

Resurrection Catholic Parish GUIDELINES FOR LECTORS (READERS)

Please review and reflect on the readings before coming to Mass so that you are comfortable to proclaim them. It helps to read them out loud a few times at home.

- There is a web page that may help you with Bible pronunciations for difficult words: <https://www.biblespeech.com/>
 - You can listen to an audio of the readings from the US Conference of Catholic Bishops website: <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings-audio.cfm>
 - If you did not receive a Lector Workbook previously, you can find the readings on the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops web page: <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/>
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1. Please arrive 15 minutes before Mass is scheduled to begin.
2. Before Mass, go to the Priest's sacristy to look over the copy of the Prayer of the Faithful and the announcements (clipped to the black clipboard portfolio behind the Prayer of the Faithful). Walk around the back hallway to place the portfolio on the shelf in the ambo (pulpit) so you have them during Mass. (Note: If the Deacon is present, he will read the Prayer of the Faithful)
3. The Lectionary is usually already sitting on the ambo. Make sure it is open to the correct readings.
4. Double check that the stand for the Book of Gospels is set on the altar.
5. The Servers lead the procession into Church, followed by the Lector holding the Book of Gospels at least head-high. (Note: if the Deacon is present, he will carry the Book of Gospels.) The procession stops at the step leading to the sanctuary area. The Servers will be on the **outside**, and the Lector will typically stand to the left of the Priest. (If only one Server is present and carrying the processional crucifix, Lector will stand to the right of the Priest.)
6. All reverence the altar together. The Lector, or Deacon, places the Book of Gospels on the altar. Make sure the front of the book is facing out toward the congregation. Lector then goes to the chair behind the ambo.
7. After the Priest finishes the Opening Prayer (as the Congregation is sitting down), the Lector moves to the ambo. Begin the First Reading when the congregation is seated.

The proper way to begin the reading is as follows:

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF _____, or

A READING FROM THE (FIRST/SECOND) LETTER OF _____

TO THE _____

The proper way to end the reading is as follows:

THE WORD OF THE LORD.

8. The Responsorial Psalm is usually sung. The Lector is seated while the Responsorial Psalm is sung.
 - a. When the Responsorial Psalm is recited, the Lector leads. After pausing for about 30 seconds after the First Reading, the Lector says, RESPONSORIAL PSALM, and then reads the refrain. The people repeat the refrain. Then the Lector reads each of the verses of the Responsorial Psalm and allows time for the people to pray the refrain after each verse.
9. After completing the second reading, close the Lectionary and place it on one of the shelves in the ambo so the Priest is able to set the Book of Gospels on the ambo.
10. The Lector should take their place for the Gospel reading:
 - a. If the Deacon is present, or if the Lector prefers to listen to the Gospel reading and homily with the congregation (facing the Priest), Lector should bow before the altar and move to one of the pews
 - b. If the Lector prefers to remain in the sanctuary to be ready for the Prayer of the Faithful after the homily, Lector should return to the Lector chair
11. After the recitation of the Creed, if the Deacon is not present, the Lector returns to the pulpit. The Priest introduces the Prayer of the Faithful; the Lector reads each petition. The Lector should remain at the pulpit until the Priest completes the Prayer of the Faithful with a closing prayer, then move to their seat:
 - a. If there are no Servers or Deacon, the Lector should remain in the sanctuary to assist the priest with the offertory gifts.
 - b. If there is only one Server, the Lector may remain in the sanctuary if they choose
 - c. If there are two Servers, the Lector should bow before the altar and move to one of the pews because there will be no kneeler to use during the Eucharistic Prayer.
12. If the Lector is also distributing Holy Communion, see the Guidelines for Extraordinary Ministers of Communion.
13. The Lector should remain in (or return to) the sanctuary after Communion to read the announcements at the designated time.
 - a. After the closing prayer (before final blessing/dismissal) by the Priest, the Lector reads any announcements.
14. At the end of Mass, the Lector stands at the step with the Servers and Celebrant, reverences the altar with them and follows the Servers to the rear of the church. *Note: The Book of Gospels should remain at the Pulpit – do not carry it out in the procession.
15. After Mass, return the Prayer of the Faithful and announcements portfolio to the sacristy. Set the Lectionary back on the pulpit, open to the correct readings and return the Book of Gospels to the sacristy.