

Lector Training – St. Joseph’s – Sunday Mass (Updated September 2018)

Come to the sacristy at least 15 minutes before Mass begins. If you are not in the sacristy by 10 minutes before Mass, we will look for another lector.

If you are 1st reader: Look over first reading (and intercessions if there is no deacon).

If you are 2nd reader: Look over second reading

1st reader will then bring the lectionary and binder with the intercessions to the ambo. Lectionary goes on top of the ambo opened to the correct page. The binder goes on the ledge directly below the lectionary.

When there is no deacon, 1st reader processes in with the Book of the Gospels behind the candle bearers. 2nd reader does not process in. We are no longer lining up at base of sanctuary, instead when you get to the sanctuary give a slight bow to the altar and go into the sanctuary. Place the Book of the Gospels in the center of the altar with enough room from the edge of the altar to the book for the priest to kiss the altar. When there is a deacon, 1st reader does not process in.

Both readers please sit in section 1 on the aisle closest to the choir.

After the Collect (opening prayer), everyone will sit down. 1st reader walks to the ambo. Enter from behind the sanctuary where the steps and railing are. Bow to the altar before entering the sanctuary.

After the first reading, exit the sanctuary in the same way you entered. Once exited, bow to the altar, and then go back to your pew.

After the psalm is done, 2nd reader walks to the ambo in the same way as the 1st reader. After the second reading, close the lectionary and put it on the bottom shelf of the ambo. Then exit the same way as the 1st reader.

If there is no deacon, as the Creed is finishing (“I believe in One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church”) 1st reader comes back to the ambo in the same way you did for the readings. Go right to the ambo and be ready with binder open to intercessions as they should begin right when priest finishes prayer to introduce intercessions. Read each of the intercessions. As the priest starts the vocation’s prayer you can exit the same way you did for the readings.

Some tips:

- Read loudly, clearly, and slow enough to articulate your words. We have many elderly people in our congregation, so it is important to speak so that you can be understood.
- Look up when you can. Not because you need eye contact with people, but because it helps your voice project better into the microphone. If you are prone to losing your spot, then don’t look up.
- Read only what is there. Do not add anything. We know it is the first reading and the second reading.
- Speak confidently. Sometimes there are difficult names or places to pronounce. Do your best. If you sound confident, people will believe you are pronouncing things correctly, and it will not be distracting to people.
- Not a performance, it is a proclamation. Do not get dramatic.

***Dress your best. You are in a public ministry, but even more importantly you are entering the house of God to worship Him. Even if you are not assigned to a ministry at a particular Mass, you may be called upon to sub, and you are also an example to others.

*****Note – If you cannot make it to read when you are assigned, it is your responsibility to get a substitute.**