

## ST. JOSEPH PARISH

### ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LECTOR

NOVEMBER 20, 2021

#### DRESS:

- Appropriately — not to attract attention. NO tennis shoes, jeans, shorts, short skirts, tight fitting clothes or low, plunging neckline tops.
- Men — nice shirt, tie, slacks and/or suit coat/blazer, nice shoes.
- Women — skirt and blouse, dress, slacks and blouse, nice shoes.

#### ATTENDANCE:

- If you cannot make your assigned time, PLEASE GET A SUB. It is your responsibility to get one.
- It is the role of sacristan to make sure everyone is present. It is not fair to them to have to get a sub for you at the last minute.

#### PREPARATION AT HOME:

- Look over your reading in the Lectionary Workbook. Study the explanation of the reading down at the bottom or the side. Know the pronunciation of words and names, as well as where to pause when reading. If you do not know the pronunciation, ask the presider.
- Study what words have an inflection.
- Stand up and read and/or stand in front of a mirror while reading out loud.
- Read over the other reading, just in case the other lector does not show.

#### PREPARATION AT CHURCH BEFORE MASS:

- Arrive 20 minutes before the start of Mass.
- Sign in at the shelf in the hallway.
- Read over your reading in the Lectionary. It looks different than the workbook. Get used to it. Make sure you know what page number your reading is on, just in case the page gets flipped over.
- If there is no deacon at Mass, Lector 1 reads over the petitions and makes sure he/she knows how to pronounce the names. If there is a question, ask the presider for help.
- After both lectors have read their readings in the Lectionary, it should be put out on the Ambo with the petitions underneath the Lectionary.
- If there is no deacon at Mass, Lector 1 stays in the sacristy to be ready to carry the Book of Gospels in the procession. About 5 minutes before Mass, go back to the Gathering Area.

- Lector 2 goes to his/her seat and 5 minutes before Mass, goes back to Gathering Area to process in.

#### PROCESSION INTO CHURCH:

- If there is NO DEACON at Mass, the order of procession is: Altar servers, followed by Lector 2. Then Lector 1, who walks alone, carrying the Book of Gospels (held at level where you are able to just see over the top of the book). The front cover always faces away from you. You are followed by the presider.
- When Lector 2 reaches the steps, he/she bows and goes up the steps, walks in front of the Ambo and proceeds to a chair against the sacristy wall.
- Lector 1 does not bow and precedes the presider up the steps, around the right side of the altar to the back of the altar, places the Book of Gospels in the center of the altar, face down. Lector 1 then bows to the altar, turns and goes behind the Ambo to a chair next to Lector 2 against the sacristy wall.
- If there is a DEACON at Mass, the order of the procession is: Altar servers, then Lector 1 and 2 (walking side by side), followed by the deacon and the presider. The Deacon carries the Book of Gospels. At the first step Lector 1 and 2 bow and then proceed up the steps, walk before the Ambo to the chairs against the sacristy wall.

#### PROCEDURE AT MASS:

- Immediately after the Collect Prayer (which is the prayer the presider says after the Gloria is sung, or in the seasons of Lent and Advent, after the Penitential Rite), Lector 1 bows, approaches the Ambo and begins the 1st reading.
- After reading, bows, sits down.
- After the Responsorial Psalm is sung, Lector 2 bows, approaches the Ambo and begins the 2nd reading.
- When finished, puts the Lectionary on the side altar and (if there is NO DEACON) proceeds down the steps to the center of the middle aisle, bows and returns to his/her seat.
- If there is NO DEACON, Lector 1 stays in the sanctuary until after reading the Offertory Petitions.
- If there IS A DEACON, after the 2nd reading, both Lectors proceed down the steps, together, bow in the middle aisle and return to their seats.

#### OFFERTORY:

- If a Deacon is present, he reads the petitions.
- If a Deacon is not present, Lector 1 reads the petitions. If the priest says the Nicene Creed, at the end of it, the Lector bows proceeds to the Ambo. Turns toward the presider while he says the introductory prayer and then you turn to read the petitions. When Lector has finished reading, turn towards the presider again and wait until he says the prayer after the petitions, then go down the steps, bow in center of the middle aisle and proceed to your seat.

### PROCESSION OUT OF CHURCH:

- Lectors do not process out of church.
- The Book of Gospels is NOT carried out. We are the Word carrying ourselves out to the world.
- AFTER MASS the lector should go to the Ambo and carry the Lectionary and petitions back to the sacristy.

### TIPS ON READING:

- Stand close to Ambo and speak loud so your voice can be heard. Speaker is at top of Ambo.
- Stand erect.
- Proper enunciation is very important. People want to hear EVERY word.
- If you think you are talking too fast, slow down — do not rush through it.
- Eye contact is also very important. Keep your hand on the line you are reading, so that you can find your place again after looking at the congregation.

### LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULES:

The schedule is made up for about 3 months at a time and can be obtained on line on St. Joseph's website:

website: [www.sjohio.org](http://www.sjohio.org)  
select: pray  
select: liturgical ministries  
under: Looking for Minister Schedules  
click: Minister Schedule  
Password: holy call

### LECTOR WORKBOOKS:

- They are usually available in late October or early November.
- They begin with the beginning of the liturgical year, which begins the first Sunday of Advent.
- There is usually an announcement made.
- They can be picked up in the sacristy on the counter to the left as you walk in.
- Look for your name on one.