

St. Francis Catholic Church

Guide for Lectors

At least three (3) days before your scheduled Mass:

- Prepare your reading using the Workbook for Lectors and Gospel Readers or a similar resource.
- Become familiar with the text: pronunciation, breathing, timing, emphasis.
- If you are unable to serve, you are responsible to find a replacement.

Before Mass:

- Dress modestly according to the dignity of the ministry.
- Arrive at church at least 15 minutes before the beginning of Mass. Check in with the sacristan in the narthex.
- Review your reading and the announcements if you are Reader 1, and the Prayers of the Faithful if you are Reader 2 (if Deacon Bill is not present)
- The Lectionary will be on the ambo.
- Three minutes before Mass begins or after the Choir has sung a prelude, Reader 1 reads the announcements at the lectern.
- Reader 1 returns to the back of the church and joins the processional.

Procession

- Move to the center aisle. Altar servers carrying the crucifix and candles are first in line. The Deacon, carrying the Book of the Gospels, is next. Lectors follow, standing side by side as they move down the center aisle with the Presider following.
- If the Deacon is not present, the second reader carries the *Book of the Gospels*, elevated slightly. The first reader joins the procession behind the second reader.
- The Deacon moves into the Sanctuary and places the *Book of the Gospels* on the altar.
- Lectors, standing at the entrance to the Sanctuary, take one step to the side to allow the Presider to move between them.
- Once Father is in place, all three bow from the waist. The Lectors return to their pews as Father enters the Sanctuary.

Entering the Sanctuary

- After the Collect, when Father is seated, Reader 1 enters the Sanctuary from the Choir side of the Ambo.
- During Mass, the emphasis is on the altar; there is no need to bow before entering the Sanctuary UNLESS one is crossing in front of the altar from the Adoration Chapel side of the church.
- Stand at the ambo: adjust the microphone, then make eye contact with the congregation. **A reading from the Book of...**

Proclaiming the Word

- Speak slowly and deliberately. You may feel as if you are speaking too slowly, but that is okay.
- Stay true to the text; do not add or remove words. The Lectionary we use is the version approved by the USCCB.
- Proclaim the Word of God with reverence and conviction.
- Reader 1 turns the page to the second reading. Reader 2 closes the Lectionary and places it on the shelf under the Ambo platform.
- After proclaiming, **The Word of the Lord**, take a moment and pause briefly to thank God for using you as His instrument. Return to your pew.
- The Cantor waits until the Lector has left the Sanctuary before approaching to sing the Responsorial Psalm.
- Reader 2 waits until the Cantor has returned to his or her seat before approaching the Sanctuary and Ambo.

NOTE: If the deacon is not present, Reader 2 reads the Prayers of the Faithful (Intercessions). Enter the Sanctuary at the end of the Creed. **(I believe in one holy, catholic, and apostolic church...)** Approach the Ambo, and once Father has finished the introductory prayer to the Intercessions, begin. **Do not leave the Sanctuary** until Father has said the concluding prayer for the Prayers of the Faithful.