

Worship Customary

St. Francis in the Fields Episcopal Church

8:00am

Lector/Usher

Prior to Sunday

1. Read over your assigned lessons. The lessons are posted on our website on Wednesday.
2. All lessons at St. Francis are taken from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) of the Bible.

Before Worship

1. Arrive at St. Francis twenty minutes prior to the scheduled start of the liturgy.
2. Check to make sure there are leaflets at the back of the church near the narthex doors.
3. Check the readings sheet on the lectern and ensure it reflects the correct reading.
4. Check on the pronunciation of Biblical terms/names if you are unsure.
5. Seat yourself as near the lectern as possible, to minimize travel time. After your reading, you may return to sit with your family in another part of the church.
6. At some point during the service, count the number of people in attendance (including clergy) using the counter in the back of the church. Write the number on the attendance sheet and place it in the offering plate when you take the plates to the altar.

During Worship

1. Begin to move toward the lectern as soon as the last speaker is finished speaking. You do not need to wait for the priest return to his/her seat before you stand up. Minimize “dead time” as much as possible.
2. When you come forward to read, please stop briefly and reverence the altar with a slight bow.
3. Please read the lessons from the paper in the lectern. Do not bring the leaflet with you to the lectern. If you wish to read from the leaflet, please place it in the lectern prior to the beginning of the service.
4. Before you begin, make sure the microphone is turned on (green light is illuminated).
5. Please announce the lessons according to the formula listed on the paper which is generally: “A Reading from the Book of ##”. Do not add chapter and verse citations.
6. You do not need to make eye contact or even look up from the lesson. Lectoring is reading not public speaking or oral interpretation. Read in a normal speaking voice and at a moderate pace.

At the Invitation

1. After the come to the front of the church to receive the offering plate from a member of the altar party.
1. Pass the plates along each pew
2. When the plate is full, bring it forward and wait at the steps of the altar. You may have to wait a few moments for a member of the altar party to come get the plate.
3. Reverence the altar slightly and return to your seat.