



The ministry of Lector is to proclaim God's living word at Masses and other liturgical gatherings where Scripture readings are included. Through the Lector, God continues to feed His people at the table of the Word. The Lector is expected to be comfortable with the Scriptures and able to devote the time needed to prepare for each reading prior to Mass.

Ahead of Mass or Service, read and re-read the text from the lectionary several times. Meditate on it and try to understand its meaning. Work on vocal elements: pronunciation, enunciation, mood, pace, timing, emphasis, pitch. Practice proclaiming the text aloud until you are satisfied that it is the way it should be, and until you are comfortable with the manner of presentation. You can listen to the readings read aloud on the US Conference of Catholic Bishops webpage or look up difficult names or words on the following links:

<http://www.usccb.org/bible>

<https://www.netministries.org/resources/resource-pronunciation-guide>

When you choose to lector, use Ministry Scheduler Pro (MSP) to sign up in advance. In preparing for Mass, remember that appearance is important. Please dress conservatively and professionally ("business casual" or nicer) for the liturgical service at which you will serve as lector.

Lectors should arrive for Mass 10-15 minutes early and meet in the sacristy. The two lectors can decide who will carry the Gospel book in the entrance procession, proclaim the First Reading, proclaim the Second Reading, and read the Prayers of the Faithful (Petitions).

#### Entrance Procession:

- The lectionary is kept on the ambo/lectern in church, while the Book of Gospels is carried in during the procession.
- The procession is led by the crucifix, then candles.
- The lector follows the processional candles carrying the Book of the Gospels, held slightly above head.
- At the base of the steps into the sanctuary, lector pauses, bows head slightly and then proceeds up steps on St Joseph side to place the Gospel book centered on the altar in both directions.
- Return to foot of steps via the St Mary side, pause, face altar, bow to altar, and then return to pew seat.

#### Readings:

- The Lectionary needs to be opened at the ambo to the first reading before Mass begins.
- When congregation sits following Open Collect, lector moves from pew, bowing to the altar at the bottom step to the sanctuary, then proceeding to the ambo.
- Remember to speak slowly and clearly into the mic.
- Only proclaim/read what is in the Lectionary. Do not make additions, such as "The First (Second) Reading is from..." or make any edits to the text.
- At the end of the reading, pause, pause again (!), then say "The Word of the Lord".
- Following the first reading, at foot of steps to altar, wait for the cantor to join you, then bow to altar together, and return to seat. (If also proclaiming the Second Reading as well, you may use a seat in the sanctuary next to servers if one is available or return to pew).
- If you need to use the ramp, please be pre-seated in a seat next to servers prior to Mass, and then exit after proclaiming reading via the ramp.
- Before the second reading, lector and cantor meet at foot of steps and bow together. Cantor heads to the musicians' area while lector proceeds to ambo for second reading.
- After the second reading, the lector closes the Lectionary and places it on first ambo shelf, so that the ambo is clear for the priest to place the Book of Gospels. Bow to altar once you reach the bottom of the steps before returning to your seat.

#### Prayers of the Faithful (i.e., Petitions):

- When congregation stands to recite the Creed, please proceed to the cantor stand, bowing to altar at bottom of steps to sanctuary. Father will wait until you are in place.
- Following the Creed, the presider/priest gives the invitation to prayer.
- Lector to remain at the cantor stand until the priest has completed the closing prayer. Then they return to their seat, bowing to altar at bottom step to sanctuary.

### **Suggestions and Guidelines for Proclamation**

**1. Prayer:**

The lector needs to ask God in prayer for the special grace to be an effective proclaimer of the Word of God.

**2. Meditation:**

By meditating on the Scripture text, the lector searches out the true meaning of the passage under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. This helps to give a faithful interpretation of the text when read in the liturgical celebration.

**3. Real Joy:**

Joy is the heart of good celebration. The lector, as an important minister in the celebration, must try to carry that joy and share it with the assembly by facial expression, quality of voice, and manner of presentation.

**4. Readings that are Heard:**

The lector should have one goal in mind – to prepare in such a way, to proclaim in such a way – that the community simply has to listen to what the lector reads.

**5. Personal Word:**

The lector enables the reading to come alive as a message for today, as a true celebration in faith, as a personal word. The Word of God itself is alive when it is proclaimed. Proclamation, however, is different than an actor-like dramatic reading of the Biblical texts. That is to be avoided.

**6. Practiced Readings**

To lector before others demands special practice, preparation, and care. Even if the church is not large, the lector needs to practice in a loud, proclaiming voice.

**7. Service**

In the Liturgy, the lector is a carrier of the Word of God. It is a great privilege. The lector should bring to the task of reading a deep sense of service to those for whom he/she reads, a profound respect for the Scriptures and dedication of excellence to Christ and the Church.

**8. Living the Word:**

The lector must strive to make the Word that he/she proclaims a part of his/her own personal spiritual life from day to day. The authenticity that flows from this is a powerful sign and witness to others.

**In case we need to contact all Lectors, please keep your contact information up-to-date by providing your name and email address in an email to [info@holyfamilynewalbany.org](mailto:info@holyfamilynewalbany.org) or by calling the parish office (812-944-8283 ext 0). Thank you for being a Lector. The parish appreciates the ministry you provide!**

Questions? Please contact: Paul Stiller or Fr Jeremy Gries  
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