

Holy Family and Sacred Heart Parishes Confirmation Program

Church focus (description of Mass roles):

LECTOR:

- Proclaim God's Word to God's people
- Responsible for reading the First Reading, Responsorial Psalm (if not sung by choir), and Second Reading (The priest reads the Gospel)
- You can take a book (Missalette) home from the church. The readings can also be found online: <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/101914.cfm>. ****Make sure to click on the correct SUNDAY on the website's calendar even if you are reading at the Mass on Saturday since the readings are taken from SUNDAY for both the Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses.**
- After the Mass has begun and while everyone is still standing, Father will say "Let us pray." This is your clue to start making your way to the podium to read. After the prayer is finished, you will begin with the First Reading by saying, "A reading from....(ex. the Book of Genesis)". Begin the Second Reading the same way, "A reading from....(ex. the second letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians)". After you are done with the Second Reading, you can return to your seat.
- The book on the podium should be open to the correct page. If it is not, look for the name of the Sunday (ex. "Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time" or "First Sunday of Advent") since the actual calendar dates are not in the book.
- Must practice at home prior to Mass--loud enough, speak slowly and clearly

PETITION READER:

- Lead God's people in prayers to Him
- Responsible for writing and reading the petitions
 - 4-5 petitions: First petition is always a prayer for the Pope and/or the Universal Church. Last petition is always for the deceased (including if that Mass is being offered for the soul of a deceased person). The topics of the other petitions are open to your ideas.
- For help writing your petitions, please visit:
 - <http://www.priestsforlife.org/intercessions/>
 - <http://www.susanvogt.net/PDF/100%20Family%20Petitions%20for%20Sunday%20Liturgies.pdf>
- Must practice at home prior to Mass--loud enough, speak slowly and clearly
- Must present petitions to Father for approval prior to Mass
- After Father gives the homily/sermon, the people will stand to recite the Nicene Creed. Near the end of the Creed (last paragraph), you can start making your way to the podium. After the Creed is finished, Father will say a short introductory prayer before you begin to read the Petitions. When you are finished reading the Petitions, wait at the podium until Father says a short prayer. Then the people will all sit down and you can return to your seat at that time.
- Examples of Petitions (aka General Intercessions, Prayer of the Faithful) taken from Holy Week:
 - a) For the world in which we live: that God may give us health & peace through the blood of Christ.
We pray to the Lord. (The people respond: Lord, hear our prayer.)
 - b) For the sick and suffering: that God may give them courage and strength to share the suffering of Christ.
We pray to the Lord. (R: Lord, hear our prayer.)
 - c) For believers and unbelievers everywhere, for all our brothers and sisters around the world: that the suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ may lead us to the glory of rising again.
We pray to the Lord. (R: Lord, hear our prayer.)
- ALSO responsible for reading any announcements at the end of Mass. After the Communion song is finished, you can walk up to the podium. The sheet will usually be put on the podium by someone else before Mass begins. When you finish reading the announcements, you can return to your seat.

USHER:

- Use their leadership skills to assist others at Mass
- Greet people as they arrive at the Church
- Help people find a place to sit if necessary
- Facilitate in taking the collection during Mass
- Open doors and hand out bulletins at the end of Mass
- When the person is reading the Petitions shortly after the Homily/Sermon, you can start getting ready to help take the collection. The adult ushers will instruct you where to go and what to do.

SERVER:

- Assist the priest in many ways throughout the Mass
- Participate in Server Training (if haven't already done so)
- You will likely be paired with a more experienced Altar Server who will teach and show you what to do and when to do it. If you are the more experienced server, we ask that you help the other servers learn what to do if they don't already know.

CHOIR MEMBER:

- Use the gift of your voice to lead God's people in songs to praise Him
- Responsible for being a contributing member of the choir, arriving early enough before Mass
- Must practice at home prior to Mass
- Whole year commitment--there may be practices outside Mass

*FOR ALL, remember to genuflect or bow when approaching the altar or sanctuary out of respect for Jesus' true presence in the Eucharist inside the Tabernacle.

*No one is going to judge you. People will be excited to help you become more involved in the Mass and will be more than willing to assist you!

If you have any questions or need any help, please contact Father or Sabrina. We are here to help you!!

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