

General Principles for Ministers of the Word (Lectors)

Faithful Liturgical Ministers are those who practice their faith regularly and strive to be good examples to others by their “good standing” with the Catholic Church.

Lectors are proclaimers of the Word of God. In fulfilling this ministry, you become a public figure to whom others look. Through your reverence and your manner of ministry, your proclamation can make a difference in the attentiveness of the People of God to the Word and how it impacts their daily life.

1. You are asked to dress professionally. The “dress -down” look has its place but not in the liturgy unless it is a special liturgy that takes place at or in the midst of a recreational event, such as a children’s camp, etc. In the summer, shorts, tee shirts and other casual attire are not appropriate. During the winter months, the church should be sufficiently heated so that hats and coats can be removed. Also, now that we have new floor coverings, please make every effort to clear snow and sand from your shoes. **In emergency situations** ... when the need arises and you are asked by the celebrant on the spur of the moment to fill in for an absent Lector, the “need” supersedes the way you may be dressed.
2. Maintain proper posture and reverent walking. This includes a head and shoulder bow to the altar when you pass in front of it.
3. Know the microphone and its placement for your voice. *Do not twist the top of the microphone* in any way as this will damage the wires in the microphone. Raise or lower the microphone gently from the center shaft.
4. Use eye contact when you are proclaiming. This shows that you have prepared the reading. It also helps to emphasize certain parts of the scriptures.
5. Study the Lector Workbook provided for you by the parish; it gives background information, a pronunciation guide and reading tips as well as the other readings of the day so you can understand your selection in context.
6. Proclaim the Scriptures naturally but boldly! We believe that the Scriptures are the inspired Word of God. Treat them as such!
7. Always participate fully in the assembly’s prayer whenever you attend or minister at Mass.

MINISTRY OF LECTOR - PROCEDURES

Personal Preparation:

1. Practice proclaiming your assigned scripture readings using your **Lector Workbooks**. The congregation can tell when you haven't practiced.
2. If you are unable to fulfill your assignment, **you** are expected to find your own replacement.

Before Mass:

To ease the concern of the celebrant, please arrive in the sacristy 10 minutes before mass and **sign in**. Please maintain a quiet atmosphere when you are in the sacristy.

Locate both the **Lector Folder** and the **Lectionary** on the center counter and review the readings - ensure you have the proper Sunday readings and place the Lectionary at the ambo. Locate the **Book of the Gospels** as you will process with this book in hand. The **Book of the Gospels** will be placed flat on the altar. The **Lector Folder** is a formal binder. Please review the binder before Mass. If you are unsure of a pronunciation, please ask the presider. (Out of respect for the family and friends of those we pray for, it is important that we pronounce their names correctly and clearly.) Please do not fold the binder in half ... that with destroy the binder

To begin Mass:

Approximately 90 seconds before Mass time, enter the sacristy, bow before the Tabernacle and proceed to the ambo for the introductory remarks.

Good Morning/Afternoon/Evening! My name is _____, I will be your Lector for today's celebration, etc.

As the people are greeting one another, bow before the Tabernacle and proceed to the sacristy to pick up the Book of the Gospels and participate in the entrance procession.

Upon arriving at the foot of the sanctuary during the entrance procession, DO NOT BOW and PROCEED IMMEDIATELY TO THE ALTAR and place the **Book of the Gospels** flat on the center of the altar and then proceed to the chair behind the ambo and remain standing. The presider will bow and enter the sanctuary after the **Book of the Gospels** has been placed.

Liturgy of the Word:

After the opening prayer, proceed to the ambo for the first reading. Immediately begin: **A Reading from the Book of _____**. At the end of each reading, **PAUSE** before saying: **The Word of the Lord**.

After the 1st reading, be seated in the chair behind the ambo for the sung responsorial psalm. (Sunday 7:00 AM Lectors, please pause before beginning the spoken proclamation of the responsorial psalm.)

Pause for a few seconds after the psalm and before returning to the ambo for the 2nd reading. After the second reading, close and place the Lectionary on the ambo shelf and return to your seat in the nave of the church or the sanctuary. PLEASE DO NOT SIT IN THE CHAIR BEHIND THE AMBO DURING THE PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL AND THE HOMILY.

At the beginning of the Creed, make your way to the ambo for the Prayer of the Faithful. The Presider will introduce the Prayer of the Faithful and then you begin with: OUR RESPONSE WILL BE: *LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER*. Begin, then, with the first petition. After the final petition, remain at the podium and the Presider concludes the Prayer of the Faithful. After the concluding prayer, please announce the collection/s. You then return to your seat making the appropriate bow to the tabernacle if necessary.

After communion, Fr. Dennis will make the announcements for the week.

Following the final blessing, join Fr. Dennis and servers at the foot of the sanctuary, bow together and depart. You will not carry the **Book of the Gospels** during the final procession.

After Mass:

Before you leave Church, RETURN the **Lectionary**, the **Lector Folder**, and **Book of the Gospels** from the ambo and place them on the center counter in the sacristy.