

Lector Guidelines St. Andrew 2013

Lectors are important ministers in our Catholic Community. We are a community built on the **Word of God**, and the readings from Scripture have a central place in our lives and worship. Thank you for offering this service to our community. The guidelines below will help you fulfill this service. These guidelines are for St. Andrew only and replace any and all earlier guidelines.

General Information

- Lectors should arrive in the sacristy **15 minutes before** the scheduled Eucharist. It is important for the sacristans and those responsible for scheduling ministers to know that the lectors are present in good time. Join with the other ministers in the South sacristy for prayer before the liturgy begins.
- If you are unable to keep your scheduled time to read, **it is your responsibility to find a substitute**. You should be provided a current list of all lectors so that you can find a substitute. The St. Andrew list can be found on the parish website
- Practice the reading before coming to Church. All lectors should have a copy of the *Workbook for Lectors* which presents not only the readings themselves but also a background on the readings and pronunciations so that they may be read to the assembly with full understanding.
- Lectors are public persons in the liturgy and should dress in Sunday clothes. For men, this means a dress shirt and tie, dress pants, and dress shoes. For women, this means the comparable level of dress; if wearing a skirt or dress, it must be at least knee length. Our clothes should neither call undue attention to ourselves nor detract from the liturgy.
- Lectors should participate fully in all parts of the Eucharist, helping to lead the assembly in the responses to the various prayers.

The Opening Procession with The Book of Gospels

- **When a deacon is not present**, the first reader who carries the Book of Gospels in the entrance procession should carry it above his or her head and with the cover facing the people. The procession with the Book of Gospels is meant to show the honor that we ascribe to God's Word. This lector should be immediately in front of the presider in the entrance procession, and behind the servers. Upon arriving at the base of the sanctuary, the lector bows with the procession first and then proceeds to place the Book of Gospels in the center of the altar face down. The lector then goes to his or her place in the assembly. Both lectors should sit up front close to the Sanctuary area.

The Scripture Readings

- At the time of the readings, the lector walks at a respectful pace to the ambo. Liturgical movement is neither hurried nor dragged. Should the lector cross in front of the altar, he or she bows to the altar and continues toward the ambo. At St Andrew, the first lector turns on the light switch upon entering the ambo. One should **not** bow to the tabernacle.
- Pause for a moment before beginning the reading. Adjust the microphone to the level of your nose; the distance of two fingers from the microphone.
- Read the reading slowly and with understanding. The temptation of most lectors is to read too quickly. Remind yourself each time you read at liturgy to speak more slowly than normal speech.
- After concluding the reading, pause for a moment and then look at the assembly and say with firmness and conviction, "The Word of the Lord." Then pause briefly before leaving the ambo and returning to your seat.
- The second reader removes the Lectionary from the ambo shelf and then after the reading places it back on the shelf. The first reader also places the Lectionary on the shelf after the first reading so that the cantor can use the stand for the psalm.

The General Intercessions

- **If a deacon is not present**, the second reader will also lead the assembly in the General Intercessions. It is important to read them carefully before Mass so that they will be presented clearly and with understanding. Check with the presider or sacristan if you have any question about the pronunciation of names. The lector who reads the Intercessions should quietly move toward the ambo during the creed, beginning at the phrase, "I believe in the Holy Spirit..." At the end of the creed wait for the Presider's introduction before reading the Intercessions, then stay at the ambo until the presider has finished the concluding prayer. Father Kevin has the lector or deacon announce the family bringing up the gifts at preparation. After announcing this family, turn off the light and return to your seat.