

# LECTOR INSTRUCTIONS

*Lectors proclaim the word of God in the liturgy and so share in the prophetic mission of Christ in the parish. Lectors are expected to be committed to Christ and to Catholic belief and practice, be in good standing with the Church, be dedicated to the word of God in their lives, and faithfully fulfill their role as Lectors.*

## **Before Mass**

- **PREPARATION:** During the week, Lectors should practice reading their text, prayerfully, out loud, and with the assistance of the notes in their workbook. They should also look at the reading assigned to the other Lector and be prepared to read it in case the other Lector is not able to make it.
- **DRESS:** Men and women should dress modestly and tastefully. In going to Mass, we dress not only to “suit” ourselves, but with the common good in mind. Demonstrating the sacredness of the Holy Mass in our dress is helpful to us and to others. Specifically, please wear shoes (vs. flip-flops or sandals), full-length trousers (vs. shorts), a button shirt or blouse, or the equivalent dress according to the societal norms of Washington. A jacket with a tie, or sweater, is appropriate for the formality of the occasion and weather.
- **BEFORE MASS BEGINS:** Lectors should arrive in the sacristy 15 minutes before Mass in order to check in with the priest and the other Lector, to find their reading in the Lectionary, and to put the Lectionary on the Ambo before Mass, before being seated in the congregation (except when a Lector carries the Book of the Gospels in the entrance procession, in which case this Lector brings the Book of the Gospel to the entrance of the Church).
- **SUBSTITUTES:** Through the Ministry Scheduling Program, Lectors are urged to make substitute requests early when they cannot make an assigned Mass. They are also encouraged to be generous in responding to substitute requests made by other Lectors.

## During Mass

*NOTE: When there is a Deacon. . .*

1. The Deacon carries the Book of the Gospels (no Lectors in the procession).
2. The Deacon leads the Prayer of the Faithful.
3. 3 people receive the gifts – Priest, Deacon & Acolyte.

*Otherwise, the Lectors help with these tasks, in addition to fulfilling their roles:*

1. Lector 1 carries the Book of the Gospels. Carry the Book this way:

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- Process up to the front of the Altar.
  - Give a head bow in front of the Dominican shield on the floor.
  - Go around (to the right) to the Tabernacle side of the Altar.
  - Place the Book flat in the middle of the altar, about a foot from the edge.
  - Return to your seat by walking to your right around the Altar.



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2. Once the Opening Prayer for the Mass is finished, Lector 1 steps into the lower Sanctuary, bows to the Altar, and proceeds to the Ambo to read, using the hand rail if needed.
    - Note: After you've finished reading, meet the cantor in the middle of the floor in front of the altar and bow together.
  3. Lector 2 approaches once the Responsorial Psalm is completed.
    - Meet the cantor in the middle of the floor in front of the altar and bow together.
  4. Lector 2 reads the Prayer of the Faithful.
    - To be ready at the ambo at the beginning of the petitions, go up during the creed, at the sentence, "I believe in the Holy Spirit. . ."

5. If there is no Deacon and only one server, Lector 2 helps receive the gifts.
  - Be on the left of the priest and receive the offertory basket. After turning around and giving a head bow to the altar, put the basket at the end of the bench seats closest to the sacristy door. Do not bring it into the sacristy.
6. When there is only one Lector, stay in the sanctuary after the first reading and be seated behind the ambo in the cushioned wooden chair; when the Psalm Response is finished, there is no need to wait for the cantor to get back to his/her spot, you can return to the ambo right away.

### ***Additional points:***

- The ambo is adjustable; the ideal height is when the bottom of the shelf is at your waist.
- Remember to project your voice.
- Pause as appropriate, especially at the end of the reading, before saying, “The word of the Lord.”
- Look out at the congregation when introducing the reading and at its closure; make eye contact when you can do so comfortably during the reading.
- Generally don’t emphasize conjunctions and prepositions, but verbs and important words.
- Please leave the Lectionary’s ribbon in place. It should mark the first reading. Please do not adjust it at all when turning pages in the Lectionary.

### **After Mass**

- Kindly put the Lectionary, Book of the Gospels, and Prayer of the Faithful away.
- Process the collection. Put the money in the plastic bags (located above the safe). 2 people are required. If there are 2 collections, be sure that they are kept separate and put in their correct bags. When done, deposit the bags in the safe, and turn the handle, so that the bags drop into the safe.

***Thank you for your service of proclamation!***