

Lectoring Tips

Lectors are prayer leaders. The level of your preparation will help everyone experience the presence of God in the Scriptures. Please prepare with this in mind.

1. **Preparation:** Use the “*Workbook for Lectors*” to prepare.
 - a. **PRAY** for insight before reading the Scripture passage.
 - b. **Read for MEANING:** Begin preparation one week prior. Each day read the passage and reflect on its meaning. Internalize God’s Word so that you communicate the meaning when proclaiming it. Read background information at the bottom of the page in the *Workbook*.
 - c. **CONTEXT:** From your Bible read the verses that precede the passage so that you understand the context.

2. **Practice:**
 - a. **Practice the text aloud** in order to determine the pace, vocal inflection, key phrases, and pauses.
 - b. Be familiar with the reading so that you can make eye contact.
 - c. Utilize the **pronunciation keys** for Biblical person’s names, cities, and regions as well as the **reading suggestions** in the margins.

3. **Dress appropriately for the reading of God’s word.** Your attire should not draw attention to yourself or cause distraction. Select clothing that could be labeled your “Sunday best” or “Business Casual.” Avoid the following clothing items: shirts that have printing on the front or back, sweat clothing, or shorts. Additionally, ladies should dress modestly by avoiding tank tops, spaghetti straps, low-cut necklines, and short skirts.

4. **Proclaiming at Mass:**
 - a. If necessary, **HOLD THE BOOK** at a comfortable level so that you can see and speak to the people.
 - b. Make **EYE CONTACT** as you announce “*A reading from . . .*” and throughout the reading.
 - c. **ENUCIATE and PROJECT** to the back pew. Do not speak softly because of the sound system. Proclaim the word SLOWLY but with ENERGY. Use the same vocal range that you use in normal conversation: loud and soft, fast and slow. Use facial expression, emphasis, etc.
 - d. **SILENCE:** Read more slowly toward the very end of the reading in order to lead more naturally into the PAUSE at the end of the reading (30 seconds). Allow a space of silence for the Word to soak in. Stand still with head bowed and hands resting on the book or ambo. *There is no pause after the psalm.*

5. **Always show visible reverence** for God and His Word and Christ who is in you in the way you stand, dress, speak, move, and proclaim. You will then magnify the power of the Word. [See Galatians 2:20]