

## Frequently Asked Questions About the Lector Ministry

- How will I know when I am scheduled to read?

Several times a year, you will receive a lector schedule from the Lector Coordinator (Nancy Midlin is currently serving in this role). Note the dates and the reading assigned. If you are unable to read on that date, you are responsible for finding a substitute.

- How do I prepare my assigned reading?

Practice reading ALOUD multiple times. Read slowly and clearly. Become very familiar with the text. When practicing, project your voice as if speaking to people in the back of the church. Read the workbook notes and the other readings for the day. (It's always a good idea to prepare both readings. In very rare instances, the other lector may not show up and you will be asked to read both readings.) If you have time, it's also helpful to read readings from the past few weeks so that you can get more of a context for your reading.

- What are the lector procedures?

On the date you are reading, arrive at church at least 15 minutes early. Sign the "sign-in" sheet in the sacristy. Practice your reading (aloud) from the Book of Readings. Read (aloud) the Prayers of the Faithful if you are responsible for reading them. (These are located in the green binder.)

Decide which lector will carry the Book of Gospels. When the celebrant is ready, walk to the back of the church. Drop off the Book of Readings at the ambo and place the green binder near your seat. (Generally, the lectors sit in the first row closest to the ambo, but it's not essential that you sit there.)

Process in with the celebrant, altar servers, Eucharistic ministers, etc. You will come right in front of the celebrant. Whoever is carrying the Book of Gospels should hold the book high, walk up to the altar and place the book on the altar. Then he/she walks to where the other lector and the celebrant are standing, and all face the altar and bow. After bowing, go to your seat and finish singing the entrance song.

When it is your turn to read, walk slowly to the ambo, pause, get yourself situated, proclaim the beginning of the reading (such as, "A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians..."), take a breath, and SLOWLY proclaim the reading. It's helpful to pause at the ends of sentences so that your listeners can ponder the message, but it's also important to

project your voice all the way to the end of the sentence so that each word can be heard.

When you have completed the reading, pause, look at the assembly, and then proclaim, "The Word of the Lord." Be very deliberate with this phrase. If you are the first reader, please advance the pages of the Book of Readings to the second reading of the day. If you are the second reader, close the Book of Readings and place it on the shelf in the ambo. This will leave space for the celebrant to place the Book of Gospels. Return to your seat.

- In addition to the readings, what are my other responsibilities?

Generally, the lector who read the First Reading is responsible for reading the Prayers of the Faithful. These are read from the ambo after the Creed. Additionally, you will be invited to hold the celebrant's hands during the Our Father.

- What are the procedures for leaving the church?

During the Recessional song, wait until the celebrant is near the altar, then walk to his side, face the altar and bow together. You will then process out of the church. There is no need to retrieve the Book of Gospels for the recessional – it remains on the ambo.

- What are the final tasks for lectors?

Walk back to the sacristy. When the recessional song has been completed, return to the church to retrieve the Book of Readings, the Book of Gospels, and the green binder and return them to the sacristy.

Thank you for being a part of this important ministry.