

## St. Joseph Catholic Church Liturgical Ministries

### LECTORS

Lectors proclaim the Word of God during the Liturgy of the Word. The First Reading, Responsorial Psalm, Second Reading, Gospel Acclamation, Gospel Reading, Homily, Creed and Prayer of the Faithful make up this part of the liturgy. When we listen to the Scriptures, God himself speaks to the people, and Christ is present in his Word.

- Arrive 15 minutes before Mass begins, and enter the sacristy through the right side door by Mary and Joseph to check in.
- For the procession, line up at the entrance of the church (during certain seasons, with the book of the Gospel). If you are not carrying anything, hold a hymnal to sing the opening hymn.
- Once all ministers join with the congregation in singing the first verse of the hymn, hold the Book of the Gospel at forehead level, begin processing down the center aisle. At the altar, all in the procession wait and bow together with the priest. If you are carrying the Book of the Gospel, simply nod your head, then walk around the altar and place the Book of the Gospel on the center of the altar, and walk to your seat.
- For the First Reading, once the Collect prayer is finished with the people responding, “Amen,” reverently approach the ambo. Once everyone is seated for a second, begin with the text as it appears in the lectionary (“A reading from...”) without any additional introduction to the reading. Pronounce the texts in a loud and clear voice, being mindful of the genre of the text, whether it is a reading, a prayer, an explanatory comment, an acclamation, or a sung text. After the reading, allow a few seconds of silence to pass before walking back to your seat. As you sit down, the cantor should stand for the Responsorial Psalm.
- While it is ideal for it to be sung, at daily Masses ONLY, the lector reads the Responsorial Psalm. Simply read the response without any introduction, then raise one arm to invite the congregation.
- After the Responsorial Psalm, and the cantor returns to his or her seat, stand for the Second Reading as they sit down and approach the ambo. After the reading, like the First Reading, allow for a second of silence before returning to your seat. At this point, remain standing at your seat for the Gospel Acclamation.
- After the Creed, and the priest begins the opening prayer of the General Intercessions, move to the ambo. Unless the response is something other than, “Lord, hear our prayer,” do not announce it. After each intercession is read, raise one arm to invite the congregation to respond.

### Prayer for Lectors:

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