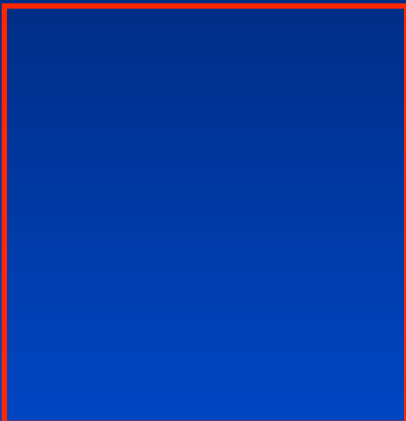


Guide for Lectors

St. Mary of the Immaculate
Conception
Church

Boise, Idaho



Selection Of Candidates

- Those selected to be Lectors are to be fully initiated members of the community, both male & female, of sufficient age and maturity, living a good Christian moral life.



Sunday Mass

At Sunday Mass, the tables both of God's Word and of Christ's Body are prepared, from which the faithful may be instructed and refreshed.

GIRM #28

In Scripture, God speaks to us.

- At Mass, God speaks to the people gathered.
- Each person will hear the message uniquely, as the Holy Spirit reaches into our hearts to place in us that message that comes from God.



To work this miracle, God choose instruments:

- God uses Lectors:
- People of faith who have nurtured a relationship with God.
- Who try to form their lives on the Gospel.

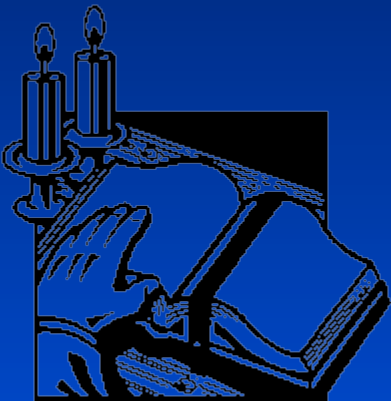


Lectors Are:

- Members of a community of family
- Bound together by a desire to live near and for each other.
- Value their local Church and mission.
- Sunday is the highlight of their week and they strive to make the readings of scripture a highlight of the Mass.

You are a Lay Minister

- You are entrusted with the Word of God
- A tool sharper than any two-edged sword.
- You need to know your tools in order to execute well your art.



The Spirit of the Lord is upon you.

- God has placed the Spirit within you.
- The Holy Spirit uses you to proclaim the word of God.



The Faithful form one Body

- We put our ears together, so that God might speak to us.
- Most importantly, it is there at the Eucharist, in the presence of the community of believers, where we hear the Word of God.



When Sacred Scriptures are read!

- God Himself speaks to His people through you the lector.
- Christ, present in his own word, proclaims the Gospel.
- God uses the voice of the lector to say something modern, new, that applies in today's world.

The words are old but their proclamation are always new

- Speaking right now to the people gathered together for worship.
- The Lector's voice needs to carry God's voice.
- The Lector communicates a divine message.

Duties of the Lector

- Carry the Book of Gospels if there is no Deacon present.
- If there is no one to sing the Psalm the Lector may read the psalm. *It is preferable the psalm be sung.*
- Reads the “Prayers of the Faithful” if no Deacon is present.



The Lector's Service

- The Lector's service takes up only a few minutes at Mass, but these are critical minutes.
- You are considered a leader in the parish.
- When you proclaim the word, the people will realize how well the lector understands the readings.



Manage Silence

- Before you begin to read, you will want to have the attention of the entire assembly.
- After each reading you will pause and pray, modeling the reflection that all will do.
- Even the way the Lector or Deacon paces the petitions during the Prayers of the Faithful will help people think about them one by one.



Tools for the Lector

Formation to Mission | Society of the Sacred Heart | United States – Canada

First Sunday of Advent
Attentiveness, “Awake from inside”

- Each Sunday offers readings for Years A B C, we are in year A (2017).
- Lectionary
- The Liturgical year begins with Advent and ends with Christ the King Sunday.



What is God saying to You?

- Before you proclaim these readings to the entire community, have you wrestled with them yourself?



Prayers

- The Priest or Deacon before reading the Gospel.
- “Almighty God, cleanse my heart and my lips that I may worthily proclaim your Gospel.”
- After reading the Gospel.
- “May the words of the gospel wipe away our sins.”

Are you nervous?

- Some nervousness may always be natural, and a healthy sense of humility in the face of what you are doing is exceedingly appropriate.



Careful Preparation

- The Parish has several Workbooks available
- If you have a computer go to the USCCB web site.



UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF
CATHOLIC BISHOPS

Responsibilities

- Arrive at least 15 minutes before Mass and find the other Lectors.
- This is extremely important because we need to know that people are in place.
- Go to the Ambo and ensure that you know exactly what are the proper readings.



