

LECTOR MINISTRY DESCRIPTION

Revised: August, 2016

Thank you for being a lector! As a lector, you have a privileged role in helping the assembly to receive the Word of God.

Dress and etiquette:

- Please dress appropriately, at least “business casual”.
- Before Mass begins, please respect needs that the priest might have as he gathers his thoughts together to prepare for the liturgy (i.e. do not engage in small talk or ask inquisitive questions of the priest, unless it is obvious that he wants to engage in conversation).

Preparation:

- Rehearse your Scriptures during the week.
- *A Workbook for Lectors and Gospel Readers* and *Today's Missal* are two resources that are in the Sacristy. You are encouraged to take them home during your month, and then return them to the Sacristy at the end of your month.
- Arrive at the Sacristy at 20 minutes before mass begins. Please take a cross from the basket on the counter.
- Check the Lectionary to be sure the bookmark is in the right place and that the proper day's intercessions are on the ambo.
- Decide with your fellow lector who of you will do the first reading, the second reading, and the Prayers of the Faithful. The deacon will do the Prayers of the Faithful if he is present at Mass.

The Beginning of Mass

- Before Mass begins, please help to greet people by the front doors as they arrive.
- Entrance procession:
 - About a minute before Mass, line up behind the cross and the youth servers.
 - Process into the church with the other liturgical ministers. Upon reaching the end of the aisle, step to either side of center, allowing enough room for the priest to join the line. Genuflect together and then walk to your pew.
 - If no deacon is present, one lector carries the Book of the Gospels.
 - Process with it at about shoulder level.
 - Walk directly around to behind the altar without pausing for a formal bow.
 - Reverently place the book in its stand.
 - Walk to your pew.

Proclaiming the Scriptures

- When it is time for you to proclaim the scriptures:
 - Bow to the altar when you walk forward.
 - Announce “A reading from the book of _____” with full eye contact with the congregation.
 - Pause about 2 seconds before beginning the reading.

- Pause another 2 seconds after the reading, and proclaim, “The Word of the Lord”, again with full eye contact.
- Replace Lectionary on top of the ambo after the 1st reading and on the shelf after the 2nd reading. Then stand back, and reverently pause for about 2 seconds. Then bow once again to the altar, and return to your pew.
Please note that the bow should be to the altar, and not to the ambo or tabernacle.
- Suggestions for your voice and inflection:
 - Try to make the scripture come to life, without being excessively dramatic.
 - Speak clearly and with appropriate emphasis on verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. Sometimes a reading is more interesting when verbs, adjectives, and adverbs are emphasized rather than nouns.
 - Sentences often sound more interesting if the reader goes up with the voice at before commas, rather than down.
 - Be animated. You can vary your volume, speed, and pitch.

Prayers of the Faithful

- If there is no deacon, and you will be reading the Prayers of the Faithful, towards the end of the Creed come back to the ambo.
(when there are baptisms, there is no Nicene Creed, so come forward after the baptisms instead of after the Creed).
- The priest will introduce the intercessions, and then you read them. Wait for the priest to pray a concluding prayer at the end of the intercessions before you bow to the altar and return to your pew.

Pulpit Announcements

- If the presider for the Mass is not the pastor or associate pastor and the deacon is not present, check with the sacristan before Mass to find out whether you should be the one to read the pulpit announcements.
- A copy of the pulpit announcements is kept in a white binder on the sacristy countertop for you to review. Check to be sure that a copy is also on the ambo.
- After Communion, the presider will pray the Closing Prayer. Read the announcements from the ambo after the Closing Prayer.

***Thank you for
your ministry!***