



Lector

Proclaimer of the Word

"the word of God is living and effective" Heb 4:12a

General Guidelines:

1. Each Lector is responsible for serving when scheduled. If you are unable to fulfill an assignment, you must request a substitute. You may do this through the MSP website or by contacting the Director of Liturgical Ministries by phone or email.
2. Your respect for God and his people should be reflected in your appearance and attire. Please note: **NO** T-shirts, tank tops, muscle shirts, or halters; **NO** shorts or blue jeans; **NO** apparel with signs, logos, or messages; **NO** immodest clothing; and **NO** athletic shoes at any time! Jewelry and clothing that would be distracting to the assembly should not be worn. What we wear makes a statement, sometimes louder than words.
3. The tabernacle is to be revered at the beginning of Mass and at the end of Mass, but not during the celebration of Mass itself (GIRM 274). Neither is it appropriate to raise the lectionary before or after your reading nor your hands during the Prayer of the Faithful.
4. Lectors should sit near an aisle, preferably on the side of the church near the ambo.
5. A Liturgical Minister may perform only one liturgical ministry at a time at a Mass. Thus, if you are performing the function of Lector at Mass, you may not also perform the function of a Minister of Hospitality, or Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion at the same Mass.
6. The Lector's assignment is specified next to their name: John Smith – 1st Reading, Jane Smith – 2nd Reading, Joe Parishioner – Intercessions. It is the Church's desire that whenever there is more than one reading, it is better to assign the readings to different Lectors, if available (Lectionary for Mass 52).
7. The new General Instruction of the Roman Missal places even more emphasis on the importance of silence in the sacred liturgy: "The Liturgy of the Word is to be celebrated in such a way as to favor meditation, and so any kind of haste that hinders recollection is clearly to be avoided. In the course of it, brief periods of silence are also appropriate, accommodated to the assembled congregation; by means of these, under the action of the Holy Spirit, the Word of God may be grasped by the heart and a response through prayer may be prepared. It may be appropriate to observe such periods of silence, for example, before the Liturgy of the Word itself begins, after the First and Second reading, and lastly at the conclusion of the homily" (GIRM 56).
8. Prayer, preparation, and practice are the keys to your being an effective Proclaimer of God's Word.
 - a) Pray that you proclaim the Word as God wills it to be proclaimed.
 - b) Prepare well for your reading, reviewing the context of the passage: what happens before and/or after this selection. Each year, all Lectors will receive the *Workbook for Lectors*. Please use this source as your first basis for preparation. If there is an option of readings, please consult the Liturgy and Music office for the correct reading.
 - c) Practice your reading aloud in the presence of another, who will be able to give you a critique of your proclamation. This will maximize your ability to effectively proclaim God's Word. Lectors should be preparing the readings at least a week prior. Practice making eye contact with the assembly. Remember you want to capture the attention of the assembly, so that the members of the assembly hear the Word of God and can reflect on the words being spoken to them.
 - d) The readings are typically printed in sense lines and should be read as such. Avoid at all costs reading words in groups of three, thus destroying the sense of the sentences.

Before Mass:

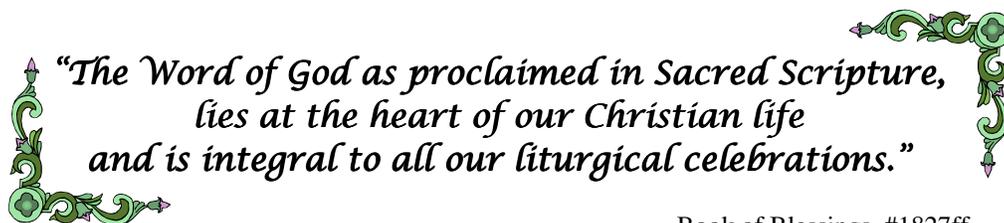
9. Check-in at the main sacristy at least 15 minutes prior to your scheduled Mass time. Please initial your name on the posted schedule or insert and initial your name for the person for whom you are substituting, indicating "sub."
10. When assigned to the gym, please go directly there and sign in on that schedule.
11. Check the lectionary in the sacristy and be sure that it is marked to the correct readings.
12. The 3rd Lector should have the Prayers of the Faithful with them in the pew before Mass. Review the Prayer of the Faithful and be sure you are aware of how to pronounce any names to be mentioned in the intention of the day. If you have any questions about pronunciation, consult the priest before Mass. Those who compose the Prayers of the Faithful will try to spell out words phonetically whenever possible.

During Mass

13. The 1st Lector is to come forward from the assembly after the Opening Prayer is concluded and the celebrant takes his seat in the presider's chair. When the assembly is settled and quietly reverent, the 1st Lector proclaims the reading making eye contact with the assembly when announcing the reading: "*Uh* reading. . ." rather than "*Ā* reading. . ." and when saying "The word of the Lord" to which the people respond: "Thanks be to God." The 1st Lector then turns to the next reading before returning to his/her seat within the assembly.
14. The ribbons mark the correct readings; do not move them when turning the page.
15. The 2nd Lector is to come forward from the assembly after the Responsorial Psalm is sung, waiting to rise at least until the psalmist is seated. When a reverent silence is again evident, the 2nd reading is to be proclaimed. When finished with the reading, the lector closes the lectionary and places it on the shelf.
16. The 3rd Lector announces the Intentions of the Prayer of the Faithful. He/she arrives at the ambo with the petition binder during the recitation of the Creed; the arrival at the ambo should coincide with the words: *We believe in one holy, catholic, apostolic...* The Lector should be ready before the celebrant begins the opening prayer. When finished, remain at the ambo, head bowed toward the assembly, until the celebrant has completed the ending prayer and then either leave the petition binder open on the ambo or close it and place it on the shelf and return to your pew as the Stewardship Prayer is recited.
17. If there are fewer than three Lectors present, the sacristan will attempt to recruit additional Lector(s) to cover remaining duties.

After Mass:

18. Do a mini self-evaluation by asking: "did I PROCLAIM the meaning of the Scriptures, or merely read the words? Did I effectively communicate to the assembly God's word of salvation using all the skills available to me? What can I do to improve the next time?"



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