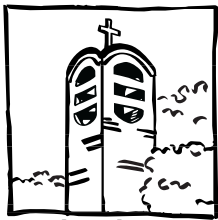




## GUIDELINES FOR LECTORS

*In the beginning, God spoke —  
and the universe was created!*



St. John the Baptist  
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Folsom, CA

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# LECTOR TRAINING

In the beginning, God spoke—and the universe was created! God's word came to Abraham and formed the people of God. God's word came to Moses through the burning bush, and the Israelites were liberated from slavery. God's word came to prophets through the ages who spoke in God's name and called the people back to faithfulness.

In the fullness of time, God spoke through Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. After the death and resurrection of Jesus, the word of God was spread throughout the world, first by the apostles and then by Christian witnesses and missionaries in every age.

Now the word of God is entrusted to you. By baptism you are called to share this word with others at home, at work, in your neighborhood and in every place you can. Chosen by the Christian community to proclaim this word in the church's worship, you will strengthen the faith of the believers and enable them to spread the word of God more effectively wherever they live, work and play.

Your calling is an exalted one. Always remember the trust that the church has placed in you. The word you proclaim is a powerful word. Prepare well and proclaim God's word to the best of your ability. May God bless your ministry and bless your community of faith through you!

\*\*\*The afore-mentioned words are from the Preface in the Lectionary Workbook written by Lawrence E. Mick. You will be getting a copy of this Lectionary Workbook and it will prove to be a textbook, and when used with your Bible, will become essential in preparing yourself to proclaim the Word of the Lord.

## THE MINISTRY OF THE PROCLAIMER OF THE WORD

Of all the ministries restored to the laity by the liturgical reforms of the Second Vatican Council, perhaps none is more important than the ministry of the lector. Along with the deacon, the priest and the bishop, the lector is entrusted with the crucial task of making the word of God come alive by proclaiming it for the Christian assembly.

A well-prepared lector can do much to enhance the celebration of the liturgy by a prayerful and powerful proclamation of the word of God. Such a proclamation can touch and move the whole assembly, serving as an instrument of God's grace.

### SOME SPECIFICS:

#### Lector 1

- The deacon will process in with the Book of the Gospel. If no deacon is present then Lector 1 will do this function. Approach the altar and place the Book of the Gospel upright and open onto the altar. Return to the bottom of the altar and bow with the celebrant and the other ministers.
- Elevate the Book of the Gospel in procession with the cross facing forward.
- Approach the lectern/ambo from the choir side.

- The Lectionary should be open on the ambo for the first reading before Mass begins.
- When it is your time to read, approach the lectern/ambo from the choir side (using the far left steps), go to the bottom step, bow deeply toward the ambo, and proceed up the steps. It is not necessary to bow when you leave the ambo.
- \*\*\*\*\*At 9:15 and 11:30 MASSES ONLY: When there is Children's Liturgy planned, be aware that not every celebrant announces the Children's Liturgy in such a fashion that can be understood—sometimes he just begins to bless the leader—if that happens, then say “We invite all the children to follow their leader to the Children's Liturgy.”
- At the recession, bow before processing out. The lector always follows the Eucharistic Ministers out to the sacristy.

#### Lector 2

- After the last responsorial psalm is read, approach the altar from the choir side as the first reader did, bow and ascend the stairs, read your reading and leave the ambo again without bowing when you get to the bottom of the stairs.
- After the Creed, the celebrant will give an introduction to the petitions, and if the deacon is not present you will read the petitions. You will come forward during the Creed so that you are ready to read the petitions as soon as the Creed is finished. After reading the last petition, pause 10 seconds, then say “Lord, Hear our prayer.” Wait for the priests' response or additional petitions before returning to your seat.
- The Book of the Gospel is carried in but it is not carried out. Return after Mass is over to get the Book of the Gospel and place it in its box in the vesting sacristy.

