

## Resurrection Catholic Parish Guidelines for Readers (Lectors)

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 at home. 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/>
- There is a web page that may help you with Bible pronunciations for difficult words:  
<http://www.betterdaysarecoming.com/bible/pronunciation.html>

### Before Mass

1. Please arrive 15 minutes before Mass is scheduled to begin. Before Mass, go to the priest's sacristy to look over the copy of the "Prayer of the Faithful" and the Announcements (which will be found in a folder on the counter with the Book of Gospels). Walk around the back hallway to place the copies on the shelf in the pulpit so you have them during Mass. The Lectionary is usually already sitting on the pulpit. Make sure it is open to the correct readings.
2. The servers lead the procession, followed by the Lector, into Church holding the Book of Gospels at least head-high. The procession stops at the step leading to the sanctuary area. The Servers will be on the **outside**, and the Lector will stand to the left of the priest. (See diagram A)

Diagram "A"

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S R P S

3. All reverence the altar together. The lector places the Book of Gospels in the stand on the altar and then goes to the chair reserved for the lector. (See diagram B) If the priest goes before the lector to the altar, may want to wait until after he kisses the altar before placing the Book in the stand. Make sure the front of the book is facing out toward the congregation.

Diagram "B"

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Pulpit

Altar

4. After the priest finishes the Opening Prayer (as the Congregation is sitting down), the lector moves to the pulpit. Begin the First Reading when the congregation is seated. The proper way to begin 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.

5. The Responsorial Psalm is usually sung. The lector is seated while the Responsorial Psalm is sung. When the Responsorial Psalm is recited, the lector leads. After pausing for about 30 seconds, 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.
6. After completing the second reading, close the Lectionary and place it on one of the shelves in the pulpit so the priest is able to set the Book of Gospels on the pulpit.
7. After the recitation of the Creed, the lector returns to the pulpit. The priest introduces the "Prayer of the Faithful"; the lector reads each petition. The priest completes the Prayer of the Faithful with a closing prayer. The lector returns to her/his chair.
8. During the Sign of Peace, the lector walks to the altar to share the Sign of Peace with the Priest and servers.
  - If the lector is also distributing Holy Communion, she/he should go to the tabernacle for the ciborium or plate of Hosts. (See Guidelines for Extraordinary Ministers of Communion)
  - If the lector is not distributing Holy Communion, she/he should return to the chair as a sign that 3 communion distributors are needed at the altar.
9. After the closing prayer (before final blessing/dismissal) by the Priest, the Lector reads any announcements. 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.**
10. After Mass, return the Prayer of the Faithful and Announcements sheets to the folder in the sacristy. Set the Lectionary back on the pulpit open to the correct readings. Return the Book of Gospels to the sacristy.