

DIRECTIONS FOR
LECTORS



SAINTS PETER AND
PAUL PARISH
BEAVER PA

2015

1. Continue to develop a deep reverence for Scripture.

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Jesus comes to us in the Liturgy of the Word just as much as He does in the Liturgy of the Eucharist. The Liturgy of the Word is not just filler to get to the good part of the Mass. It is equally important as a way for Jesus to come to us. (Fr. Bob – Approximate quote)

Prepare – Prepare – Prepare

Read the workbook. Learn the passage, the background, and the emotions.

2. It's not about you. Humility calms self-consciousness and nerves. He must become greater; I must become less. (John 3:30)

The word of the Lord will speak to the congregation and each person there. We are only the voice to proclaim it, and we want to do so in such a way that the attention is on God's Word and not on ourselves as lectors.

Let nothing that you do or wear cause anyone to be distracted from the Word.

3. Practice

Proclaim slowly, so the ear and brain can understand and digest it.

Project your voice outward, so the person in the last pew can hear.

Proclaim Slowly

Enunciate, so people can understand without having to read along.

Proclaim Slowly

Make eye contact, so they know the Word is meant for them personally.

Proclaim Slowly

Proclaim with emotion. The workbook is a guide. The more you know and practice the passage, the easier it is to let the emotion come through.

Proclaim slowly

Use pauses and changes in voice when and where necessary.

Proclaim slowly

4. Movements and mechanics

- a. Arrive at church at least ten minutes early. Go to the sacristy to prepare.
- b. Before Mass:
 - Check lectionary on pulpit to make sure it's on the right page.
 - Check petitions page to make sure it's for the correct Mass time.
 - Check pronunciation of names for Mass intention and deaths.
 - Check for any announcements or special instructions.
 - Check that Gospel Book holder is on the altar.
 - Check that the sound system is on.

- c. You will pray with the priest and altar servers before leaving the sacristy.
- d. When Mass begins:
- Carry Gospel Book and Petitions Folder to Cantor's podium
 - Make opening announcements
 - Leave Petitions Folder in your pew and carry Gospel Book to back of Church.
 - Process down the aisle, after altar servers, carrying the Gospel Book slightly elevated.
- e. **Go up to the altar facing the middle, slightly raise the Gospel Book, turn right and go around to the back of the altar, place the Gospel Book in the stand on the altar, BOW, turn right and go to your pew.**
- f. After the Gloria and Opening Prayer, when the priest sits down, go to the pulpit for the first reading. (At 9:15 Mass, wait to see if there is Children's Liturgy; if so, sit and wait for the children to exit before going to the pulpit for the first reading.)
"A reading from . . ."
Pause
Proclaim the reading.
Pause
"The Word of the Lord"
- g. Go to your pew for the Responsorial Psalm. (Unless it is the 7:30 a.m. Mass where you will have to read the Responsorial Psalm)
Go back to the pulpit for the second reading.
"A reading from . . ."

Pause

Proclaim the reading.

Pause

“The Word of the Lord”

- h. Close the lectionary and place it on the table behind the pulpit. BUT if the celebrant is **Fr. Byrnes**, leave the lectionary open to the Gospel on the pulpit because he likes the print in that one better than in the Gospel Book.
- i. Go to your pew for the Gospel, Homily and Profession of Faith.
- j. Immediately after the Profession of Faith, as the priest is beginning the introduction to the petitions, go to the pulpit. “Please respond, “Lord, hear our prayer.” (or whatever the response is to be)
Read each petition.
- k. After the last petition, remain at the pulpit as the priest prays the closing part.
After “Amen”, turn off the pulpit light and go back to your pew.
- l. If there are no announcements, relax – you’re all done!
- m. If there is an announcement on the petitions page:
 - When the priest is done purifying the vessels after Communion, go to the Cantor’s podium. Watch for when the priest is ready for you to make the announcement. Make the announcement and then

go back to your pew. Now you are all done. Relax and sing the closing hymn!

n. After Mass:

- Put the lectionary back on the pulpit, open to the correct page for the lector at the next Mass. Take the Petitions Folder and the Gospel Book back to the sacristy.
- Remove the Petitions page that you just read and throw it out so that the next lector does not get mixed up. Make sure the Petitions page for the next Mass is there.

PRAYERS
FOR
LECTORS

PRAYER OF A MINISTER OF THE WORD

Lord, invest me with your power
as I prepare to proclaim the marvel of your message.

I have prepared my reading,
I have tried to take within me
the meaning of what I am about to proclaim.

Help me to proclaim, not just with my lips,
but with my whole heart and soul.

Lord, make me a hollow reed
so that your voice will be heard by all who hear me.

Free me of excessive concern over my performance.
Convert my feeling of nervousness and
turn all my apprehension into energy
so that I can proclaim your word with power and
authority.
May your Spirit live in me and
fill the holy word that I proclaim.

St. Catherine of Siena Parish
Manchester, NH

LECTOR'S PRAYER

Lord, thank You for this opportunity to gather in Your name.
I thank You for the gifts You have given me through the Holy
Spirit.

I have accepted Your call to proclaim Your word and I ask Your
continued help and guidance in my endeavors. Help me to
recognize the importance of Your call to be a lector. May I be
prepared within myself so that I may present Your word in a
meaningful and understanding manner.

Through the gifts of the Holy Spirit, give me the confidence and
ability to follow Your call.

Amen

