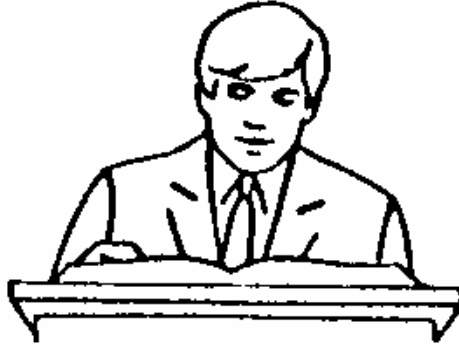


GUIDELINES FOR LECTORS



LECTOR'S PRAYER

May the Lord be in my mind, on my lips, and in my heart,
that I may worthily proclaim the good news of salvation.

1. Prepare your reading well. Reflect on its meaning. Practice at home to become comfortable with your reading. Know how to pronounce difficult words.
2. Dress "UP" neatly and conservatively. (Flip-Flops, tennis shoes, sun dresses, tank tops, T-shirts, shorts, and blue jeans are inappropriate for Sunday Mass.)
3. Proclaim God's Word! Speak loudly, clearly, and slowly. Utilize voice control, appropriate pauses, and eye contact.
4. Be reliable. If you cannot serve when assigned, please arrange for a substitute.
5. Be present at least 15 minutes prior to Mass. Sign in and go over your reading before the ushers take the Lectionary and the Prayers of the Faithful to the lectern before the start of Mass.
6. Please sit in one of the front pews. The liturgy will move along more smoothly if lectors are seated closer to the front, rather than seated toward the back of the church.
7. Spend some time in prayer. Pray that the Holy Spirit will guide you in your proclamation and speak through you as His instrument.
8. Take a deep breath. It is normal to feel nervous, and not just the first time!

LOGISTICS

FIRST READING

1. After the Opening Prayer, the celebrant will invite the congregation to be seated to listen to the Word of God. At this point, walk slowly and reverently. Do not swing your hands as you come forward. Reverence the altar with a bow from the center and then proceed to the lectern. (Do not bow in the direction of the tabernacle.)
2. Proclaim the first reading. Do not say: "The first Reading is...." When you have completed your reading, say "The Word of the Lord," not, "THIS IS the Word of the Lord!"
3. After the reading, step back slightly. The Responsorial Psalm will normally be sung on Sundays and recited on weekdays. When recited, you should lead the Psalm. When sung, stay in place until you see the cantor coming down the side aisle. Leave the lectern and step down in front of the altar, where the cantor from the choir will join you. Together, reverence the altar with a bow and then return to your seat. Follow this procedure if you are a lector at the 9:15 or 12:00 Mass.
4. At the 5:00 Mass, the cantor will not come to the lectern to lead the Responsorial Psalm. If you are a lector at this Mass, stay in place after your reading until the music begins. Then leave the lectern, step down and reverence the altar with a bow as before and return to your seat.

SECOND READER

1. If you are a lector at the 9:15 and 12:00 Mass, come forward when the last refrain of the responsorial psalm has been sung. Approach the center to meet the cantor in front of the altar. Together, reverence the altar with a slight bow and proceed to the lectern to proclaim the second reading.
2. If you are a lector at the 5:00 Mass, come forward as the last refrain of the Responsorial Psalm is sung. Come to the center and reverence the altar with a slight bow. (Do not bow toward the tabernacle.) Proceed to the lectern and proclaim the second reading.
3. After the reading, step back slightly and pause for a few moments at the lectern to reflect silently on the Scripture.
4. As the ALLELUIA begins, return to your place, turning to reverence the altar with a slight bow as before.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

1. If a deacon or deacon candidate is present on the altar, he will read the Prayers of the Faithful. If a deacon or a deacon candidate is not present, the second reader will read the Prayers of the Faithful.
2. As the last paragraph of the Creed is being recited, the second reader will come forward, reverencing the altar as before, and go to the lectern to read the Prayers of the Faithful.
3. The celebrant will give a brief introduction, the second reader will read the prayers, and the celebrant will add a closing.
4. When he is finished, return to your place. Reverence the altar as you leave. (Again, do not bow toward the tabernacle.)