

Lector

To serve as a Lector you need to be a Catholic in good standing, having received, at a minimum, First Communion; or be Confirmed if you would normally have received that sacrament, have an understanding of the ministry, participate in the retreats/training and approval from the pastor.

All ministers must be thoughtful in determining what to wear when serving, appropriate attire would be dress shirts and slacks for men. For women, modest dresses, skirts or dress pants and blouses. If your attire is too tight or revealing, you may be asked not to serve that day. No shorts, jeans, t-shirts or flip flops.

BEFORE MASS

1. The week you are scheduled to Lector, prepare your readings by reviewing several times, including proclaiming it aloud. Use the Respond & Acclaim workbook for Lectors to understand the readings, and for pronunciation. If additional help is needed with pronunciation, go online to <https://bible.usccb.org/daily-bible-reading> and select Listen Podcast.
2. Arrive 15 minutes before Mass and sign in at the kiosk located at the back of the church near the vesting sacristy, make sure the other Lector is present. If not, prepare to proclaim the other reading.
3. One of the Lectors will take the lectionary up to the ambo 5 minutes before Mass and open it to the correct page.
4. Returning to the vesting sacristy, Lectors join in the prayer before Mass along with Father and other ministers.

DURING MASS

5. For the procession, when a deacon is present Lector #1 stands on the left and #2 on the right behind the altar servers. The deacon carries the Book of Gospels.
 - a. If a deacon is not present, one of the Lectors will elevate the Book of Gospels in the procession at the beginning of mass (preferably the tallest lector so the book can be seen.)
 - b. Once you have reached the bottom of the steps, the deacon or Lector does not pause but walks up the steps and places the Book of Gospels on the altar in the plexiglass stand. You return to stand with the Priest/Deacon.
6. When Father genuflects/bow, the Lectors genuflect/bow. Both Lectors go to the east side of the front pew.
7. When it is your turn to Lector, walk prayerfully to the steps and at the top of the stairs bow to the ALTAR. We bow to the altar during Mass because it represents Christ and serves as the center of the Eucharistic sacrifice.
8. Check the volume light at the back of the church when you first start reading:
 - a. no light: your voice is not registering; move the mic/your body closer and project your voice.
 - b. yellow/flashing: the mic is picking up your voice, but not all can hear you.
 - c. green: preferred volume so all parishioners can hear.
 - d. red: too loud

TIPS for proclaiming the Word of God:

- a. Pauses are helpful after:
 - i. A reading from the Book of (pause)
 - ii. At each paragraph break.
 - iii. At the end of the reading, before saying "The word of the Lord".
 - b. Use your voice to indicate punctuation:
 - i. "." voice drops
 - ii. "," when separating items in a list: consider how a list may sound
 - iii. "?" voice goes higher
 - iv. "!" voice is slightly louder, as in, excited
9. Before you begin, announce the scripture, as in "A Reading from Romans", while looking at the congregation. Once you have completed the scripture passage, pause before proclaiming "The Word of the Lord", again do this without reading. Wait until the congregation responds before turning the page or closing the book.
 10. After you are done reading, Lector #1 leaves the lectionary in place and again bows at the top of the steps to the altar, then returns to the lector pew/or to sit with their family. After Lector #2 is finished, s/he closes the lectionary and places it on the small table behind the wall where St. Theresa statue is located, bows to the ALTAR from the top of the steps and returns to the lector pew/or to sit with family.
 11. During the closing song, return to the front of the church, stand behind Father, bow/genuflect when Father does and process out in front of Father and behind the altar servers.

AFTER MASS

12. Return to the vesting sacristy to say the prayer after Mass.

AFTER TRAINING

13. Following training, you will receive an email with instructions on how to access Ministry Scheduler Pro. You will automatically be scheduled through Ministry Pro, so please update your profile with any dates you will be gone from the parish.
 - a. If you cannot fulfill your ministry when scheduled, request a sub in the Ministry Pro app as soon as possible.
 - b. If you prefer to select your own serving dates and ministry, you can do that on the app prior to the automatic scheduling date. Schedules are published on or about the 20th of the following months for the next three months: March, June, September, December