

Guidelines for Readers – St. Julia Parish

General

- Reading schedules are typically set for a 3 month block and distributed by email two weeks prior to the current schedule ending
- Identify your assigned mass dates/times – the schedule is also posted on the parish website: <https://www.stjuliastc.com/lectors.html> (scroll to bottom of page and click appropriate button).
- Find someone to read for you if you are not going to be available for your assigned mass and notify your reading partner of your absence and your replacement.
- Arrive 10-15 minutes prior to mass in case there are changes to the readings or the format of the mass.
- Advise the presider that you are present and check to ensure the microphone has been turned on.
- Verify that the Lectionary is open to the correct readings (cross check with the Missal) and ask the Presider if the long or short version of the reading is to be done (if applicable)

Reading Assignments

- Please review your readings in advance and connect with your reading partner to determine who will read which reading.
- The reader reading the second reading is to close the lectionary and place it on the lower shelf of the ambo before leaving the sanctuary to make space for the Book of Gospels.
- If there is no Deacon present, the reader of the first reading will also read the Prayers of the Faithful (Petitions) approaching the Ambo following the recitation of the Creed and during the introduction to the Prayers of the Faithful by the presider.
- If there is only one reader, they will do all the applicable reading parts. Solo readers should sit on the bench or chair behind the Ambo between the first and second readings rather than returning to their seat in the congregation.
- Readers should not approach the Ambo for the first reading until the opening prayer has concluded and the Presider and congregation starts to sit. Similarly, readers should wait until the responsorial hymn is finished before going to the Ambo.
- Readers return to their seat immediately following the reading – do not wait for the music of the Psalm or Gospel Acclamation to begin.
- If there is no Cantor/music person, the reader for the First Reading will also read the Responsorial Psalm and the reader of the second reading will proclaim the Gospel Acclamation.

Weekday Masses

Readers at weekday masses read the first reading only, the Responsorial Psalm and the Prayers of the Faithful (Petitions) and should ensure the microphone is turned on before Mass and turned off after Mass.

Reading Tips

- Pause briefly (5-10 seconds) before speaking to allow the congregation to quiet and focus on the reading. Open with, "A reading from...."
- Speak slowly and clearly – do not rush through the reading. Pause briefly before closing with "The Word of the Lord".
- Read in a tone and cadence that is suitable to the text, those in the congregation and the place of the celebration. As a reader you want to bring the text to life and inspire thoughtful reflection on its meaning.
- Project your voice – do not rely solely on the microphone. If you need to adjust the microphone, do so gently and in an up/down manner (not sideways).
- If comfortable, look out at the congregation periodically, taking advantage of paragraph breaks and when announcing and concluding the reading.