

## **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 \_\_\_\_\_