

## **Church of Spirit of Life Instructions for Lectors**

Review the General Principles provided by the USCCB: <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/the-mass/order-of-mass/liturgy-of-the-word/the-lector-at-mass.cfm>

Helpful tips are also available here: <http://www.greatlectors.com/proclaimingtips.html>

### **Preparation**

- A. Prepare by reviewing the readings before the Mass. Readings are available at <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings>. A book of the readings is also available in the Sacristy, above the drawer containing the Book of the Gospels & Lectionary. Look up pronunciations of words that are unfamiliar to you. Ask the priest prior to Mass to confirm, if you are unsure.
- B. Dress appropriately for the role of Lector. Avoid jeans, sports teams, or athletic wear. Refer to GIRM,339:
- C. Arrive at least 20 minutes prior to the start of Mass. The prayer intentions page is typically on the counter; the Lectionary is typically in the drawer in the Sacristy. Sometimes the prayers page is left at the ambo from a previous Mass. Place the Lectionary on the ambo and the prayers page to the left or just below. Adjust the microphone for the appropriate height for you. Return to the Sacristy and have the Book of the Gospels ready for the Procession. If a Deacon is present, he will process with the Book of the Gospels.
- D. The priest will say a prayer with the lector, servers, and Eucharistic Ministers just prior to the procession in the Heritage Hallway.

### **Procession**

- A. Process behind the servers and just ahead of the priest at the beginning of Mass. Elevate the Book of the Gospels slightly above and in front of you as you process. As you approach the altar, proceed up the steps in front of the altar table, place the Book of the Gospels in the center of the altar, leaving room for the priest to kiss the altar cloth below the Book.
- B. Go to your seat with the congregation. It is best to sit close to the front on the ambo (north) side of the church for efficient access to the ambo during Mass.

### **Liturgy of the Word**

- A. After the opening prayer, approach the altar, bow, and walk up the steps to the ambo on the north side of the altar. Avoid going up in the front of the altar.
- B. Announce, "A reading from..." Read the first reading. Pause slightly before saying, "The Word of the Lord."
- C. Sit on the chair near the ambo during the Responsorial Psalm.
- D. When the Psalm is completed, return to the Ambo to proclaim the second reading. After the reading, close the Lectionary and place it on the shelf in the Ambo. Use the steps on the north side of the ambo, turn to bow, then return to your seat.

### **Prayers of the Faithful**

- A. If the Deacon is not present, return to the altar in the same manner as described above for the Prayers of the Faithful. It is recommended that you proceed to the ambo at the last paragraph of the Nicene Creed so that you are in place right away when the priest prays the introduction to the prayers of the faithful.
- B. Remain on the altar during the congregational prayer that is provided on both your page and on the screens.
- C. Return to your seat in the same manner as described above.

### **After Mass**

- A. It is helpful if you would return the Lectionary, Book of the Gospels, and prayers page to the Sacristy. The altar servers will remove the other items used for Liturgy of the Eucharist, etc.

**Thank you for your service to this important ministry!**