

Guidelines for Lectors
Saint John's Church
January 2016

The Word of God is to be “proclaimed,” not merely “read.” For Lectors to properly proclaim Scripture, they must be prepared. The passages for each Sunday should be read, prayed, and proclaimed aloud a number of times during the week before you are scheduled. Preparation for the Sunday proclamation of the Holy Scriptures should take place the week before using the Workbook for Lectors and Gospel Readers. There will be a copy in the back of church. Do Not Remove! If you wish to make a copy of your readings, a book is available in the copy room downstairs. If you do not have a copy of the Workbook for Lectors, please pick one up from the cupboard in the entry way the week before you are scheduled.

IF you cannot cover your scheduled time, be certain to find a replacement!!

1. Please arrive at the Church no later than ten minutes before the beginning of Mass. Place a check mark next to your name on the minister's schedule. Check the lectionary and the petitions, which will be on the ambo. (Make sure you know how to pronounce the name of the person for whom the mass is being offered. ASK IF YOU DON'T KNOW.) If you are carrying the gospel book in the opening procession, have it with you in the back of the church. Check to make sure the holder is on the altar.
2. Both lectors should be at the back of the church 5 minutes before mass for prayer time.
3. In the normal entrance procession, the Lector carries the Gospel book and follows the servers into Church. Please carry the book ahead of you raised. If there are two lectors for the Mass, the first reader will carry the Book of the Gospels into the church. When there is a deacon for the Mass, he will carry the Book of the Gospels in the opening procession.
4. At the front step, please step to the right side. Wait for the Priest to arrive who will stand centered with the altar. The order from left to right will be Server, Priest, Lector, Cross-bearer. Hold the Book of the Gospels aloft as the priest and servers bow toward the altar. When they make the profound reverence, a simple bow of the head is appropriate. Then, wait as the cross bearer places the cross in the stand, then follow around the back of the altar and place the Book of the Gospels on the plastic stand facing the people. Turn and bow to the cross, then go to your pew in the congregation. Father will approach from the left and kiss the altar after the Book of Gospels is in the stand.
5. Following the Opening Prayer, unless otherwise indicated to you, as the assembly is seated for the reading of scripture, the reader walks reverently toward the ambo, pausing to bow towards the altar and crucifix. Continue on to the ambo. Begin to read the Scripture lessons for that particular Sunday Mass. Please announce “A reading from the Book of Genesis” or “A reading from the prophet Isaiah.” Do not number the readings (for example, do not announce, “The first reading is a reading from...”) Please pause after you announce the reading. Please read the Scripture selection slowly, loudly, distinctly, and prayerfully.

6. When concluding a reading, pause for a brief moment. Then announce, with solemn dignity, “The Word of the Lord.” Wait for the assembly’s response “Thanks be to God,” then return to your place for the usually sung proclamation of the Psalm from the ambo. If there is no cantor to sing the psalm, please remain and read the responsorial psalm.
7. All readings are proclaimed in this same manner. When the reader has completed the last reading, and the assembly has responded “Thanks be to God”, place the lectionary on the stand behind you and return to your place in the assembly.
8. When the deacon is ministering at the Mass, he will read the petitions for the Prayers of the Faithful. Otherwise the second reader is also responsible for offering the petitions of the Prayers of the Faithful, following the homily or the Creed. Please come to the pulpit **before** the end of the creed. **When reading the petition for personal intentions, PAUSE to allow time for personal prayer.** After the priest has ended the closing prayer, return to your place in the assembly.