#### DON'T FORGET

1. For scheduled assignments, check in at least 20 minutes before Mass and sign the register. Let the Mass Coordinator or Scheduler know you are there and ready to serve.
2. After signing in and before the start of Mass, please leave the Sacristy, go into the Narthex area and extend a friendly greeting to those around you. The Sacristy is for prayerful preparation and only those preparing for the Mass should remain. Take the initiative to pray in a circle with the Eucharistic Ministers, deacon, and altar servers before lining up to process. There should be silence before the procession begins. All lectors and EMs are to process in with the celebrant.
3. If a lector cannot function at the assigned Mass, it is the duty and responsibility of the lector to arrange for a substitute. If you cannot arrange for a substitute, please contact the Mass Coordinator.
4. If the lector is late checking in and another lector has filled in assuming the lector to be late or absent, please remember that a full compliment of ministers is needed and the Mass Coordinator has taken responsibility to assure that full coverage has been achieved. It is expected that the substitute will function with your blessing.
5. There should be silence before the procession begins. All lectors will process to the altar and recess from the altar with the celebrant and other ministers at the beginning and conclusion of the Mass.

6. The position of the lectors during the procession is immediately following the EMs and before the deacon.
7. All ministers in the procession will stop at the foot of the altar, moving right and left to make room in the center for the celebrant and/or deacon. All will bow in unison to the altar. After the Book of the Gospel is set on the altar, the celebrant will move around the altar. After he kisses the altar, all EMs and lectors will move to their places in the community.
8. Always check with the music director for any special instructions regarding whether they will be singing the entire Responsorial Psalm, the verse, the Alleluia, etc.
9. Before Mass walk up to the ambo and make sure the folder with announcements, petitions, etc. is on the ambo/lectern, and if necessary glance at the petitions checking for any names, etc., you are not familiar with. Also, if there are any special prayer intentions, make sure you are familiar with the pronunciation of the names.
10. If there is a visiting priest, introduce yourself as the lector and ask if he has any special instructions you may need to know about.
11. Proper attire – Women: Dresses, skirts and blouses, pants suit; Men: Slacks, coat and tie.
12. Seating location in church – Lectors should sit in the front on the lectern side of the church for easy access and the least disruption.
13. Scheduling – Schedules will be updated several times a year. It is your responsibility to mark your calendar, and to find a substitute when needed. If there is a conflict in your schedule, please let the Mass Coordinator or Scheduler know prior to the next schedule.
14. Substitute – When substituting for another lector, make certain to put that person's name in parenthesis after yours, on the sign-up sheet.
15. After Mass – Return the Book of the Gospel to the vesting sacristy. Ensure the marker is in place for the next Mass.
16. Do not elevate the Lectionary when proclaiming "The Word of the Lord".
17. No additional comments are appropriate when doing the readings. Simply read the scripture as written and AVOID any of the following:
  - A salutation (such as "hello") preceding the reading.
  - Stating that this is the FIRST or SECOND reading.
  - Describing or interpreting the reading prior to the reading.
18. Be careful of the microphone. Do not touch it at any time.
19. The lector is not an actor, but he or she is an oral interpreter of literature of great importance. The lector must convey the passion, pain, and ecstasy of the author.

## GUIDELINES FOR THE PUBLIC READER

1. Lee, Charlotte I. and Frank Galati. ORAL INTERPRETATION, 7<sup>th</sup> ed. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1986.
2. Osborn, Michael and Susan. PUBLIC SPEAKING, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1991. Staudacher, Joseph M. LECTOR'S GUIDE TO BIBLICAL PRONUNCIATIONS. Huntington, IN: Our Sunday Visitor, 1979.
3. James A. Wallace E,C.S.S.R. THE MINISTRY OF LECTORS—It may be purchased in the Gift Shop. An excellent reference.
4. RVC Liturgical Series, Nancy Benvenga, Series Editor. THE LECTORS MINISTRY: YOUR GUIDE TO PROCLAIMING THE WORD, Resurrection Press, Mineola, New York