

# The Ministry of Lector

## At Daily Mass

### Preparation

- **Preparing at Home:** It is ideal to read through the reading ahead of time.
- **Difficult Pronunciations:** With any difficulties in pronunciations, consult the USCCB website, where you can listen to a recording of the readings.
- **Check the Lectionary:** Check the lectionary before Mass, to make sure it is set correctly. Consult the priest if there is any confusion.
- **Bells:** Please take the bells to your pew, so that you can ring them at the proper times: 1X at the Epiclesis (when the priest holds both hands over the bread and wine, calling down the Holy Spirit), and 3X's at each Elevation (after each Consecration).

### Reading

- **Coming Up & Returning:** After the Collect (Opening Prayer), when everyone sits, come up to read. Go to the center, and bow to the Altar on your way up. Do the same on the way back.
- **Most Days:** For most days, you will have just one reading and the Responsorial Psalm.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Reading?** Besides "Ferial Days" (a normal day without a particular feast), there are 3 ranks of feasts: Memorials, Feasts, and Solemnities. Solemnities always have a 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading. Feasts sometimes do and sometimes don't. Make sure you stay up and read the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading whenever there is one. If there is a Sequence after the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading, consult the priest ahead of time about whether he wants you to read that or not.
- **Dominican feast days:** We celebrate a Dominican saint on certain days throughout the year. Sometimes this involves a reading that is different than the weekday reading. There is a separate Dominican Lectionary that the priest will put out. There is no real way to prepare for this. When you check the Lectionary before Mass, you'll see that the reading is different. You can review the reading then, hopefully with sufficient time before Mass begins.
- **Responsorial Psalm:** For the Responsorial Psalm, don't announce "The Responsorial Psalm," but simply begin by reading the response (that the people will then repeat). There is no need to cue the congregation with your hands or arms. Simply look up and say the response when the congregation should recite it.
- **How to Read:** Read clearly and with sufficient volume. Think about what words and phrases to emphasize. Feel free to adjust the microphone by adjusting from the mid-section, not the end. It's good to look up at least at the beginning and end. Be sure to pause briefly after the introduction to the reading, and at the end—before saying "The word of the Lord."

### Afterward

- Return the bells to the Sacristy, or at least to the kneeler behind the Celebrant Chair in the Sanctuary.

*Thank you for helping to proclaim the word of God!*