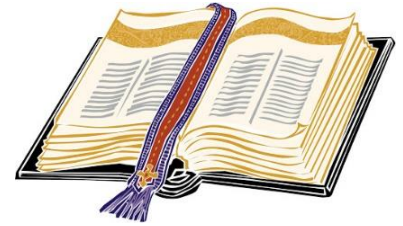


Guidelines for Lectors

The Liturgy of the Word is one of two main parts of the Eucharistic celebration. In this ministry you proclaim the Word of God to your brothers and sisters in Christ. God truly speaks through you to the assembly, and therefore, you should take this privilege seriously and live it in your life. You, as a reader in the assembly, should work to understand what you proclaim; and then proclaim it to others so that they can understand and live it in their lives.



Guidelines

1. Please prepare your readings BEFORE coming to church. The Workbook for Lectors that you receive before Advent each year is a great resource for preparation. Immerse yourself in the history and context of the readings. Prepare your assigned text with the proper pronunciations, emphases, and pauses. It is helpful to read it aloud a few times as practice for your reading.
2. Come to church about 15 minutes before the liturgy. Check the place of your reading in the lectionary. Review the Universal Prayer (Prayer of the Faithful).
3. When it is time for your reading, do not rush.
 - a. As you move toward the altar, bow profoundly in the center aisle to the altar before entering the sanctuary, and then stand at the ambo. However, if you are sitting near the left side aisle of the Church, you need not go to the center aisle to bow.
 - b. Pause, get your bearings, read the introduction to the reading, as "A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah." When the letter "A" is used as an indefinite article the preferred pronunciation is like the "A" in "about", not a long A as in "ate" or a short A as in "apple".
[For all those hooked on phonics, the "A" should sound like ə, not ā or ă.]
 - c. Say, e.g., "A reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah."
Or "A reading from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians."
NOT: "The first reading is a reading from . . ."
 - d. Please read slowly and carefully, projecting your voice into the microphone. For most people when you think you are reading too slowly or too loudly, you will most likely be reading at the proper speed and volume.
 - e. At the end of a reading, pause for a second before saying, "The Word of the Lord." Afterwards, DO NOT bow to the Ambo. We bow to the altar in the liturgy. Do not make the sign of the cross.
 - i. After the *first reading* move away from the ambo or return to your seat, as the case may be, to allow the cantor to sing the Responsorial Psalm.
 - ii. After the *second reading*, do not bow to the ambo or the lectionary. Return immediately, without rushing, to your pew as directed in "f" below.
 - iii. At daily Mass, after completing the first reading including saying the "The Word of the Lord" as in "e" above, pause for several seconds before beginning the Responsorial Psalm. If there is a second reading after the Responsorial Psalm, again pause for several seconds before beginning the second reading.
 - f. Go back down the steps, bow again to the altar as before [generally in the same place you did when entering the sanctuary], return to your seat to participate fully and actively in the Mass.
 - g. Note: As a liturgical minister, one should read only from an official liturgical book, in this case the Lectionary, not from *Breaking Bread* or the lector workbook.

4. When reading the Prayer of the Faithful on the last intercession (“For the intentions we mention in the silence of our hearts . . .”) the lector should pause for about 5 seconds to give people sufficient time to consider their prayer intentions. There is no need to pause after announcing the prior intentions.
5. Please wear neat and appropriately conservative attire suitable for Church. Do your best to be presentable as one exercising a ministry in the liturgy.
6. If you cannot attend your scheduled Mass, please make your best effort to find a substitute via Ministry Scheduler Pro.

Neat Sunday attire is requested for men, preferably dress shirt, slacks, suit/sport coat. Likewise for ladies, conservative dresses or skirts are requested. Please be very selective when wearing slacks. Shorts, jeans, or sweatpants are not appropriate for either men or women. *We understand, however, that this is not always possible when one is filling in as needed and has no advanced notice.*

