

FAMILIES IN FAITH

GUIDELINES FOR LECTORS

As you serve the Lord as lectors, what are the highlights of being a good Lector? Participate joyfully in the singing and prayers. God has created us to be holy! Cheerfulness is a big part of being holy. Your ministry as a lector is a role of service and assumes regular Mass attendance, reverence for the Eucharist and a positive attitude in the parish. Your lifestyle should not give scandal to your ministerial role.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

01. Be **EARLY**: Please be present at least 15 minutes before mass. I would like to say a short group prayer before we process out from the sacristy.
02. Be **PRESENTABLE**: This does not mean suits for the men and formals for the women. Also, it does not mean ragged blue jeans, cut-offs and tank tops. Please use good judgment in your appearance when serving as a Liturgical Minister. In short dress appropriately.
03. Be **RESPONSIBLE**: Check the schedule weekly to see when you are assigned. If you know you will be gone, please find a substitute minister for your duties.
04. Be **OBSERVANT**: Please pay attention to see if the assigned ministers are carrying out their “before mass” duties. If they are not, please come forward to see that things are done and to fill in if necessary.

BEFORE MASS

05. Make Scripture part of your daily, quiet time. This will make you familiar with the Word of God you proclaim. If possible read out loud, in front of a mirror, in order to help you become comfortable with the proper inflection and enunciation.
06. The lector’s workbook is an excellent tool for preparation. Use it to prepare for the reading (whether you lector or not) each weekend.
07. Before mass please read over the prayers of the faithful, mark the Lectionary and place those on the ambo. At this time, make sure the microphone is pointed at your mouth, about three inches away (not too high or too low).

DURING MASS

08. Hold the book of the Gospel slightly above your head or below your chin with the front cover of the book facing the congregation.
09. The servers will lead the procession and you will follow them.
10. When you reach the steps, stop and wait for the presider.
11. Bow your head slightly (not your body) when he does. Then go directly to the Altar and place the book in the holder in the center of the Altar. Then take your place in the front pew.
12. You are reading for the congregation. Proclaim in a way that they understand, with proper enunciation, excellent pauses, and good eye contact with the congregation. If you make every word special, you will be assured your listeners will carry some of those words into their lives.

13. Read confidently and loudly, BUT SLOWLY. This is the first time most of your audience are hearing these important words. Give them time to absorb what you are reading.
14. Remember to pause at the end of each reading before you look up at the congregation and announce “The Word of the Lord”. This is an important ending to each of the readings. (Do not raise the Lectionary).
15. If the responsorial psalm is recited, proclaim in a different tone than the first reading. This is a meditative reading, more of a prayer. Say the response with the people.
16. Near the end of the Creed, come to the Ambo, read the general intercessions as soon as the presider completes the introduction to the prayers.
17. If there is a special response, begin by identifying the response and then read the first intercession. Say the response with the people.
18. After the response following the last intercession, step back from the microphone, but do not return to your pew until after the presider completes the closing prayer. This shows you are praying rather than walking away.
19. After the final blessing, we do not exit with the book of the gospel. We bow together before the altar and process down the center aisle.

AFTER MASS

20. Bring the Lectionary and the Book of the Gospel to the sacristy before you leave the church.
21. Thank you for serving THE FAMILIES IN FAITH PARISH. May the Word continue to enlighten your life and may your proclamation continue to help our parish grow in love for the Lord and one another.