

Guidelines for Lectors

*“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”
(John 1:1-2)*

- I. Make daily reading of scripture a priority. The parish bulletin publishes each week the Readings of the Day for the upcoming week, or they can be accessed at www.usccb.org. Every lector is encouraged, at minimum, to read and reflect on the Sunday readings for each week.
- II. As part of your preparation for proclaiming, reflect on the context in which your assigned text is situated by reading the verses that come immediately before and after. (Daily reading of scripture helps immensely with this process!)
- III. Read, reflect, pray and practice, practice, practice! The primary role for the lector is to focus the attention of the Assembly on the Word of God, not him/herself. The lector is merely the instrument God uses to make His words come alive.
- IV. Your scheduled day has arrived – what to do:
 1. Arrive 15 minutes (at minimum!) prior to the beginning of Mass, reserve a place in the pew for yourself to sit during Mass, go to the sacristy, sign in and check the lectionary to make certain the correct Sunday readings are marked. If you are scheduled to offer the Prayer of the Faithful, take time to familiarize yourself with the petitions, especially the correct pronunciation of names. Lector 1 should place the lectionary on the ambo before lining up for Opening Procession. It is recommended that Lector 3 carry the Prayer of the Faithful folder in the opening procession.
 2. Opening Procession: Lector 1 carries the Book of the Gospels (elevated with the front of the book facing forward), next in line after the cross bearer; Lectors 2 and 3 come next (walking together). Lector 1 places the Book of the Gospels in the plastic stand on the altar before joining the Presider, Lectors 2 and 3 (one on either side of Presider), and the acolytes to reverence the altar before taking one's place in the pews.

**Note: When Deacon AI serves, he carries the Book of the Gospels. At those Masses when Deacon AI preaches, he will also offer the Prayer of the Faithful. If he serves at Mass, but does not preach, Lector 3 will offer the Prayer of the Faithful. (Future schedules will hopefully indicate those Masses when Deacon AI is preaching.)
 3. Recessional: Your “cue” to line up for the recessional is when the Presider begins to walk toward the altar, usually after the first verse of the closing song. Presider, lectors and acolytes move to the base of the altar steps; Lector 1 retrieves the Book of the Gospels from the altar, making certain the front of the book faces forward. When the altar is revered, Lector 1 bows his/her head – the Book of the Gospels is to be elevated at all times, it should not be lowered. As with the processional, Lector 1 follows the cross bearer, followed by Lectors 2 and 3, the other acolytes and Presider.
 4. Lector 1 is responsible for placing the Book of the Gospels on its stand in the sacristy and also retrieving the lectionary and Prayers of the Faithful folder from the ambo, returning them to the sacristy so that they are ready for the next Mass.
- V. If you serve also as a Minister of Hospitality, Eucharistic Minister, Cantor, Music Minister or Acolyte, you are asked not to serve in any of these other liturgical roles when you are assigned to lector. Each liturgical role plays an integral part in the mosaic of the Mass, and as such, each merits the sole attention and energy of the respective minister.
- VI. Remember: It is your responsibility to secure a substitute if you are not able to serve as scheduled.