

# Lector Responsibilities

## **Lector Prayer:**

*May the Lord be in our heart, on our mind, and on our lips, that we may worthily proclaim His word. (Please feel free to pray this quietly before Mass or at home!)*

- Lectors should be at Mass at least 15 minutes before Mass. Please Sign-In at the Binder behind the Sacristy (on the counter next to the Sacramentum).
- If there is optional readings or if there are long and short versions of a reading, check with the Pastor for the correct reading.
- Confirm that the Lectionary is on top of the ambo with a ribbon marking the proper readings, and opened to the first reading.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** If the Deacon is not present at Mass, the lector will take the Books of the Gospels and follow the Altar Servers in the procession. Hold the Book of the Gospels up (front forward) so that it can be seen, about head high or higher. When the lector reaches the front of the Altar, he/she should pause and continue to walk behind the Altar. The lector will then set the Book of the Gospels on the Altar, bow, and then be seated. Lectors may sit up behind the Ambo until after they are done with their readings. If the Deacon is present, you will not have to be in the procession.

- After the Opening Prayer, the Lector will wait for everyone to be seated and settled in place. He/she then moves toward the ambo and begins to read. Announce the Scripture reading simply as it is stated in the reading: "A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah." After the reading, pause slightly before saying, "The Word of the Lord." The lector will then take a seat.

- After the cantor has sung the Responsorial Psalm and takes a seat, the Lector will proceed to the Ambo for the second reading. Announce the Scripture reading again, and pause before saying, “The Word of the Lord.” When you are finished, have a seat again.
- Special Note: After the Creed IF the Deacon is not present, the Lector will go back up to the Ambo and read the prayers of the Faithful. If the Deacon is present, you will not have to do this.

### **Tips for the Lectors**

**Practice:** It is good to familiarize yourself with the Scripture before you get up in front of the congregation to read.

**Slow down!** Let people be seated and quiet down. Within the reading itself, do not rush through. Pause after the reading before saying, “The Word of the Lord.”

**Prepare!** It is so much richer if we have prepared well, looked up pronunciation of words and names, don’t stumble over sentences, have taken time to really study the reading so it makes some sense to us. All of us mess up occasionally—that is inevitable. This is not meant to dictate how you read a reading but encourages you to prepare. Please practice! 😊

**Helpful website:** If you have internet connection you can go to [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org). There you will find a calendar with all the daily readings and you can even listen to them as well. This helps, especially for me, when I can’t pronounce a name or a city. It also has a daily reflection if you want to learn more about your reading.