

PURPOSE OF LECTORS: The lector is instituted to proclaim the readings from Sacred Scripture, with the exception of the Gospel. He/she may also announce the petitions for the Universal Prayer and, in the absence of a psalmist, recite the Psalm between the readings. (GIRM, 99).

- The responsibility of proclaiming God's Word for the Christian assembly is a humbling and deeply rewarding experience
- Sunday Masses/Holy day lectors are scheduled 1-3 times per quarter
- Weekday lectors may be scheduled more frequently when Resurrection Catholic School is out of session
- Lectors should be in good standing with the Catholic Church and must always be mindful of his or her behavior, both inside and outside of church.

PREPARATION. You are *proclaiming*, not just reading, the Word of God. Sound prepared, earnest and competent each time you lector by using your resources. If you are prepared, you will be more confident and less nervous!

- Weekday Masses
 - Weekday lectors read the first reading, responsorial psalm and prayer petitions.
 - If there are two readings, the lector will do both
 - Unlike Sunday Lectors, there is no workbook to help you prepare. However, a great way to prepare the first reading and the psalm include listening to them and a reflection thru the USCCB website: [Daily Bible Readings, Audio and Video Every Morning | USCCB](#)
- Sunday & Holy Day Masses
 - Lector 1 reads the first reading, Lector 2 reads the second reading and the Petitions. If there is no cantor for the Responsorial Psalm, Lector 1 will read it.
 - Although you are scheduled for one reading, please practice the other reading in case you are the only Lector. (see "substitutes")
 - The Parish provides the [Lector Workbook for Lectors, Gospel Readers and Proclaimers of the Word](#) which is located in the lector cabinet (labeled) in server's sacristy. This is an excellent resource that is laid out exactly as the Lectionary is and gives theological and historical backgrounds, provides a pronunciation guide, and shows where to pause, stress words, or look up at the congregation.
 - Other Resources: Listen to the reading from the US Conference of Catholic Bishops [Daily Bible Readings, Audio and Video Every Morning | USCCB](#). There are other resources such as www.lectorprep.org as well.
- Spend time in prayer. Pray that the Holy Spirit will guide you in your proclamation and speak through you as His instrument.
- Familiarize yourself with the readings a few days in advance.
- Practice the readings aloud in your home and in front of a mirror to improve your presentation.
- Don't rush; *slow down*.

{UPDATED} CHECK IN: Arrive at least 20 minutes before Mass in the server's sacristy

1. Let the sacristan of your arrival
2. Initial your name on the bulletin schedule posted on the bulletin board.
3. NLT 15 minutes prior to the start of Mass pray with your lector partner (using the Lector prayer framed on the east wall) to help you prepare spiritually for the liturgy and ensures you know who your partner is.

This process is especially important with so many new lectors as it helps to know who your partner is or, if circumstances arise, allow the sacristan time to locate a substitute or for you to prepare yourself to proclaim both readings.

BEFORE MASS:

- Make sure the correct Lectionary is on the Ambo and on the correct reading. **NOTE:** There are three Lectionaries: Lectionary for Sundays (contains years A, B & C), Lectionary for Weekdays or Lectionary for Special Occasions. They are stored in the Ambo to the left, under the Prayer Petitions notebook (color changes with the liturgical season)
- Review the prayer petitions from the notebook in the Ambo. If the previous day's petitions are in the binder, discard them
- You may sit in the pew section reserved for lectors, or you may sit in one of the first few rows of pews in the two eastern sections (so you can approach the altar from the side) if you wish to sit with your family

