

Lector Guidelines & Instructions

First and foremost, thank you for your ministry to the people of God at St. Augustine's. Your willingness to serve in this important capacity is most appreciated.

1. Read and reflect on the assigned passages at least twice during the week prior to Mass to ensure an effective delivery of the readings. It is a good idea to read not only the assigned passage but read several verses before and after the reading to get the context of the story or lesson that is going to be proclaimed.
2. Dress appropriately. You will be in the sanctuary at the Ambo to deliver the inspired Word of God.
3. Meet in Father's sacristy no less than 10 minutes prior to Mass start. The ministers present and the servers will be led in prayer by Father invoking God's assistance for themselves and to effectively engage the congregation in prayer and worship
4. Review any announcements scheduled for reading at your particular Mass (there will be a second copy on the Ambo). If there are only 1 or 2 announcements, Father prefers they be done after communion. If there are several Father will introduce them during the purification of the Sacred Vessels.
5. The entrance procession line-up is:
 - a. The Cross Bearer
 - b. The Candles (two)
 - c. Communion Ministers
 - d. Children's Liturgy Catechists (if present)
 - e. The Lector carrying the Book of the Gospels
 - f. The Deacon (if present)
 - g. Father
6. Process to the foot of the stairs in front of the altar (in a row): The Cross Bearer, the Left Candle, the Lector, Deacon, Father, the Right Candle
7. The Lector reverences the Blessed Sacrament with a nod of the head and proceeds immediately to the center of the altar (facing the people) and places the Gospel Book in the center of the altar above the cross sewn in the corporal. This space allows Father and Deacon ample room to reverence the altar with a kiss. After placing the book on the altar, turn and go to the lector's seat.
8. Once the book of Gospels is in place, the remaining ministers and servers will genuflect or bow the Cross and the Left Candle and the Deacon proceed up the left side of the altar; the Right Candle and Father proceed up the right side of the altar.
9. After Father reads the collect, the Lector goes to the ambo to proclaim the First Reading ending with the words: "**The Word of the Lord**". The Lector then returns to his/her seat in the sanctuary while the cantor comes to the ambo to lead the Responsorial Psalm. When completed, the cantor will return to the choir side of the church while the organist plays. The lector does not move to the ambo until the organist has stopped playing.

10. When organ is quiet, lector goes to the ambo for the Second Reading. The Lector finishes with the same words, **“The Word of the Lord”** then takes the Lectionary and places it on the chair/stool beside the lector’s chair and then remains at the chair. The cantor will now sing the Alleluia and verse prior to Father (Deacon) proclama^{tion} of the Gospel and the homily.
11. When the Gospel and homily are finished, Father returns to the chair for the CREDO.
12. When the CREDO is finished, Father starts the Prayers of the Faithful with an introductory prayer. The Lector goes to the ambo and reads the petitions from the provided book. If the Deacon is present, the Prayers of the Faithful are his responsibility.
13. The final responsibility for the lector is the reading of the announcements. Father will either verbally tell the congregation that there are some announcements or he will nod to the lector at the time he wants the announcements to be made.
14. It is important that we not double up on ministries at a single mass. If you are a Lector please do not also act as an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion. Please stay at your seat until the beginning of the distribution of the Blessed Sacrament or until all 4 minister positions are filled.
15. As the final hymn is being sung, Father reverences the altar and with the cross bearer and candles proceeds to the front of the altar. The lector will then join the final procession in the reverse order as before. **DO NOT REMOVE THE BOOK OF THE GOSPELS FROM THE AMBO.**

To all lectors: **Slow down your reading...dearly enunciate the words**. Proclaiming Holy Scripture is not the same as reading or speaking one-on-one with a person at your side. Your voice is in competition with a large hollow stone structure. Your voice is being received by many elderly who receive and process words more slowly than a younger person. Another contributor factor to the ability/inability to grasp what is being proclaimed where a person sits in church in relation to the location of a speaker.