



January 27, 2020

## **LECTOR PROCEDURES**

“In the absence of an instituted lector, other lay people may be deputed to proclaim the readings from Sacred Scripture, people who are truly suited to carrying out this function and carefully prepared, so that by their hearing the readings from the sacred texts the faithful may conceive in their hearts a sweet and living affection for Sacred Scripture.”

*General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, Third Edition, n. 101

### **ASSIGNMENT**

Two lectors will be scheduled. The first lector will proclaim the first reading, and if there is no deacon will carry the Book of the Gospels in procession. The second lector will proclaim the second reading, and if there is no deacon will read the universal prayer.

- Notify the Parish Office of any weekends you will not be able to minister prior to the next schedule being prepared.
- If you are unexpectedly unable to lector at your assigned Mass, it is your responsibility to find a substitute. Contact lists are available from the Parish Office, and updated versions in the sacristy when new schedules are released.

### **PREPARATION**

Lectors should allow sufficient time to prepare in advance of the Mass at which they will be reading. The *Workbook for Lectors, Gospel Readers, and Proclaimers of the Word* provided to each lector is an excellent source for biblical, liturgical, and technical preparation.

- When there is a longer or shorter version of a reading, the presider will choose the version based on pastoral criterion of the capacity of the hearers, completeness of the text, and explanation in the homily. Always presume the longer reading has been chosen until instructed otherwise.
- When there are options of entirely different readings, prepare all the readings until the presider has indicated what will be used. The presider’s choice might not be determined in advance and prior to preparing his homily.

## **BEFORE MASS**

- Dress appropriately for liturgical ministry.
- Arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the start of Mass and sign in, going to the sacristy through the side steps and not through the sanctuary.
- Check that the readings are what you prepared.
- Once both lectors have arrived and checked the lectionary, the first lector places it on the ambo.
- If no deacon will be assisting, the second lector reviews the universal prayer and places it on the white marble shelf to the right of the ambo.
- When entering, exiting, or moving through the sanctuary outside of mass, reverence is given to the tabernacle. The appropriate reverence is a genuflection, but this is replaced by a bow if something is carried in your hands or if you physically cannot genuflect easily.

## **PROCESSION**

The procession waits in the sacristy until the presider is ready to move to the rear of the church. If there is a deacon assisting, the lectors follow behind the altar servers and side-by-side. If there is no deacon, then the second lector follows behind the altar servers and the first lector carries the Book of the Gospels separately, and immediately in front of the presider.

- The Book of the Gospels is carried slightly elevated, no higher than your eyes.
- Upon reaching the sanctuary the lectors genuflect and then go to their seats, allowing the rest of the procession to pass by first if necessary. If one lector cannot easily genuflect, both lectors should bow.
- If a lector is carrying the Book of the Gospels, they do not genuflect or pause at the sanctuary steps, but proceed behind the altar and place the Book of the Gospels upon it. They then bow to the altar and go to their seat, genuflecting as they leave the sanctuary.

## **PROCLAIMING**

During mass itself, the lectors should bow to the altar when entering or exiting the sanctuary. Proclaiming the reading should be done slowly and deliberately, with appropriate volume and articulation. Never intentionally add, change, or omit any word of Sacred Scripture. Pause briefly after “a reading from...” and before “the Word of Lord” to distinguish these from the text itself. Any adjustments to the microphone should be made to the solid, middle piece and not to the flexible top or bottom, which may create a feedback pop if adjusted while the microphone is on.

- The first lector briefly sits after the opening prayer before approaching the ambo.
- After the first reading, the lector turns the page to the second reading if necessary before leaving the ambo and returning to their seat.
- The second lector briefly pauses after the psalm has concluded before approaching the ambo.

- After the second reading, the lector places the lectionary on the white marble shelf to the right of the ambo, underneath the binder with the universal prayer if present, before leaving the ambo and returning to their seat.

### **UNIVERSAL PRAYER**

If there is no deacon assisting, the second lector approaches the ambo after the Creed concludes, bowing to the altar when entering and exiting the sanctuary. After the presider introduces the universal prayer the lector reads the universal prayer as given in the binder and the tab for that specific mass. At the conclusion of the universal prayer, the lector should remain at the ambo until the presider finishes the closing prayer.

### **CONCLUSION OF MASS**

The lectors do not take part in the closing procession. After the final hymn has concluded, return the Book of the Gospels, lectionary, and binder with the universal prayer to the sacristy.