday evening is blue, Sunday morning is white and the K of C Mass is orange. Fill in the correct information: which Sunday is it? Who is the presider? Which group is singing? Also, is there a Second Collection, a Ministry in Focus or special message to read? Be prepared to go soon after the prayer in the Spiritual Meeting Room at approximately 25 minutes after the hour. **You will be speaking from the lectern situated by the choir, not the Ambo in the sanctuary.** After you are finished, please return the script to the Vestry and erase the page.*

Procession into Mass

Readers in the procession (in order):

1. *Adult Server #1 with 2 Candle bearing Junior Servers on either side*
2. *Deacon or 1st Reader with the Book of the Gospels*
3. *Other Junior Servers*
4. *2nd Reader and Adult Server#2*
5. *1st Reader (if Deacon is present)*
6. *Presider*

As you reach the Sanctuary, the Deacon or 1st Reader will place the Book of the Gospels in the front center of the Altar table. He/she will return to the line-up across the front of the Sanctuary. The Junior Servers will place their candles on either side of the Ambo and then return to the line-up. The Junior Servers will be to your left and the Deacon or Priest will be to your right. All should stand close to the step. After everyone has returned to the line, everyone bows together then goes to their seat. See the diagram.

JS ✕ JS ✕ READER ✕ READER ✕ DEACON ✕ PRESIDERS ✕ 1st AS ✕ 2nd AS ✕ JS ✕ JS

During readings

Come to the centre of the Sanctuary, reverence the Altar with a bow, noting that you are entering the Sanctuary. A bow from the neck is all that is necessary. Readers do not need to do a profound bow from the waist.

Approach the Ambo from the left side and become familiar with the microphone. Project your voice and position yourself about 6 inches from the microphone. Read clearly at a reasonable pace and without too much inflection. The audio person will adjust the volume.

- ❖ Be careful not to move your head too much after you have started because it could affect the volume. Also, the audio person will have adjusted the volume based on that first line or so.
- ❖ Be mindful that your voice doesn't "pop". If this happens, move back slightly.
- ❖ It isn't necessary to say "First Reading" or "Second Reading". Instead, start with "A reading from...." as it appears in the book.
- ❖ Make eye contact and establish a connection with the congregation.
- ❖ Remember that you are proclaiming the Word of God. Try not to add too much emotion, nor read too quickly or slowly. Find the balance.
- ❖ If it helps, use your finger to keep track of the lines as you read through the passage.
- ❖ Both Readers, reverence the Word by *stepping back and making a small bow after you have read.*

First Reader

- ❖ *Start walking towards the center of the Sanctuary to bow to the Altar when the Priest has finished the opening prayer and everyone sits down.*
- ❖ If the second reading is on the next page of the Lectionary, turn the page so that it is ready for the Second Reader.

When you are finished reading, step back and reverence the Lectionary by making a small bow from the neck.

Walk down the steps to the base of the Sanctuary *in the center* to meet the psalmist and bow together. Stand to the right of the psalmist.

- First Reader, then goes back to his/her seat
- Psalmist will go to the Ambo and sing

NOTE: If there is no music group, you will need to lead the Psalm for the congregation.

- ❖ As Communion is ending and the last person has received, go up to lead the congregation in the Corpus Christi Prayer from the lectern in the choir section. Begin the Prayer after the last Eucharistic Minister has returned his/her vessel. Remember to read at a balanced pace (not too slow, not too fast) so everyone can recite the prayer together. The prayer sheet stays on the shelf inside the lectern.

Second Reader

After the Psalm is over, *meet the psalmist at the center of the base of the Sanctuary* and bow together to the Altar for reverence. Stand to the right of the psalmist. Your cue to start approaching is when the psalmist stands back from the Ambo.

○ Second Reader, then goes to the Ambo to read

○ Psalmist will go back to the choir group

- ❖ When finished reading, step back and bow to the Lectionary
- ❖ *Remember to close the Lectionary after you do your reading and place it inside the Ambo on the shelf.*
- ❖ *When you go back to the center at the base of the Sanctuary, you will be met by the Junior Servers on your right for the bow.*
- ❖ *When present, the Deacon will read the Prayers of the Faithful. If the Deacon is NOT present, approach the Ambo from the center of the Sanctuary to read the Prayers of the Faithful just as the last paragraph of the Creed is being recited (...I believe...) Remember to bow. You do not need to say "Prayers of the Faithful".*
- ❖ Pause briefly after each name of the sick and deceased.
- ❖ Remain at the Ambo to lead the Stewardship Prayer (on the reverse side of Prayers of the Faithful).
- ❖ Return the Prayers of the Faithful to the shelf in the Ambo.

Recession

- ❖ Both Readers come up after the Priest has kissed the altar.
- ❖ Both come to the front of the Sanctuary to the same positions you were in at the beginning of Mass (on the left). The Book of the Gospels is not processed out.
- ❖ Wait and bow with the Priest and the others. Processing out, the Deacon and/or 1st Reader will be at the back in front of the presider.
- ❖ *After Mass is over, retrieve the gold Book of the Gospels from the Ambo and return it to the Vestry. The red Lectionary should remain at the Ambo.*