

Introduction

Our relationship with God begins, not when we speak to God, but when God speaks. God spoke to us through Jesus, and as lectors we have the daunting responsibility of **carrying** and **being** God's voice, communicating a divine message.

The word of God deserves our respect. Lectors are not to change introductions or closings to the readings, nor rearrange any words of the text. They were all carefully translated such that they can be read aloud and understood today. The translations are approved by our bishops and confirmed by the Vatican for proclamation at the liturgy. Therefore:

Lector duties include:

- Joining the entrance procession of the Mass
- Proclaim the readings and/or Universal Prayers
- Observe silences after each reading
 - Silent prayer for lectors before they begin "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me"
- By custom – lectors walk out at the end of Mass in procession
- Lectors are leaders in the church, be visible and model participation and prayer
- Arrive at mass 15 minutes ahead of time to sign-in, check the ambo to make sure the book is opened to the right reading, and pray before mass begins.
- If there is a deacon, after the second reading, close the book and place it on the shelf underneath. The deacon brings his own book for the Gospel.

How do we prepare as lectors?

- Practice! Practice! Practice!
- As you are proclaiming the word, people will realize how well the lector understands the reading
- Review the Workbook for Lectors - showing the pronunciation cues, explanations for difficult or special sections
- Set and practice your pace - slow enough to be well understood, fast enough so that people don't get lost from phrase to phrase
 - Also consider the particular reading - What emotion is appropriate? What should be spoken with emphasis?
- Address the assembly, not the book, particularly at the beginning and closing of the reading
- Dress appropriately indicating that you are prepared both inside and out for your important role in the mass
- Do you have any other tips to share about preparing as lector?

Activities:

- Practice entrance procession and where to stand.
- Practice walking up to the altar, bowing, and then approaching the ambo.
- Practice the pause after announcing “A reading from...” and the pause prior to “The word of the Lord...”
 - *Do not announce “The first reading is a reading from...”*
 - *Do simply state “A reading from...”*
 - *Do not close with “This is the word of the Lord...”*
 - *Do simply state “The word of the Lord...”*
- Practice proclaiming a reading from the lectionary (closing book if deacon is present)
- Practice turning page after 1st reading, or closing book and placing it in the ambo if deacon is present (leave open if there is no deacon)
- Practice leaving the ambo and returning to seat, allowing time for reflection
- Practice proclaiming the Universal Prayers (for when a deacon is not present)
- Practice processing out

Administrative Items:

- Check your name off on the sign-in sheet
- Kathy Steiner distributes the schedule; you may sign up online
 - be mindful that there are many that wish to participate in the mass as lectors, therefore, be respectful of that and do not sign up too often
- Should you be unable to attend when you are scheduled to lector, simply request a sub, which usually are found fairly quickly, or contact Robbie

THANK YOU!