

# GUIDE FOR LECTORS

HOLY FAMILY PARISH

2021

1. Practice and pray with the readings throughout the week before you proclaim the Word. Use your own Bible and reference readings from the bulletin or find the readings on the Internet <http://www.usccb.org/nab> Women should wear a dress or nice slacks. Men should also wear dress slacks and a tie if possible. Arrive at least 15 minutes before Mass begins and check in at the vesting sacristy.
2. The person listed on the schedule first will carry the Book of the Gospels in procession at the beginning of Mass and will proclaim the first reading (and psalm if not being sung). The second person listed on the schedule will proclaim the second reading and the intercessions. Review the readings and intercessions for the day and ask for guidance if you need help with pronunciation – particularly with names of people. Be sure the lectionary and the intercessions are in placed on the ambo (lectern) before Mass begins. Check that it is set to the correct readings and to see how the words appear on the page. Also, set the microphone at a level appropriate for you. Ask the musicians if the responsorial psalm will be sung. Place the intercessions with you in the pew. Check to see if you need to make any announcements if there is a substitute priest.
3. At the beginning of Mass the first lector processes with the altar servers and priest celebrant, following the servers and holding the Book of the Gospels at shoulder height. **ALL THOSE IN PROCESSION stop at the bottom of the steps and do a simple bow.** If you are carrying the Gospel Book you do not bow. The lector and the Priest celebrant proceed up the steps. The lector will place the Book of the Gospels upright in the book holder. After the Book is placed the lector proceeds down the steps, turns and does a simple bow before going to your seat in the congregation.
4. After the opening prayer, the lector comes to the ambo proclaim the first reading. The lector should stop at the bottom of the steps, do a simple bow, and then proceed up to the ambo. **DO NOT START by SAYING, “Our first reading is ... or “Our first reading today is from...”** People already know if it is the first or second reading. Start by saying, “A reading from the Book of ...” **Proclaim the word of God – slowly and with meaning!** He/she then returns to the pew once completed. Stop at the bottom of the steps, turn and do a simple bow. If the psalm is not sung, please proclaim it as well – simply say, “Our responsorial psalm” – then recite the verse for the people. The second lector comes forward to the ambo to proclaim the second reading. First stop at the bottom of the steps, do a simple bow, and proceed to the ambo. When finished, close the lectionary and place it on the shelf of the ambo. On your return stop at the bottom of the steps, do a simple bow, and proceed to your seat. Never read the gospel acclamation (Alleluia).
5. **Towards the end of the creed**, the second lector proceeds to the ambo for intercessions. **Do not** carry the intercessions with you to the ambo. The prayers should be placed on the shelf before the beginning of Mass. After the priest celebrant speaks an introduction, begin. After reading the last one, please remain at the ambo until the celebrant has read the concluding prayer and the congregation has responded, “Amen.” Proceed down the steps and return to your seat in the congregation. You do not process out at the end of Mass.
6. **“Silence is Golden”** Besides words and music, an important component of worship is silence. To better incorporate silence into our liturgies, and thus allow for greater reflection and meditation on the words, please pray an Our Father (silently & slowly) before beginning the responsorial psalm (if it isn’t being sung). It’s also important to proclaim the readings slowly and to vary your voice and pace for better comprehension.

*Thank you for your ministry!*