St. Stephen’s Lay Reader/Lector Training 2024

Preparation:

* When the schedule comes out each month, check it, mark it on your calendar and if you need a sub, get one sooner rather than later.
* If you get a sub, notify the office of the change **(409) 892-4227** or [office@ssecbmt.org](mailto:office@ssecbmt.org)
* The readings will usually be from the NRSV Bible. If you do not have one to practice from, check [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com/) and choose NRSV. Remember Jim+ sends these out as well.
* Readings will be assigned as follows:
  1. Reader 1 will read 1st 2 readings no matter what they are (Old Testament, Psalm, or New Testament)
  2. Reader 2 will read a 3rd reading if there is one and the Prayers of the People if no other ordained minister is present.
  3. For Reading in Parts - Reader 1 reads from the Podium and Reader 2 reads from the microphone at the pulpit
* Please note that the readings that are done in parts are sent out to you by Father Jim+ with the upcoming readings. Please open this and pay attention to it if you are scheduled on one of those weeks or trade for one of those weeks - always tell your sub if you are Reader 1 or Reader 2 and if there is reading in parts that week.
* If you are asked to sub, please say yes if you are available.

Day of Reading:

* Arrive early to check your readings in the notebook on the ambo and to see that they have not changed. Sometimes, they might.
* Check in with Celebrant, especially if you are a sub, so she/he knows that there is a reader.
* Check the microphone(s) - this requires speaking into the microphone to check not only that it is on but also for volume.
* Be ready when it is your time to read. One of the most disruptive times for worshipers is when we leaders “stop” the worship.

Reading Do’s:

* You are reading and interpreting for God.
* SLOW down
* Read with emphasis, this requires reading ahead of time for understanding. If it does not make sense to you, ask someone to help you understand it. PRACTICE beforehand. Lack of practice shows.
* Use silence for people to reflect - where there is suggested silence, count slowly to 10 before going on to the next line and if people are saying prayers out loud, wait for a count of 5 after the last one finishes to make sure there are no others.
* Pause before saying, “The Word of the Lord.”
* Do not drop off the end of any line (especially “The Word of the Lord.”.) Keep volume consistent through the last word.
* Help fellow Lay Readers/Lectors by enthusiastically responding to readings and prayers

For Prayers:

* Get people’s names correctly, no one wants to have their name butchered. Ask for help with pronunciation before the service starts. Take a minute to write out names phonetically if they are difficult.
* If you have something to be added, make sure you place it in the appropriate place within the existing prayers.

Mentors/Partners:

* Pray for each other
* Critique with love

Questions