

## FIRST READING

*Instruction:* This is the first reading. Approach altar after the Opening Prayer when all people sit down.

### **A Reading from the Book of Sirach**

For the Lord sets a father in honor over his children  
and confirms a mother's authority over her sons.

Those who honor their father atone for sins;  
they store up riches who respect their mother.

Those who honor their father will have joy in their own children,  
and when they pray they are heard.

Those who respect their father will live a long life;  
those who obey the Lord honor their mother.

My son, be steadfast in honoring your father;  
do not grieve him as long as he lives.

Even if his mind fails, be considerate of him;  
do not revile him because you are in your prime.

Kindness to a father will not be forgotten;  
it will serve as a sin offering--it will take lasting root.

In time of trouble it will be recalled to your advantage,  
like warmth upon frost it will melt away your sins.

### **The Word of the Lord**