

Responsibilities of the Reader / Lector

Please ensure that you dress appropriately when serving in this ministry, showing reverence and respect for the service to which God has called you. Tattered jeans, t-shirts, shorts, halter tops, mini-shirts or other revealing attire are **never** appropriate. Neat and clean slacks and shirts (or slacks, blouses, pantsuits, etc. for the ladies) are the most appropriate. Remember you are proclaiming God's Word, and your dress and decorum should reflect positively on the important role you are fulfilling in the sacrifice of the Mass.

Before the Mass:

- Review and reflect on the readings several days before you are scheduled to read. And practice the readings.
- Arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the Mass
 - Reader 1
 - Ensure the book with greeting and announcements is located on the ambo
 - Review the greeting and commentary text prior to the Mass
 - Ensure that Lectionary is on the ambo and proper page is marked or open
 - Reader 2
 - Review the Prayers of the Faithful and announcements prior to Mass

During the Mass:

- Readers do not need to process in
 - If there is a Deacon, the Deacon will process with the Book of Gospels
 - If there no is Deacon, the Book of Gospels should be placed on the altar before Mass

- Reader 1 is responsible for:
 - The greeting
 - The first reading from Holy Scripture
 - The responsorial psalm (if it is not sung)
 - At the end of the first reading (or responsorial psalm if it is read), Reader 1 should return to their seat

- Reader 2 is responsible for:
 - The second reading from Holy Scripture
 - The Prayers of the Faithful (if there is no Deacon)
 - The announcements at the end of Mass
 - Reader 2 should proceed to the ambo during the final verse of the responsorial psalm, timed to arrive at its conclusion.
 - **After completing the second reading, Reader 2 should place the Lectionary on the second shelf of the Ambo, and return to their seat**

- Please **do not** “announce” the readings – simply read *exactly* what is printed in the Lectionary (i.e., the correct form would be “A reading from the Book of Genesis” ***as opposed to*** “Our first reading is a reading from the Book of Genesis”)

- Remember to pause briefly following each reading

- If there is no Deacon, begin walking to the ambo during the later part of the Profession of Faith to present the Prayers of the Faithful (you should be at the ambo and ready by the end of the Profession of the Profession of Faith)

- After Communion, once Jesus has been reposed in the tabernacle and Father is seated, Reader 2 should proceed to the ambo and make the announcements.

Remember:

- *Being an effective Lector calls for adequate preparation through prayer, study and practice.*
- *Unless the readings are done well, people will not hear God’s voice speaking through the texts.*
- *Lectors are called to a deep relationship with God specifically through the words of scripture. You should be able to accept with conviction the words and prayers being offered.*