

NEIGHBORS NORTH CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

TRAINING SHEET: LECTOR MINISTRY

I. Mission and the Ministry of the Word

- Word of God, not our own words
- We are vessels for God to speak through, letting Him speak instead of asserting ourself

II. How to Prepare

- Preparation is not optional
- Practice in prayer
- Note the genre, literal meaning, surrounding context, liturgical context
- Lector's Guide to Biblical Pronunciations (little red book), usccb.org/readings

III. Reading Techniques

- Create thought-phrases: when there is less punctuation, reader according to where a thought begins and ends
- Sentence continuity: you can sustain a sentence by sustaining your voice throughout
- Pay attention to transitional words
- Verbal punctuation: pause for commas and periods, etc.
- Stressing words: changes the meaning of the sentence
- Mood and Attitude of the reading
- Do not over-dramatize
- Do not swallow your words
- Enunciate
- Pause when it is natural and do not be afraid to pause between major thoughts
- Memorization/eye contact: good, but don't overdo it
- Volume/microphones: find out which mics can be moved and which we are not allowed to; you are usually loud enough, even if you think you are too loud
- Genre: different readings are different genres, so read them accordingly
- Mistakes: if you make one, simply start the word over again and move on
- Maintain good posture
- Do not change Scripture or the Mass parts

V. The Spirit of the Lector

- As lectors, we are vessels, not broadcasters
- What draws you to this ministry? Is it a love for God's Word?

VI. A Quick Review

- Bow when passing the altar (from the waist)
- Genuflect when passing the tabernacle or approaching it
- Altar is the priority during Mass (bow), tabernacle outside of Mass (genuflect)
- Hands folded if not carrying anything
- Let clergy/staff correct other ministers

VII. Weekday Logistics

- Arrive 10 minutes early
- Check with celebrant for optional readings/sections
- Review and pray, set Lectionary open on the ambo
- Sit in second row, closest to center, left side
- Read first reading and recite psalm
- Approach the ambo immediately following the Opening Prayer
- Bow from the waist at the foot of the first step, in the center
- Read straight from the Lectionary
- Step back and bow your head 7-10 seconds between first reading and psalm
- Do not repeat the psalm with the congregation, just look up (no hand gestures)
- Leave Lectionary there, go back the same way, bow at foot of bottom step in center

VIII. Sunday/Holy Day Logistics

- Arrive 15 minutes early
- Check with celebrant for optional readings/sections, review and pray
- All reader activity is now from the ambo (even the Mass introduction)
- First lector: sit in the second row, closest to center, left side
- First lector: carries Gospels + reads Intercessions and announcements if no deacon
- Second lector: behind the first reader (third row)
- Second lector: begin introduction at second bell (or first buzzer)
- Take Gospels in procession: around right side, place on altar (upright, front cover facing congregation), step back and bow, go around the other side of the altar to seat
- Come down after first reading instead of staying for the psalm: don't wait for cantor
- Put Lectionary inside the ambo after the second reading, then go back to your seat
- Go back up during "I believe in the Holy Spirit" for the Intercessions if no deacon
- Immediately announce second collection (on sheet) after Intercessions end

IX. Dress code: business casual on weekdays, Sunday best on Sundays/feasts (clergy enforces this dress code)

Liturgical Ministry Questionnaire (Please print neatly)

Name: _____

Email address: _____

Phone number: _____

What ministries are you being trained for?

Note only those ministries you are attending a training for and want to be scheduled for. This sheet is meant to help us put you with the Masses you prefer.

Weekday Masses

*Please mark your preference with a 1 being the least desired and an 11 being the most desired Mass time. If you **cannot** serve at a Mass, do not mark it at all.

I prefer not to serve on weekdays.

7:00am Monday (St. Athanasius)

12:00pm Monday (St. Sebastian)

8:00am Tuesday (Incarnation of the Lord)

12:00pm Tuesday (St. Sebastian)

7:00am Wednesday (St. Teresa of Avila)

12:00pm Wednesday (St. Sebastian)

7:00am Thursday (St. Athanasius)

12:00pm Thursday (St. Sebastian)

7:00am Friday (St. Teresa of Avila)

12:00pm Friday (St. Sebastian)

8:00am Saturday (St. Athanasius)

← **Sacristans only:** check the box if interested

9:00am Friday (St. Sebastian, Holy Cross Academy Students Mass)

Sunday and Vigil Masses

*Please mark your preference with a 1 being the least desired and a 9 being the most desired Mass time. If you cannot serve at a Mass, do not mark it at all.

I prefer not to serve on Sundays or Vigil Masses

4:00pm Saturday (St. Athanasius)

4:00pm Saturday (St. Teresa of Avila)

5:00pm Saturday (St. Sebastian)

8:00am Sunday (St. Sebastian)

8:30am Sunday (Incarnation of the Lord)

9:00am Sunday (St. Teresa of Avila)

10:00am Sunday (St. Sebastian)

10:30am Sunday (St. Athanasius)

11:00am Sunday (St. Teresa of Avila)

How often do you want to serve?

Daily

A few times a week

Weekly

Monthly

Every two months

Other (please explain) _____

Which parish do you belong to, if any? _____

Any other preferences (keeping family together, etc.)
