

Guide for Lectors

Lectors are ministers of the Word who proclaim Sacred Scripture at Mass and other liturgical celebrations. Through this ministry, God speaks to His people. A lector's duty is not to perform, but to proclaim — to make the Word of God come alive in the hearts of the faithful.

1. Preparation Before Mass

- Arrive 15–20 minutes early. Check in with the sacristan or presider.
- Use the Lector workbook to review the readings in advance. Read them prayerfully and aloud before coming to Mass.
- Dress reverently — neat, modest, and appropriate for serving at the altar.
- Familiarize yourself with the lectionary placement and microphone setup.

2. During the Liturgy of the Word

- Approach the sanctuary reverently when it is time for the reading.
- Bow to the altar before ascending the steps or approaching the ambo. Bow only once, not every time you go up to the ambo.
- Adjust the microphone (if needed) to speak clearly but do not tap or blow into it.
- Announce the reading only as written: 'A reading from the Book of...'
- Proclaim the reading slowly, clearly, and with meaning — allow brief pauses where appropriate.
- At the end, say, 'The Word of the Lord,' and wait for the response, 'Thanks be to God.'
- Pause briefly before returning to your seat.

3. The Responsorial Psalm

- If a cantor is present, they lead the Responsorial Psalm. If not, the lector may proclaim the psalm from the ambo.
- Read it prayerfully, giving special attention to the refrain so the congregation can respond.

4. The Second Reading

If you are assigned the second reading, remain seated until the conclusion of the Responsorial Psalm. Then approach the ambo reverently and proclaim the reading in the same prayerful, deliberate manner.

5. The Gospel Acclamation

- After the second reading, step away from the ambo and return to your seat. Stand with the congregation for the Alleluia or Gospel Acclamation.
- If not sung this is omitted. The lector should NOT read it.

6. Prayer of the Faithful

- When there is no Deacon the Lector will read Prayer of the Faithful
- Please only say "Today's Mass is offered for XXXX Let us pray to the Lord" (not easy to remember).

8. Announcements

When the priest nods to you approach the ambo and read the announcements beginning with "Today's second collection"

9. Proclamation Tips

- Read slowly — slower than you think you need to.

- Enunciate each word clearly.
- Maintain good posture and eye contact with the congregation when possible.
- Pause briefly between sentences or sections to allow the Word to sink in.
- Pray the reading personally before Mass — let it speak to you first.

10. After Mass

After Mass, return the lectionary to its place.

11. Common Reminders

- Speak at a natural pace — not too fast.
- Avoid adding or omitting words.
- Do not say 'Good morning' or add personal greetings.
- If you mispronounce a word, simply continue without drawing attention to it.
- Use the provided Lectionary — do not read from a personal Bible

I have read the above rules and guidelines and will abide by them.

Name _____ Date _____