Lector Ministry Guidelines

revised: October, 2019

Our Values
We are one team with one purpose.
We express our love for Jesus Christ through service.
We create an irresistible environment.

Standards
Show Up! Fulfill your role on the team!
Be joyful!
Be prepared!
Be a minister and worship!

ROLE
To proclaim the word of God at Mass and at other liturgical celebrations to bring meaning and life to the scriptures in the hearts of all who are present.

PREPARATION BEFORE MASS
1. Study and Prepare the Scripture Readings
   a. Seek to understand the text: Workbook for Lectors and Gospel Readers.
   c. Practice reading out loud, using your whole body in the service of God’s Word.
2. Dress to the Dignity of the Role
3. Arrive Early: Sign in, find your seat, check the ambo for your text, and test the microphone.

DURING MASS
1. Opening Bookends: Sometimes handled by a staff member or other minister. If a lector is needed for opening bookends, staff will prepare you ahead of time.
2. Entrance Procession: Walk behind the servers and in front of the presider. If the deacon is not present, one lector carries the Book of the Gospels. After reaching the altar, lectors move to the left; servers move to their right. Bow in unison (the person holding the book does not bow) and pause for the presider to reverence the altar. Carry the Book of the Gospels to the book stand on the back of the altar, then be seated.
3. The Readings: Bow, walk to the ambo, and settle. Look out at the assembly as you begin. Pause as you conclude, “The Word of the Lord.” Step back from the ambo and meditate for 10 seconds before returning to your seat.
4. Prayer of the Faithful: Approach the ambo as the presider invites the people to pray. After reading the prayers, remain at ambo until presider concludes the prayer.
5. Closing Bookends: Sometimes handled by a staff member or other minister. If a lector is needed for opening bookends, staff will prepare you ahead of time.
6. Concluding Rite: As the presider moves toward the altar, walk to your place and bow with the presider and servers. Process out following the servers.

AFTER MASS
Return the lectionary to the ambo for next liturgy if being used by RCIA after Mass. Also, be sure that the Book of the Gospels is returned to the table outside the vesting sacristy.

The lector is a servant of the Word of God and all who listen to seek its meaning. Your preparation brings that word to life. Lectors must be particularly attentive to ritual movement and timing in their role. Thank you for your service as a lector!