

THE BASILICA OF
SAINT MARY
OF THE ASSUMPTION

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INSTRUCTIONS FOR READERS FOR FUNERAL MASSES IN A BASILICA

The *Guidelines For Funeral Masses In A Basilica* (available from the rectory office) states the following regarding the readings at Mass:

“Typically the presider chooses the scriptural readings for the Funeral Mass. If the family wishes to select readings, they must be taken from the Order of Christian Funerals. It is preferable that those chosen to be readers are trained Lectors from a Catholic parish.”

Those assisting at Mass as a reader must display the utmost respect and reverence. Their entire demeanor should convey a sense of the solemnity of the Funeral Mass.

PROCEDURE TO FOLLOW:

- Readers should be seated toward the end of the pew so that they may exit the pew freely.
- Immediately after the opening prayer, the first reader proceeds to the **center of the steps** (next to where the casket has been placed). He or she walks **straight up the steps**, stops in **front of the Altar**, **bows reverently** to the Altar and proceeds directly to the Ambo (Pulpit).
- The readings will be marked in the book on the Ambo. The reader begins by reading the line: **“A Reading from ...”**
- The readings should be read **slowly and clearly**.
- When finished, the reader proceeds directly to the **front of the Altar**, **bows reverently**, walks **straight down the steps**, and returns to his or her seat.
- Immediately after the Responsorial Psalm, the second reader comes forward, using the same procedure as detailed above. (Please note: when finished with the Second Reading, the reader is asked to **close the book** and place it on the **side of the Ambo** before leaving.)
- If only one person is doing the readings, he or she should be seated on the chair provided along the wall next to the Ambo after the first reading (while the Responsorial Psalm is sung). Once the Psalm is completed, the reader returns to the Ambo and reads the Second Reading. Once finished, the reader returns to sit among the assembly using the procedure above.