

**TOP TEN
GUIDELINES FOR WEDDING LECTORS
AT ST. PIUS CHURCH**

1. Pray to God that this ministry will praise his name and bless the people. Pray through the text; let God's word soak into your heart. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in the proclamation.
2. Set aside time at home to prepare yourself. Speak aloud the passage to yourself and listen for where the pauses and emphasizes are in the reading.
3. Pick out the most important sentence or phrase. Try to communicate it above all else.
4. Look up all the words - proper names usually - that are unfamiliar to you. Be sure you know their meaning and how to pronounce them.
5. Rehearse several times any Scripture passages with run-on sentences or any text where the meaning is apt to be lost to listeners.
6. Approach the Ambo as reverently as you would approach the Altar. Christ is present in God's word and Eucharist, the "two tables" of the liturgy.
7. Don't announce the reading as "the first reading is..." or "the second reading is..."
8. Don't speak too slowly or too quickly.
9. Don't lean on the Ambo or crane your neck to get to the microphone. The microphone is very powerful and will pick up your voice provided you speak at a normal level.
10. Don't get flustered if you make a mistake. Even the best public speakers make mistakes, pause a second and regain your composure, then keep going. Don't repeat the passage.