



Holy Family of Nazareth Catholic Church

Lector Ministry

Guidelines for Service

What does it mean to serve as lector?

Those who proclaim God's word in the liturgy are known as Ministers of the Word or Lectors. Answering the call to become a lector enters one into a deeper relationship with God as He is revealed in sacred scripture. Lectors commit to ongoing faith formation and training activities that prepare them for the calling to the ministry. **To be lector is a commitment of service.**

What are the responsibilities of a lector?

- Prepare and proclaim God's Word for assigned liturgies (may include General Intercessions and announcements)
- Read and keep up with current lector guidelines.
- Attend and participate in lector training, workshops, and retreat opportunities **at least three times annually**. (Ongoing lector formation and training for all parish lectors is held on the 2nd Saturday of each month, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. in the main church; adult formation opportunities are offered monthly as well.)
- Continuously improve speaking and presentation skills.
- Serve as greeter before Mass. Lectors join ushers to greet parishioners and visitors.

Lector Ministry Guidelines, Page 2

What must I do to become a lector at Holy Family?

- Be a confirmed Catholic and registered member of the parish.
- Feel called by the Holy Spirit to proclaim God's Word.
- Attend monthly lector formation and training meetings as frequently as possible (**at least 3 per year**).
- Attend Parish Safe Environment Class on an annual basis. (all ministers who are 18 and older)

What amount of time must I commit to the ministry?

- At least one hour throughout the week prior to your assigned reading; to read and reread the assigned passage in the Lector Workbook (and/or Bible) and any surrounding text so as to better understand the assigned reading.
- Suggestion: Read each Sunday's readings (whether you are scheduled or not) sometime prior to coming to Mass in order to better participate in the liturgy and to be prepared to read in case the scheduled lector does not arrive.
- Commit personal time to participating in regular formation and training classes.
- Be responsible for finding a substitute lector if unable to read on assigned date.

Lector Ministry Guidelines - Page 3

What is the dress code for Lectors?

"In matters of attire, simplicity, modesty, and dignity are our goal."

Suits, dresses, pant suits, skirts and blouses are proper attire for women. Ladies skirts should not be higher than the top of the knee.

Acceptable attire for men includes suits, sport shirt with jacket, shirt with tie, etc.

Outer garments (bulky coats, jackets, and rainwear) should be removed when at the ambo.

NOT ACCEPTABLE: mini-skirts, low cut blouses or sun dresses, t-shirts, jeans, shorts, white sneakers, flip-flops

Important Details to Remember

- **Arrive 15 minutes before Mass** time when you are scheduled to lector. After checking in, move forward in the narthex and greet arriving parishioners and visitors. If you are scheduled to read and do not arrive early, another lector is invited to step forward and read in your stead. **If you arrive after a sub has been found and the procession is beginning, the substitute will then read.** It is important to arrive early, check in and be prepared.
- **It is important that two lectors be present for Sunday liturgy.** If one lector fails to arrive, the lector who is present should make every attempt to find a second lector. One person should not do both readings. All lectors who are present for the Mass, should double-check to be sure two lectors are prepared to read.
- **Please be prepared to read when you arrive for Mass.** Do not stand in the narthex and practice your reading. It is too late! Practice at home before you come to church.

Lector Ministry Guidelines - Page 4

- **Please do not touch the microphone!** The microphone is very sensitive and is adjusted to pick up all voices. It is not necessary to make an individual adjustment.
- **Please do not touch the ribbon in the lectionary.** It marks the first reading each week and should remain on that reading.
- When Mass is over, remain in your seat until the priest begins to move. Then proceed to the altar, collect the offering basket, line up with the priest and deacon and wait for the priest to reverence the altar. All bow simultaneously with Father.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the church office 972-252-5521 or the Lector Coordinator, Bryan Jones, 918-706-6556 or email, hfnlectors@outlook.com



Updated March 2018

Lector Resources: www.lectorprep.org

www.usccb.org/nab

www.netministries.org/Bbasics/bwords.htm (*great pronunciation guide*)