

MINISTRY OF LECTORS

An interdependence exists among the ministries engaged in worship. All liturgical ministers, i.e. Extraordinary Ministers, Lectors, Servers, Ushers/Greeters, Presider, Deacons, and Musicians, depend on each other. Each ministry makes an important and essential contribution to our Eucharistic celebration and we appreciate your willingness to serve in this community.

LECTOR GUIDELINES

- The conclusion to the reading is: "The Word of the Lord" (not "This is the Word of the Lord").
- Do not lift the book while saying the above words. (At Mass, the Word of the Lord is the **proclaimed** Word, not the written word.) Only the priest lifts the book after the Gospel.
- When there is only one lector, return to the pew during the Responsorial Psalm. (The Responsorial Psalm is also the Word of God and we should not have two focal points.)
- Please be attentive to the schedules that are emailed to you via Ministry Scheduler Pro (MSP). You will receive an email reminder to submit dates you cannot serve prior to creation of each schedule. Please make sure to enter your dates prior to the deadline noted in the email. MSP takes these dates, along with service preferences, into consideration when creating the schedule.
- Please remember your responsibility to request a substitute using MSP if you are unable to minister at your scheduled time. Please volunteer for sub requests if you are available. These will also come by email. Please contact the Parish Office if you need assistance (776-5151).
- Refer to the Lector's Workbook for study/practice.

The Lector whose name appears first on the schedule will:

1. **Check in with the Liturgical Coordinator** – be here 10 minutes before Mass begins.
2. **Carry the *Book of the Gospels* in the entrance procession except when a deacon is present.** It is proper for this Lector to walk immediately behind the Mass Servers and immediately in front of the Presider. Reverently hold the Lectionary up for the Faithful to see. As the procession reaches the altar steps, move toward the right side of the sanctuary and stop. Since you are carrying something (The Book of the Gospels), you do not bow to the altar as the Presider does. As the Presider reverences the altar, move directly to the back of the altar and lay the Book of the Gospels on the center of the altar. Check the Lectionary for the proper page. This is an excellent time to **make sure the microphone is adjusted for you**. Then go to your place in a pew near the ambo. **At 10:30 Mass**, the *Children's Liturgy of the Word* leader processes in beside the first lector.
3. **Proclaim the First Reading from the Sacred Scriptures.** Do not rush the Liturgy of the Word. After the Presider has prayed the Collect (Opening Prayer) and the people have responded "Amen," leave your pew and walk reverently toward the ambo. Reverence (bow to) the altar before ascending the steps to the ambo if you are coming from the center aisle or any aisle to the left of center and are crossing in front of the altar. If you are coming from the right side of the center aisle, there is no need to reverence the altar. After you conclude your reading, retrace your steps to your pew. **10:30 Mass only:** wait until the children have left the church before beginning to read.
4. **Walk, without the *Book of the Gospels*, in procession at the conclusion of Mass (except when a deacon is present).** After the final blessing at the end of Mass, when the Presider leaves his chair and begins walking toward the center of the altar steps, you should then leave your pew and join the Presider, Mass Servers, and Cross Bearer in front of the altar. All bow in unison with the Presider. Then turn to face the back of the Church, ready to leave immediately following the Mass Servers.

The Lector whose name appears second on the schedule will:

1. **Check in with the Liturgical Coordinators** – so that they know you are present. (Please be here 10 minutes before Mass begins.) Then take your place in a pew not far from the ambo.
2. **Announcements.** Just before Mass, you will read the announcements for the weekend. Please read them over prior to Mass and be prepared to present them.
3. **Proclaim the Second Reading from the Sacred Scriptures.** After the Responsorial Psalm, do not rush to get to the ambo for the second reading. Make a graceful and deliberate approach. Reverence (bow to) the altar before ascending the steps to the ambo if you are coming from the center aisle or any aisle to the left of center and are crossing in front of the altar. If you are coming from the right side of the center aisle, there is no need to reverence the altar. After you conclude your reading, move the book to the lower shelf and leave it open. Then retrace your steps to your pew.
4. **Lead the Petitions/Prayers of the Faithful/General Intercessions (except when a deacon is present).** This prayer usually follows the Profession of Faith (or Creed). Begin walking to the ambo **at the conclusion** of the Creed (at “We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.”) Occasionally, the Presider will proceed directly from the homily to the Petitions, omitting the Creed. When this occurs, come forward as the Presider is introducing the Petitions. In both instances, approach the ambo slowly. Reverence (bow to) the altar before ascending the steps to the ambo if you are coming from the center aisle or any aisle to the left of center and are crossing in front of the altar. If you are coming from the right side of the center aisle, there is no need to reverence the altar. After the Presider’s introduction is completed, begin the prayers. After the last petition, step back and face the Presider as he leads the assembly in the concluding prayer. As all are being seated, you may return to your pew for the remainder of the Mass.

****As a Liturgical Minister, you need to be prepared and please be flexible.****

Lector Trainer: Wayne Talbot 776-5151

How the Entrance Processional ends at the altar:

