

Guidelines for Lectors



Thank you for agreeing to serve the parish in this ministry as a Lector. Paul tells the people of Corinth that there are many gifts but the same spirit. Thank you for sharing your gift of proclaiming the Word of God to our community! In Hebrews, we also read that “The Word of God is alive and active, sharper than a two-edge sword, able to separate soul and spirit, bone and marrow, discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”(4:12) This is a most important call that you have answered; the call to proclaim God’s Word so that others may hear and ultimately become holier people of God!

Time Commitment and Scheduling

Schedules are created in three month increments:

Dec. – Feb., March – May, June – August, Sept. – Nov.)

Hard copies of the schedule will be mailed to you. However, if you ever need an extra copy, schedules are posted on our website: www.nativity.mn.org, in the bulletin, and extra copies are always available at the Parish Office.

Lector Workbooks, *Handbook for Proclaimers of the Word*, contain all the weekend readings for the entire liturgical year. Along with the readings are commentaries on the passages. These are available at Nativity for all of our Lectors. They are found under the table in the Sacristy Lobby. The beginning of the Liturgical Year begins with Advent, so new workbooks can be picked up, at your convenience, every November.

You will typically be scheduled once each month. We try our best to schedule you for your preferred Mass time. However, you may be called upon to serve a Mass other than the one you typically attend. If you need to notify us of a scheduling request, please contact Tara Lyons.

Email: Tara.m.lyons@gmail.com

Office: 696.5442

If this ministry is to be effective, we need you to be present at your scheduled Mass. If you find a conflict after a schedule has been distributed, please take it upon yourself to arrange a substitute from the list of Lectors.

We hope that you will continue year-by-year in this ministry but we want you to feel free to move off this ministry if needed. We simply ask that you notify us of the needed changes.

Mass Preparation and Lector Roles

- **Read and Re-Read!** Read the passage at home to yourself and aloud. Ponder the scripture. Read it within the context of the entire chapter. Read the explanation in the workbook.
- **Pray the Scriptures.** Read your passage as though the Lord is speaking directly to you.
- **Practice for Clarity and Correct Pronunciation.** Read slowly. Articulate word endings (especially consonants like t's, d's, m's, n's). The tone of your speaking voice should be a little higher than you may think. Think excitement! Think energy! Think about the awesomeness of God and let those emotions be evident in how you speak. You are telling an amazing story. Think about how you would tell your friend about an exciting and amazing story that happened in your life. Remember, though, SPEAK SLOWLY. ☺
- **Arrive 15 minutes early.** If this is a weekend Mass, check in with the sacristan and make sure that your name is crossed off the schedule so that you are counted as present for the Mass. Take time to read through your passage one last time, as well as make certain that all readings (prayers of the faithful, lectionary, Book of the Gospels) have been placed in their proper place.
- **1st Reader/Prayers of the Faithful:** Put the Prayers of the Faithful on your chair on the altar. The Prayers of the Faithful are found on the countertop in the Sacristy. You are also responsible for placing the Lectionary on the pulpit before Mass. The Lectionary is a large red book typically found on the counter in the Sacristy.

For the 9:30am Mass and the Weekday Masses, the Lectionary is a green 5-ring loose leaf binder that is found on the Sacristy counter.

- **2nd Reader:** You are responsible for processing in with the Book of the Gospels. The Book of the Gospels is found on the counter in the sacristy. Remember to REMOVE the Lectionary from the pulpit after you have read the 2nd reading.

**There is NO Book of the Gospels for the 7am or 9:30am Masses.*

Weekend Mass Reminders

PROCESSIONAL

- **Order:** Servers (walking side by side)
1st reader
2nd reader carrying the Book of the Gospels
Priest
- **5pm Sat/Sun, 8:15am, 11am:** Process down the aisle in the above order. Stop at the base of the Sanctuary steps and form a straight line (servers at far ends and priest in line with the Tabernacle). Genuflect (or bow depending on your abilities and/or following what the priest does) with everyone and walk to your seat. Book of the Gospels needs to be placed on the stand that is located on the front-end of the altar.
- **7am:** Enter from the side Sacristy doorway (like a Weekday Mass). Walk out to the front of the altar and form a straight line (servers at the far ends and priest in line with the Tabernacle). Genuflect (or bow depending on your abilities and/or following what the priest does) with everyone and walk to your seat. REMEMBER: there is no Book of the Gospels.
- **9:30am:** Gather before Mass in the back of Steiner Hall, on the side nearest the kitchen. Walk down the diagonal aisle and line up in a straight line in front of the altar (servers on far ends). Bow at the base of the riser.

MASS

- **1st Reading:** 1st Reader moves to the pulpit after the opening prayer, when everyone has been seated.
- **2nd Reading:** 2nd Reader moves to the pulpit after the psalm has finished. REMEMBER TO TAKE THE LECTIONARY BACK TO YOUR SEAT AFTER YOU HAVE READ THE 2ND READING.
- **Prayers of the Faithful:** 1st Reader moves to the pulpit during the Creed at: “One Holy, catholic, and Apostolic Church” to read the Prayers of the Faithful. After you have finished reading, turn slightly toward the priest to signify that you are finished. Wait for his final petition and then return to your seat when he has finished and everyone sits down.

RECESSIONAL

- **Order:** Servers (walking side by side)
Lectors (no Book of the Gospels)
Priest
- **5pm Sat/Sun, 8:15am, 11am:** Line up facing the altar at the base of the ALTAR steps. This is different from the Processional. Genuflect with everyone. YOU WILL NOT NEED TO BE CARRYING ANYTHING. Book of the Gospels and Lectionary stay at your seats.
- **7am:** Same as Entrance Processional.
- **9:30am:** Same as Entrance Processional.

Weekday Mass Reminders

PROCESSIONAL

- Only 1 lector
- **Order:** Servers (walking side by side)
Lector
Priest
- Walk out to the base of the altar steps from the side Sacristy doorway. Servers will stand on the far sides and lector and priest will fill in the middle. Priest should be directly in front of the Tabernacle. Genuflect/bow together (depending on your abilities and the priest's preference). Walk IMMEDIATELY to the pulpit to read the Opening Antiphon.

MASS

- **Opening Antiphon:** Walk to the pulpit immediately after the processional genuflection. Announce, "Opening Antiphon" before reading the actual antiphon. After reading, return to your seat.
- **1st Reading/Psalm/Gospel Acclamation:** Move to the pulpit after the Opening Prayer, and as everyone is sitting. Read 1st Reading AND the Psalm AND the Gospel Acclamation.
- **Prayers of the Faithful:** Read by the Priest after the homily.
- **Communion Antiphon:** When the priest is receiving the Precious Blood, move to the pulpit to read the Communion Antiphon. This is the same time the servers and Eucharistic Ministers move to receive Communion. Announce, "Communion Antiphon" before reading the actual antiphon. After reading, receive Communion with the servers.

RECESSIONAL

- Same as Entrance Processional.
- After you exit to the Sacristy, return to your seat/pulpit to take the Lectionary back to the sacristy.