

THE ROLE OF THE LECTOR

A lector is a fully initiated and active Catholic who proclaims the first and second readings during the Mass and the Universal Prayers (when a Deacon is not present).

Vocabulary:

Sanctuary – the area that includes the ambo, the presider chair and the altar.

Ambo – the place where the Word of God is proclaimed and the Universal Prayers (Prayers of the Faithful) are read.

Lectionary – Where the Readings are found based on Liturgical year and special needs.
Sunday Lectionary is on a 3 year cycle A, B, C 2014/15 begins cycle B on the first week of Advent.

Liturgical Year – Over a course of year, the Church celebrates the whole mystery of Christ. From the First Week of Advent to the Saturday following Feast of Christ the King.

Book of the Gospels: The Word of Jesus set in a liturgical calendar sequence.

During the week: read the readings and meditate on them and practice.

There are two ways that they can prepare the reading and pray about it. (1) There are extra Gather Books reading are arranged in cycles and sanctorial. You can take one home and when your services for the parish complete we would like to have it back. (2) The usccb website (usccb.org) : it is wonderful and there is a brief scripture passage. Furthermore, this website reads the text for you. It is helpful when pronunciations are questionable.

ARRIVAL FOR MASS

- Arrive 20minutes before Mass begins.
- Sign In
- Go to the ambo and make sure the readings are marked and ready to go.
- Make sure the Universal Prayers (are at the ambo and set to be read)
- If the Book of the Gospels is on the ambo, please take it to the back.

***PROCESSION:**

Process in with the Book of the Gospels - you will be right in front of Father.

- The Book is elevated as it is carried forward.
- When coming toward the sanctuary steps- move left.
- Pause briefly then move into the Sanctuary.
- Walk behind the altar. Place in the middle of the altar, lay it flat.
- Walk down to the bottom of the sanctuary steps and bow to ALTAR.
- Go to your pew and keep standing.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

1ST Reading

Sacred Silence is important – before going up to read, let others get settled – wait until Fr. sits down.

- Go to Sanctuary steps and BOW TO ALTAR
- Move up to the ambo
- When beginning the reading:
 - Read : “A reading from the.....”
 - Pause slightly before reading the Scripture
 - Then begin reading scripture
 - A slight pause before you say “The Word of the Lord”
- You may either go and sit down on the chair in the back of the sanctuary behind the ambo or
- Go and sit in your pew. IF YOU LEAVE THE SANCTUARY – BOW TO THE ALTAR

Responsorial Psalm – Cantor proclaims this

2nd Reading:

- Please do not rush to begin the 2nd reading. Silence is Sacred.
- Follow the same format as for the 1st reading.
- When 2nd reading is completed –and people have responded “Thanks be to God”
- Close the lectionary and place it on the shelf on the ambo.
- BOW TO THE ALTAR as you leave the sanctuary. Go to your pew.

*Universal Prayers (Prayers of the Faithful)

- At the end of the creed make your way to the ambo
- BOW TO THE ALTAR before entering the sanctuary.
- Father always prefaces the intercessions.
- Read the intercessions – allowing the congregation to respond after each one.
- When the last intercession is read and responded to, turn to Father and wait for him to end with a final prayer. DO NOT LEAVE THE SANCTUARY UNTIL THE CONGREGATION HAS RESPONDED AMEN.

*PLEASE NOTE: IF A DEACON IS PRESENT,

- HE PROCESSES IN WITH THE BOOK OF THE GOSPELS
The Lector does not process in
- THE DEACON READS THE UNIVERSAL PRAYERS (PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL)

TIPS FOR LECTORS:

PREPARE AND PRACTICE:

Be familiar with the scripture before getting in front of the congregation to PROCLAIM the scripture.

- Start at the beginning of the week before you lector by reading and reflecting.
- Look up words and names that you are not sure of how to pronounce – listen to the readings on usccb.org
- then practice reading the scripture out loud.

SPEAK LOUDLY and CLEARLY and SLOWLY –

The Microphone helps to amplify your voice, but it is important to use a louder voice than normal conversation. All three of these words – loudly, clearly and slowly - go hand in hand. By speaking in a loud voice and knowing the scripture and taking your time without rushing the reading all helps with what we are proclaiming to be clear.