MOVEMENT DURING MASS

- Following the Opening Prayer, the Lector (#1 on Sundays/Holy Days) approach the altar as the congregation sits
- **BOW** before ascending to the altar.
- Adjust the mic for proper placement so you can be heard.
- Please wait until everyone is seated and the “noise” dies down
- Look at the congregation, introduce the First Reading and pause briefly before beginning the reading.
- Once you have completed your reading, pause briefly (see “presentation”), look at the congregation. Slowly & clearly announce, “*The Word of the Lord.*”
- After the congregation responds, briefly pause (see “presentation”) to let the Word be absorbed before the Responsorial Psalm
- **Weekday Masses**
 - *Responsorial Psalm (Weekday only)*. SLOWLY read through each verse of the Responsorial Psalm, pause briefly and repeat the responsorial psalm response into the mic with the congregation (see “presentation”)
 - After the responsorial psalm, allow a moment of silence (see “presentation”)
 - Bow at the base of the altar before returning to your seat.
 - *Petitions: There is no Profession of Faith during the week.* **As Father finishes the homily and is moving to his chair**, approach the altar for the petitions, bow, ascend to the ambo, pull out and open the binder with the petitions.
- **Sunday/Holy Day Masses**
 - **Lector #1**, as you descend the altar, the cantor should be approaching the altar either from the front or side. At the base of the altar, the cantor and lector should watch each other to bow together. Then return to your seat.
 - After the Responsorial Psalm, **Lector #2** approaches the ambo to deliver the **Second Reading**.
 - As **Lector #2** approaches the altar, the cantor should be descending to either the front or side. Watch each other to bow together. Then ascend the altar to the ambo.
 - Adjust the microphone for proper placement. Begin the **Second Reading**.
 - After the reading allow a moment of silence (bow your head, fold your hands) before leaving the altar, to allow the Word to be absorbed (see presentation)
 - Bow at the base of the altar before returning to your seat.
 - Toward the end of the Profession of Faith (when we say, “We believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic church...”), **Lector #2** approaches the altar for the **petitions**, bows, ascends to the ambo, pulls out and opens the binder with the petitions and turns toward Father as he reads the introduction to the petitions.
- Then, turn toward the congregation and slowly deliver the petitions. Read through each petition, looking up at the end as you slowly say, “*Let us pray to the Lord.*” (If there is a petition with _____ after it, pause the length of a “Hail Mary” before saying, “Let us pray to the Lord.”)
- Turn to face Father after last petition.
- Return to your seat as the congregation sits.

PRESENTATION

- There are certain times that you should briefly pause and look up at the congregation
 - After introducing the reading: *"A reading from..."* (about the time for the first part of the "Glory Be")
 - After each reading as you say, *"the Word of the Lord"* (about the time for the first part of the "Glory Be")
 - After each prayer intention before saying, *"We pray to the Lord."*
- Pause (fold your hands, bow your head) after the congregation responds to each reading (about the length of *"Jesus Christ, son of the Living God, have mercy on me, a sinner."*) before descending the altar.
- Read slowly & clearly (think **LOUD** and **SLOW** while you are lectoring). Remember, the Lector's duty is to "proclaim" the Word of God, which is more than just "reading"
- The volume at which you read must always be adequate and appropriate; however, it may not always be the same. Melody, rate and articulation all affect considerations of loudness and softness. Also, a full church means you must use a louder voice than when lectoring to a half-full one. Projecting your voice is important.
- Remember that human speech is powerful. When employed in the proclamation of the Word of God, it is sacramental. Lectors who recognize the power and responsibility with which they are entrusted will **not** take their role lightly.

{UPDATED} DRESS, SUBSTITUTES & SCHEDULE

- **Dress:** Please be mindful of your attire; *it should reflect the dignity of the task you are performing in Proclaiming the Word of God.*
 - Recommended: Men: Coat & tie. Women: Modest Dress or skirt. (Please be mindful of skirt/dress length.)
 - Weekday masses may be more casual. NOTE: Shorts are never appropriate; Jeans are never appropriate for Weekend/Holy Day masses when lectoring.
- **Substitutes & Schedule:**
 - According to the ancient tradition and teaching of the church, the readings other than the Gospel are proclaimed by lay ministers (GIRM 59). Since the use of two lectors- one for each reading - is encouraged, our parish community strives to fulfill this ideal (GIRM 109, LM Intro 52).
 - It is **not acceptable** to just assume the "other Lector can handle it" if you are not there.
 - If you are unable to be there for your scheduled Mass, *please do your best to secure another lector to substitute for you* rather than have your lector partner read both readings. That option should be as a last resort.
 - In Realm, Do not click "decline assignment". Click on the link to "find a replacement". You can choose who you want the request to go to. Once your request is accepted, Realm will remove you and add your replacement. If you "swap" you can each send the request to one another.
 - **{UPDATED}** If you "post" (instead of click on "find a replacement", as parents of teens must do), please let your ministry leader know of the change so it can be updated in Realm.
 - If you choose not to have a Realm account, after securing a sub, let the ministry leader know and they will correct it in Realm.
 - *Indicate on the schedule in the server's sacristy who your sub is, if possible and always communicate that with your lector partner.*
 - **{UPDATED}** Under normal circumstances, we should not be scheduled for multiple ministries (ex: Lector & Usher). The Weekend Mass scheduler should not double book anyone in ministries. In the event this does occur, please choose which ministry you would prefer participate in for that mass and secure a sub for the other.

OPTIONS

- Long or Short form option always use the LONG form
- Optional readings will be posted in Realm/emailed for your preparation

THANK YOU for your stewardship and generously giving of your time and talent. Please direct any questions to the ministry leader.