



READER PROTOCOL

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH · PORTLAND, OREGON

Founded 1891

Thank you for your interest in proclaiming the Sacred Scriptures within the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at St. Patrick's. This is an important service to our Lord and His Church, and we are very grateful. Your role is of paramount importance: the Church teaches that when the holy Scriptures are read in the church, it is Christ Himself who speaks to His people (*Sacrosanctum Concilium* 7). In the Liturgy of the Word, then, our Lord will use your voice as the vehicle by which He addresses His people — an honor not easily comprehended, second only to the consecration of the Eucharist as the manifestation of His presence in the Mass. By His grace, please live in alignment with that honor, so as to welcome Him worthily into the St. Patrick's community.

★ BEFORE ASSUMING THE ROLE OF READER

Please:

- ✦ Make sure you are in good standing with the Roman Catholic Church. If necessary, speak with the pastor concerning irregular marriage situations, the need for confession, or any obstacle to living a fruitful spiritual life in full communion with the Church.
- ✦ Attend all appropriate training sessions with one of our parish-certified trainers. A schedule of trainings is available by calling or emailing the office.
- ✦ Dress appropriately:
 - *Gentlemen:* dress shoes, slacks, a long-sleeved collared shirt (tucked in), and a sport coat are the base requirement. Suits and ties are required for Feasts (the Feast of St. Patrick, Sts. Peter & Paul, etc.), Solemnities (Christmas, Easter, etc.), and other high holy days and special occasions.
 - *Ladies:* dresses (covering shoulders, knees, and upper body), skirts (below the knee), or pants and blouses are the base requirement. Blazers and suits may also be worn. Please do not wear sheer fabrics.
- ✦ Review the reading schedule and place all of your assigned dates on your personal calendar.
- ✦ Review your assigned readings at least twice before proclaiming them at Mass.
- ✦ Be commissioned by the pastor with the Blessing of Readers; this may be received at any time.

★ GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Please:

- ✦ Genuflect before entering the sanctuary and again when leaving it.
- ✦ Proclaim your assigned reading calmly, clearly, and without dramatics.

- ✦ Pause for about two seconds between the end of the reading and “The word of the Lord.”
- ✦ Speak at an adequate volume into the microphone — neither too loudly nor too quietly.

Please do not:

- ✦ Cut between the low altar and the ambo when entering the sanctuary.
- ✦ Apologize — or say anything at all — if you make a mistake during Mass. Simply go back and read the word or phrase correctly.
- ✦ Bow to the altar once you are in the sanctuary; the genuflection on entering suffices.
- ✦ Move the intercession sheet from the ambo. The intercessions remain at the ambo at all times.
- ✦ Look at the congregation while you are reading; this breaks the continuity of the reading. Simply concentrate on what you are proclaiming, what it means, and a reverent delivery.
- ✦ Add any personal movements or practices to the sequence of this ministry.

★ DURING THE MASS

Please:

- ✦ Sit in the second row on the St. Joseph side, on the center aisle.
- ✦ After the priest prays the Collect (the opening prayer) and all sit, remain standing, approach the foot of the sanctuary, genuflect, and walk directly to the ambo.
- ✦ At the ambo, immediately proclaim the First Reading. When it is completed, take a seat on the St. Joseph side of the sanctuary.
- ✦ After the Psalm is completed, return to the ambo and proclaim the Second Reading.
- ✦ When finished, place the Lectionary on a chair on the St. Joseph side of the sanctuary, genuflect to the Tabernacle as you leave the sanctuary, and return to your seat in the body of the church.

“The word of the Lord endures forever.” — 1 Peter 1:25

AD MAIOREM DEI GLORIAM