

SS. PETER AND PAUL CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

LECTOR INSTRUCTIONS

Proclaiming the Word of God at our Eucharistic Celebration is much more than reading from the Lectionary. It requires that the Lector has prepared well enough in advance to know all of the readings for that celebration and has a special place in her or his heart for the reading they will proclaim. The Lector Workbook has guidelines for proclaiming the Word that are very helpful for your preparation.

Responsibilities:

All Lectors should dress appropriately. Casual attire does not show respect for either the important service you offer, the Sacrament, the Assembly or the Sanctuary.

It is not liturgically correct to be a Lector and a Eucharistic Minister at the same celebration.

If you are unable to proclaim on your scheduled day, please find a substitute well enough in advance for them to prepare. If you are having trouble finding a substitute, please contact your Lector Coordinator (name and number on the schedule).

Arrive at least 15 minutes before Mass begins to check in with the other Lector and/or Lector Coordinator and begin your responsibilities. Use a blue "Saved Lector/EM Seat" card to save your seat and leave your personal belongings. For security you can leave your belongings in the Sacristy.

After your pre-Mass duties are completed, please greet the parishioners as they enter.

Join the Eucharistic Ministers and Altar Servers in prayer just prior to the Procession.

First Lector:

1. Place Lectionary on the Ambo open to the first reading.
2. Place the Book of the Gospel's bookstand on the Altar.
3. Confirm with the Music Leader that the Responsorial Psalm will be sung. If not, be prepared to read it from the Ambo.
4. Carry the Book of the Gospels in the Procession.

Second Lector:

1. Read the "Prayers of the Faithful" for this Mass located in the Sacristy and in the black binder on the Ambo so you are familiar with them. If you can't locate them, ask your Lector Coordinator or Father for help. Check with Father for any names for the Prayers of the Faithful and write them on the copy in the black binder on the Ambo.
2. The Profession of Faith is located in the black binder on the Ambo.
3. After the closing song is completed, replace the Book of the Gospels bookstand on the Altar and return the Book of the Gospels to the Sacristy.

Processional Flow:

Sing the processional song if you know it.

The First Lector will carry the Book of the Gospels held above eye level by firmly grasping the sides or bottom corners. The First Lector lines up behind the Altar Servers with the Second Lector behind the First. Both process slowly to the Sanctuary stairs and go right stopping near the Altar on the right.

The First Lector will not bow with Father and the rest of the ministers but hold the Book of the Gospels high over your head. The Second Lector will bow. After Father ascends the steps and kisses the Altar, proceed up the right side of the Sanctuary and place the Book of the Gospels in the bookstand making sure the front of the book is facing out to the congregation. The Second Lector waits at the foot of the Sanctuary stairs for the First Lector to return and they both then proceed to their seats without bowing.

Proclaiming the Word:

First Lector:

1. After the Opening Prayer and Father has been seated, wait until the assembly has quieted then approach the bottom center of the Sanctuary in front of Father's chair and bow to the Altar.
2. Proceed up the Sanctuary steps to the Ambo (between the Ambo and Altar).
3. Adjust microphone to be nearer to your mouth, if required.
4. Proclaim your reading starting with "A reading from..."
5. Conclude your reading with "The Word of the Lord".
6. Read the Responsorial Psalm if it will not be sung (usually this is done by the Cantor).
7. Proceed to your seat going to right of the Ambo (by the Baptismal Font). Do not bow.

Second Lector:

1. 30 seconds after the Responsorial Psalm is sung or read, approach the bottom center of the Sanctuary in front of Father's chair and bow to the Altar.
2. Proceed up the Sanctuary steps to the Ambo (between the Ambo and Altar).
3. Adjust microphone to be nearer to your mouth, if required.
4. Proclaim your reading starting with "A reading from..."
5. Conclude your reading with "The Word of the Lord".
6. Close the Lectionary and place it right under the Lectionary stand on the Ambo (to make room for the Book of the Gospels on the stand).
7. Proceed to your seat going to right of the Ambo (by the Baptismal Font). Do not bow.
8. 30 seconds after the Homily, proceed to the Ambo in the same manner as before (bowing to the Altar), and request that the assembly join you in the Creed by saying "Let us stand and profess our faith together" or, if already standing, "Let

- us profess our faith together”. Begin immediately with “We believe in One God...”. Knowing this prayer by heart is very helpful here.
9. While the Profession of Faith is being said, take the black binder out to be ready to read the Prayers of the Faithful (petitions).
 10. After Father’s introduction to the Prayers of the Faithful, read the prayers from the black binder.
 11. When you have finished, step back slightly from the Ambo and turn toward Father as he completes his prayer.
 12. Return to your seat on the right (between Ambo and Baptismal Font). Do not bow.

Recessional Flow:

After the final blessing and when Father begins his descent of the Sanctuary steps, take your same place as in the Processional at the foot of the Sanctuary steps (you will not be taking the Book of the Gospels in the Recessional).

Sing the Recessional song if you know it. Bow along with Father and the other ministers and then turn to face the assembly.

After the Altar Servers have started up the aisle the First Lector leaves the Sanctuary steps followed by the Second Lector. The Eucharistic Ministers then start their recession followed by Father.

SS. Peter and Paul parishioners are very grateful for your service in this ministry. They know it requires your time and commitment in prayerful preparation. We pray that His Spirit and His Word touch your heart and your tongue.