

Cathedral of St. Mary Lector Guidelines

THROUGHOUT THE WEEK:

- Pray! Practice! Practice! Practice!
- Read the accompanying explanations in the Workbook for Lectors, Gospel Readers, and Proclaimers of the Word for information regarding the background of readings and suggestions for appropriate emotions, pronunciation, and pauses. It is important that the pauses take into account the punctuation markings, as well.
- To further enhance your preparation, go to the USCCB website at bible.usccb.org/readings/calendar and click on the date you are scheduled to read to listen to an audio example.

UPON ARRIVAL (*at least 15-20 minutes early*):

- Inform the Celebrant that you are the Lector for the Mass and check your name off the schedule.
- Make sure the sound system and microphone at the Ambo are turned on.
- Make sure the clear plastic stand for the Book of the Gospels is on the altar.
- Place the Lectionary on the Ambo if it is not already there.
- Make sure the correct page of the Lectionary is marked by a ribbon.
- Locate the notebook containing the Prayers of the Faithful; read through them; inquire about correct pronunciation of unfamiliar names and other words; place on the shelf *inside* Ambo.
- Meet with the Celebrant and the other Ministers to pray together in Sacristy. Please be reverent before the prayer.

CARRYING IN THE BOOK OF GOSPELS:

- If a Deacon is present, he will carry in the Book of Gospels to the Altar.
- If a Deacon is *not* present, *you* will carry in the Book of Gospels, place it in the clear plastic stand, bow, and walk to your seat.

SIT WITH THE CONGREGATION:

- Be seated with the congregation and preferably on the St. Joseph side at either end of the pew. (The 4th pew on the St. Joseph side is reserved for liturgical ministers.)

FIRST AND SECOND READINGS:

- Before the First Reading, approach the Altar, from the center aisle, bow, and proceed to the Ambo to read.
- Following the First Reading, move back slightly from the Ambo, bow reverently, and silently pray a "Hail Mary" or a "Glory Be."
- If the Cantor sings the Responsorial Psalm, sit in the chair provided *if* you are the only Lector; otherwise, proclaim the Responsorial Psalm.
- NOTE: If there are two Lectors and you are the First Reader, return to your seat with the congregation following the First Reading.
- If you are the *only* Lector, do not bow again before the Second Reading.
- *If there are two Lectors* and you are the Second Reader, approach the Ambo, bow, and read the Second Reading.
- Following the Second Reading, again, place the Lectionary on the shelf *inside* the Ambo, move back slightly from the Ambo, bow reverently, and silently pray a "Hail Mary" or a "Glory Be."
- Return to your seat among the members of the congregation.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL (INTERCESSIONS):

- If there is a Deacon present, the Deacon will read the Prayers of the Faithful (the Intercessions).
- If there is no Deacon, you should approach the Ambo from the right side, so as not to attract attention, and be ready to read the prayers. (Start to approach the Ambo during the recitation of the last paragraph of the Nicene Creed.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The celebrant will read the announcements. (When the Bishop is the celebrant, the Deacon will read the announcements.)

AT THE END OF MASS:

- Return the Book of Gospels and the notebook with prayers to the Sacristy, being careful to place Book of Gospels on top as you carry the books reverently.
- If another Mass soon follows your Mass, mark the correct page for the First Reading in the Lectionary with the ribbon, then place the Lectionary on the shelf inside the ambo for the next Mass.
- If no Mass soon follows your Mass, also return the Lectionary to the Sacristy. If you carry all three books at the same time, place the Lectionary on top of the book with prayers and the Book of Gospels on top of the Lectionary.
- If this is the last Mass of the day or there is a space of several hours before the next Mass, make sure the sound system and microphone at the Ambo are turned off.
- **SIGN UP ONLINE** at stmarycathedral.com, then go to Ministries → Liturgical Ministries → then pick the Mass time of your choice. If you are not able to sign up for Mass by this process, you may always call the parish office at 307-635-9261 Ext. 2082. Signup cancels/changes can be made through Friday noon prior to the weekend. To make changes after that contact the parish office.

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