**Serving as a Lector**

**Sacred Heart of Jesus Church**

**Updated March 2023**

Thank you for bringing life to God’s Word in our worship.

All lectors should have received the Workbook for lectors and gospel readers. If you have not

received yours, please pick one up from the servers’ sacristy. This book will give you some

background about the readings, and help with which words to stress as well as pronunciation. If

you need further help with pronunciation, there is a guide in the sacristy.

Guidelines for Lectoring:

* Before you come to church practice the readings aloud. Be aware of any tricky pronunciations.
* Dress should be business casual. Preferably no jeans, bare shoulders, t-shirts or tennis shoes. All lectors, but especially women wearing heels, need to be careful when going up and down the stairs.
* Arrive about 10 minutes early on the day you are scheduled and let Barb or Deacon Steve know you are there.
* As lector you will read the First and Second Readings. Make sure the Lectionary for Sunday Masses is on the pulpit and open to the appropriate readings for the day.
* When coming up to do your reading, bow to the TABERNACLE, not the altar.
* Be sure to adjust the microphone to your level. Stand straight and keep your hands quietly at your side or on the ambo. Even though you have the microphone you still need to project your voice, speaking slowly, clearly and with feeling.
* If you feel comfortable, you can look up while reading, being careful not to lose your place.
* Pause after the introduction to the reading and before “the Word of the Lord”.
* If there is no choir or cantor, the lector will also need to read the Responsorial Psalm. If this is the case, pause a few seconds after the first reading. Begin the responsorial by saying, “The response is…..” Hold hand up and wait for response from the congregation. Read each stanza, raising your hand when it is time for the response. (this rarely happens)
* After the second reading, put the Lectionary on the shelf of the ambo to make room for the Book of the Gospels.
* Lectors return to your seat after the second reading.