The Book of Gospels

- If there is no Deacon you should carry the Book Of Gospels.
- Hold the book slightly elevated, not with straight arms above your head, but in front of you and slightly higher than your face.



Ritual Language

- The Lectionary will have the introduction at the top of the reading. A reading from.... Then pause for a moment. If at all possible this should be done while looking at the people.
- At St. Mary's we have the custom of announcing the Scripture's Chapter and Verse.

Try to slow down.....

- The Liturgy of the Word is to be celebrated in such a way as to promote meditation.
- Remember this is God's Word and you are asked to deliver it to God's people.
- Take your time! You need volume in your voice! Make eye contact if you can!

Prayers of the Faithful

- If there is no Deacon you should read the Prayers to the Faithful.
- Again take your time!
- Don't leave the Ambo until the Priest reads the concluding prayer; feel free to turn towards him.

A Spirit of Humility

- A spirit of humility, admiration for the word of God, and a deep sense of responsibility to the community will help us approach this ministry well.

Practice Techniques

- Practice making your volume, pacing, emphasis and voice quality appropriate to the scripture.
- Strive to improve your presentation skills.
- If you mumble or speed through the readings, people will be distracted.

Practice Techniques

- Your breathing will control the volume of your presentation.
- Controlling the volume is not just about using the microphone well or being loud, though both are important.
- It is also about making sure that your speaking from low down close to your diaphragm.

Clear Articulation & Pronunciation

- Enunciating words clearly is extremely important for the Lector.
- Reading at a conversational pace is too fast; SLOW DOWN!
- You will feel comfortable making eye contact throughout the readings if you have practiced.

Gestures

- Any gesture that you make should be done with care and deliberation.
- A deep bow is made to the altar by all who enter the sanctuary.
- In general, hand gestures are not necessary when serving as a Lector.



Gestures

- When standing at the Ambo, be still
- Try not to shift your weight from one foot to another or bouncing up and down. This will distract from the readings.

Your choice of attire



- There is no dress code in St. Mary's and cultural customs vary.
- Dress in a way that conveys that you are a leader and are coming to serve. Summer is more relaxed.

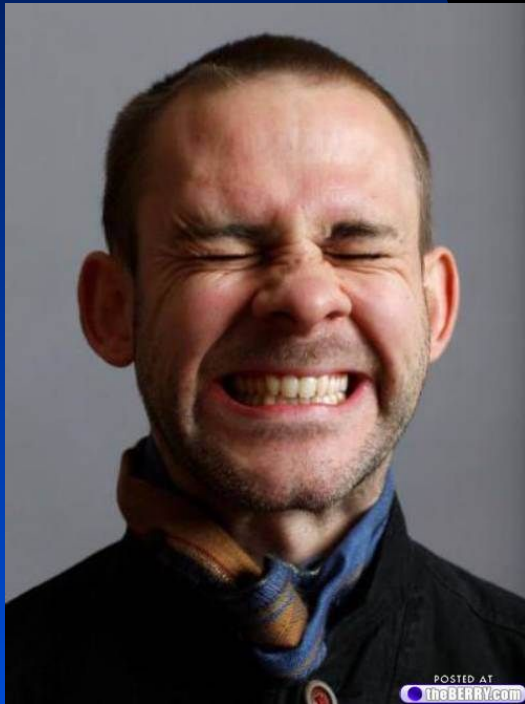
Simplicity and dignity are your goal!

- Your clothing should never distract from your ministry.

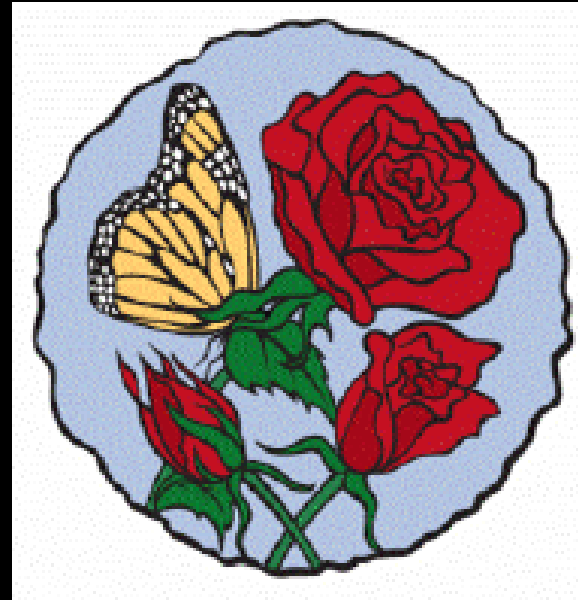


Mistakes Happen!

- If you realize the mistake immediately, it is generally best to pause slightly, and then restate the proper word or line and go forward.
- Never apologize!



Questions?



How to Sign Up:

Call the Parish Office @
344-2598