

Guidelines for Lectors

Revised 4-26-2018

Before Mass

- Preparation is essential. All lectors should practice their readings before coming to church, preferably early in the week to let the scripture really sink in and ponder it. Scripture is fundamentally oral and aural. It is spoken and heard. The lector proclaims it and the Holy Spirit transforms those who hear it. Read **to** the people, not **at** the people. This means you need careful preparation to know the readings well enough to road map where you are headed and what important message is for the gathered assembly to hear. Lectors will be provided with a Workbook for Lectors which a great resource.
- If there are two versions of the readings, prepare them both and refer to the presider who may and an opinion according to the homily they have prepared.
- When there are two lectors at Mass, as a rule of thumb, the youth lector indicated on the lector schedule will proclaim the first reading, the adult lector will proclaim the second reading. It is best to prepare both as sometimes there is a quick cancellation and you may be asked to read both.
- Lectors should arrive at church at least 30 minutes early. When arriving, the lector should check in with the Mass coordinator, and make sure the Lectionary is placed on the ambo with the bookmark set for the proper readings of the day. The lector should also read the Prayers of the Faithful found in the lector binder. If there is a name of someone deceased, ask other members to make sure you are pronouncing the name correctly out of respect. You are welcome to test the volume of the microphone before Mass and the musicians should be able to help you adjust the volume. If you are having difficulty with plosive “p’s” take the time to find the correct adjustment so it won’t be an issue later.
- Double check with the presider for the details of the procession.

During Mass

- Mass begins with the opening hymn/song. The lector will process into the church with the presider. The lector carries in the Book of the Gospels unless there is a deacon present, lector #1 will carry the Book of the Gospels and lector #2 carries a hymnal. While lector #1 places the Book of the Gospels in the stand on the center of the altar, lector #2 and the presider all bow together. Lector #1 and #2 go to their seats, the presider comes up and kisses the altar as usual. Full, active participation in Mass is required.
- After the opening prayer, lector #1 comes forward to proclaim the First Reading. Before you begin the First Reading, make sure to take the time to let the assembly settle into their seats and there is a sense of calm. Breathe. Take your time to begin “A **reading** from...” making sure to look from side to side to engage the assembly. At the end of the scripture take some time to say, “The **Word** of the Lord.” After the first reading, the lector is seated.
- If there is difficulty going up and down the stairs, it is best to walk to the side with the railing and use the assist. Safety is our biggest priority.

- After the musicians are seated after the Psalm, lector #2 approaches the ambo with the same set of skills. After they have proclaimed the Word they are seated. The Lectionary comes down to make room for the Gospel book. The Lectionary should be placed on the Lectionary table just behind the presider's chair.
- After the Gospel is proclaimed by presider or deacon, the lector comes forward to receive the Book of the Gospels to place on the stand on the Lectionary table. This helps the presider from going up and down stairs to place the book.
- As the end of the Creed is approaching "Amen", the lector comes to the ambo to lead the Prayers of the Faithful. Proclaiming the Word should be done more powerfully than the care needed for the Prayers of the Faithful. You still need to road map where the prayer is headed, but there should be a great deal of care and pacing in your delivery. You are leading the assembly to prayers. After the presider has finished gathering up all the prayers and finishes with the written closing prayer you may be seated as the offertory is taken up. Mass continues as usual.
- After communion, as the presider is seated, the lector counts to 15 and comes to the ambo to gently read the announcements for the week. The announcements can be led more casual and or with a media, but not false, tone. Again, it is different than Proclaiming the Word, or leading the Prayers of the Faithful.
- Mass ends with the closing hymn/song. When the presider goes to kiss the altar, lectors go forward to process out with him. Neither the Book of the Gospels or the Lectionary are processed out of the church at the end of Mass. All other personal items should be left in church and retrieved after processing out. Meeting in front of the altar down the steps, at a cue from the presider, all bow and exit.

Baptism in Mass (with Fr. Fitz)

- Right after the homily in place of the Creed, Fr. Fitz will invite the family forward to the base of the steps and begin the Baptismal process. As the family moves, the lector should go to the ambo ready to read the Prayers of the Faithful. When Fr. Fitz turns and asks you to begin, the Prayers of the Faithful are read. When Fr. Fitz invites the family back to the Baptismal font to complete the Baptism the lector should return to their seat as the others are moving.

Thank you for your service as a Lector to the Body of Christ made present here at Corpus Christi! If you have any questions, please call Sue Valois at the parish center 651-639-8888.