

# **ST. VITAL PARISH**

## **GUIDELINES FOR READERS**

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### ***Proclamation of the word and the ministry of Reader***

The Synod on the Eucharist had already called for greater care to be taken in the proclamation of the word of God. As is known, while the Gospel is proclaimed by a priest or deacon, in the Latin tradition the first and second readings are proclaimed by an appointed reader, whether a man or a woman. I would like to echo the Synod Fathers who once more stressed the need for the adequate training of those who exercise the *munus* of reader in liturgical celebrations, and particularly those who exercise the ministry of Reader, which in the Latin rite is, as such, a lay ministry. All those entrusted with this office, even those not instituted in the ministry of Reader, should be truly suitable and carefully trained. This training should be biblical and liturgical, as well as technical: “The purpose of their biblical formation is to give readers the ability to understand the readings in context and to perceive by the light of faith central point of the revealed message. The liturgical formation ought to equip readers to have some grasp of the meaning and structure of the liturgy of the word and the significance of its connection with the liturgy of the Eucharist. The technical preparation should make the readers skilled in the art of reading publicly, either with the power of their own voice or with the help of sound equipment.”

~ ***Verbum Domini 58***

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Thank you for sharing your time and talent by being a reader in our parish. In order to help you carry out this ministry in the best way possible, here are some guidelines and instructions:

### **Preparation**

1. Read the parish Bulletin regularly for announcements regarding the ministry of Reader. Inform the parish office of your (un)availability prior to the schedules being posted. You may call 204-453-0933 or email: [stvministries@stvitalparish.ca](mailto:stvministries@stvitalparish.ca).
2. Schedules will be made available in the mailbox on the vestry door and on the parish website [www.stvitalparish.ca](http://www.stvitalparish.ca). Once the schedule is posted, it is your responsibility to find your own replacement if you are unavailable at the assigned date. Contact numbers of other readers are attached with the hard copy of the schedules.
3. Prepare for your reading before Sunday:
  - Use the workbook provided in the vestry for helpful hints in proclaiming the reading.
  - Read the text over, out loud, until you feel comfortable with it.
  - Pray that God may help you to proclaim His Word.

## **Exercising the Ministry at Mass**

4. 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.
5. Review the Prayers of the Faithful, especially the names of the deceased. See Appendix for detailed instructions.
6. 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.
7. Five to eight minutes before Mass, proceed to the narthex and pick up the Book of the Gospels. You will join the procession (behind the servers). 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.
8. When to proceed to the ambo:
  - Readings: after the opening prayer (Collect), the assembly sits down, including the reader. Once the assembly is quiet and settled, the reader then stands and proceeds.
  - **Prayer of the Faithful: once the Apostle's Creed has been prayed, the reader is to proceed to the ambo. No need to rush.**
9. When reading the first and second readings, and then again for the Prayer of the Faithful, readers are to enter the sanctuary from the center 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.
10. 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.
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 appreciate, particularly in the Liturgy of the Word
  - Readings: before saying The Word of the Lord, pause for 3 seconds
  - After each intercession of the Prayer of the Faithful, pause for a second before saying "we pray to the Lord"
  - When saying "The Word of the Lord" – be proud, proclaim it boldly!

... it is necessary nowadays that the People of God be educated in the value of silence.... The importance of all this is particularly evident in the Liturgy of the Word, "which should be celebrated in a way that favours meditation." *Verbum Domini* 66

13. Readers do not need to ask parishioners to stand for the Gospel acclamation.
14. If you make a mistake do not correct it unless it affects the meaning of the reading.
15. Missals will be provided for each reader (sometime in November).
16. If reading during Lent, please read the ones marked for the Scrutinies if there is RCIA.
17. Please dress appropriately, reflecting the dignity of the task:

*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).*

## **APPENDIX: INSTRUCTIONS FOR READING THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

1. Review the Prayers of the Faithful before Mass to become familiar with them beforehand.
2. During the period of Advent and Lent there may be specific instructions for readers. For example during Advent, the Cantor sings the response "Lord hear our prayer"
3. When reading the prayers for the deceased, notice the Mass times highlighted:  
For example for this weekend (August 18th):  
For those who have died,  
[especially 4:00 p.m. Anthony Gan  
9:00 a.m. Denis Lepine  
8:00 p.m. Fern Labossiere]  
may they come to share in the fullness of Christ's glory,  
Let us pray to the Lord.

In the above case, the reader at 11:30 a.m. does not have a name to mention at their mass so they would simply say:

For those who have died, may they come to share in the fullness of Christ's glory, Let us pray to the Lord.

If a recently deceased person's name is added, then it would read:

For those who have died, especially John Doe, (and 4:00 p.m. Anthony Gan, 9:00 a.m. Denis Lepine, 8:00 p.m. Fern Labossiere), may they come to share in the fullness of Christ's glory, let us pray to the Lord.

In the above case, the reader at 11:30 a.m. would say:

For those who have died, especially John Doe, may they come to share in the fullness of Christ's glory, Let us pray to the Lord.