

GUIDELINES AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR LECTORS

Before Leaving Home: Familiarize yourself with the First (Old Testament) Reading, the Responsorial Psalms and the Second (Epistle) reading. Refer to your Workbook for pronunciations, proper phrasing and appropriate emphases. Read through the passages several times in a prayerful manner. Sometimes your understanding of the readings will be helped by reading the entire Bible chapter containing the reading. You may wish to phone the other Lector in advance and decide which readings you will each be proclaiming. (Usually, the first lector listed on the schedule does the first reading.)

When You Arrive At Church:

- Try to arrive at least 15 minutes before the start of Mass
- Check to see if the other Lector has arrived and decide on which of the readings you will each proclaim. Ordinarily, whoever proclaims the First Reading will read the Responsorial Psalm. The Lector proclaiming the Second Reading will usually be responsible for the Petitions during the Prayers of The Faithful.
- Insure that the Sunday Lectionary is on the ambo and open to the First Reading.
- Find out if the Choir will be singing the Responsorial Psalms and what if any role you will have in that event.
- If you are to read the Petitions, make sure they are on the ambo. Familiarize yourself with the contents and make sure you know how to pronounce the names of the people we will be praying for. Find out if the Choir will be singing the responses so you can anticipate when to come in.
- Make sure the sound system is on.
- Place the stand for the Book of The Gospels on the altar and bring the Book to the back of the Church.

The Entrance Procession:

- When the procession up the aisle forms, take your position behind the altar servers and Eucharistic Ministers and immediately in front of the priest or deacon.
- If you are doing the first reading, carry up the Book of the Gospels, holding it in both hands and elevated at the level of your head. (If a deacon is part of the procession, he will carry the Book.)
- When you reach the foot of the Sanctuary, move to the side along with the EMs, so as to flank the priest. When the priest bows, you also bow, *unless you are carrying the Book*. As soon as the priest moves into the Sanctuary, move with him and place the Book in the holder on the altar. (If there is no holder, simply lay the Book flat on the altar.) Then take your seat at the side of the Sanctuary along with the other lector.

At The Ambo:

- When the priest concludes the Opening Prayer, he will sit down. That is your cue to approach the ambo, if you are doing the first reading.
- Adjust the microphone so it is about three inches from your mouth
- When the Assembly has been seated, begin by announcing the name of the reading, (e.g. “A Reading from the Book of Samuel”)
- When you have concluded the reading, pause for about five seconds and say, “The Word of The Lord”
- If the Responsorial Psalm is to be recited rather than sung by the choir, pause for about 15 seconds before announcing the Assembly response. After you have completed each verse, raise your arm slightly to signal the Assembly that they are to respond.
- At the conclusion of the Responsorial Psalm, the other lector should approach the ambo and carry out the reading in the same manner. When finished, the Lectionary should be closed and placed in the rack inside the ambo.
- Following the recitation of the Creed, the Lector who is to read the Petitions should approach the ambo. If the Book of The Gospels is still on the ambo, place it below in one of the racks. The priest will introduce the Prayers of The Faithful, after which the lector should begin reading the petitions. After each petition, raise your arm slightly to signal the Assembly that they are to respond. When finished, turn to face the priest, who will conclude the Prayer. Then return to your seat.

Conclusion:

At the end of Mass, the priest will either approach the altar or descend to the foot of the Sanctuary and face the altar. That is your cue to flank yourselves alongside the priest. When he bows, you also should bow, then turn and allow the altar servers and EMs to proceed before you before processing out. *Do not carry out the Book of The Gospels*, since the Liturgy of The Word has been completed and the Word is carried out in the hearts of the Assembly.

If You Can't Make It:

Occasionally, you may not be able to honor your scheduled presence as Lector. In that event, please get a substitute from the list on the back of the Lector Schedule. Asking the other Lector serving with you to do all the readings should be avoided if at all possible. Above all, do not simply assume that the other lector will cover for you if you don't show. In an emergency, call Joe Bosso, (745-4249) and he may be able to help you if given enough time.