

# GUIDELINES FOR LECTORS

Finalized March 4, 2026



## *Qualifications*

Practicing Catholics who...

- Have received the Sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist.
- Have attended spiritual and technical training.
- Demonstrate a deep reverence for Sacred Scripture and maintains a life consistent with Christian witness.

## *Welcome and Prayer of the Faithful*

Practice

- Wear modest clothing; avoid shorts, ripped clothes, and flip flops.
- Arrive 15-20 minutes early.
  - If you're reading at the Saturday Anticipation Mass, then arrive 10 minutes early because of the Rosary being led from the lectern.
- Review the sheet on the lectern, practicing (away from the microphone, if practice is needed) to master difficult pronunciations, pacing, and inflection.
- Adjust the microphone so you are standing straight and not leaning over. If required, use the portable stepstool within the pulpit so you can see the congregation well and vice versa.
  - If you have to keep hold of the edge of the microphone for it to remain in front of your lips, then you need the stepstool.

Welcome

- Enter the sanctuary from the side gate of the communion rail in front of the Mary altar, closing it completely; do not enter through the middle.
- Do not stand at the lectern; remain seated behind the lectern, either on the chair or the bench, until the prelude music has ceased (if applicable) and you have been given the "thumbs up" to start by the priest, deacon, or Coordinator of Liturgical Music.
- Exit the same side gate as you entered, closing it completely.

## Prayer of the Faithful (Petitions)

- Leave your pew before the end of the Nicene Creed. Enter the sanctuary from the side gate of the communion rail in front of the Mary altar, closing the gate.
- Do not add any personal petitions. These are the prayers of the Church; ask people individually outside of Mass to pray for your personal intention.
- Remain at the lectern, facing the priest once you've finished reading, until the priest finishes the conclusion of the petitions.
- Exit the same side gate as you entered, closing it completely.

## *Readings*

### Preparation

- Spiritual
  - Prayerfully study and meditate on the assigned text during the week prior to Mass. Ask for guidance as you begin to prepare.
- Practical
  - Practice reading aloud to master difficult pronunciations, pacing, and inflection. Utilize the Lector Workbooks.
- Arrival
  - Wear modest clothing; avoid shorts, ripped clothes, and flip flops.
  - Be 15-20 minutes early. Check the Lectionary at the Ambo for the correct page and adjust the microphone so you are standing straight and not leaning over. If needed, use the stepstool so you can see the congregation well and vice versa.
    - If you have to keep hold of the edge of the microphone for it to remain in front of your lips, then you need the stepstool.

### Proclamation

- Beginning
  - Walk in an unhurried manner. Bow to the Altar with the second lector, if applicable.
    - Wait until the assembly is seated and quiet before beginning.
  - Aim the microphone at your chin or mouth. Proclaim with clarity and conviction, speaking clearly into the microphone. Avoid crowding the microphone to prevent popping sounds.
  - Always use the approved "A reading from the Book of (Name)". Do not add introductions such as "Our first reading today is...".
  - Engage the whole assembly with eye contact by looking up at the end of a sentence or paragraph.
  - Maintain the same strong and prayerful voice throughout the reading. Finish as you began, keeping the same pace.
- Ending
  - Pause for 3-4 seconds at the end of the reading.
  - Conclude with "The Word of the Lord." Look at the assembly when speaking these words.
    - *If you are the second reader, wait until the Responsorial Psalm is completed and the Cantor has been seated.*
  - After the second reading, place the Lectionary on the shelf in the pulpit, walking back to your seat with the other lector. Bow in front of the Altar.

# *Notes*