

LECTOR GUIDELINES

Lectors and commentators share in the mission of proclaiming God's word to the worshipping community.

The first Lector (L1) reads the First Reading and spoken Responsorial Psalm (when appropriate) and Intercessions.

The second Lector (L2) reads the Announcements at the beginning of Mass and the Second Reading.

GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Take time to read the readings for Mass at home. It is best to read all the readings, including the Gospel, to prepare for the Sunday Mass or Holyday. If possible, it is best to read the readings out loud and familiarize yourself with the words and phrases in the readings.

If you do not know how to pronounce a word, check the workbook page for help. In doubt, ask the priest before Mass.

If you know you will not be able to be present when scheduled, please call a substitute from the list of lectors.

Arrive 15 minutes early. Sign in on the list in the vestibule. If you are substituting, please indicate that on the sign-in sheet.

Look for the other lector or commentator. If they do not arrive, it may be necessary for you to assume their role.

Check that the lectionary is set to the proper readings for the day. This includes the lectionary for the first two readings and also the Book of the Gospels from which the priest will be reading. The lectionary should be open on the ambo.

Check that the intercessions and announcements are in the binder.

THE MASS

When it is time for Mass to begin, L2 is in the 2nd pew in the church (not part of the procession). When the servers and priest are lined up to come in, L2 reads the greeting and the announcements before the procession begins. L2 is not part of the procession. After the announcements, the choir announces the opening hymn and Mass begins. Please note, announcements are at the beginning of Mass.

During the procession, L1 follows the servers and carries the Book of the Gospels in front of the priest. When reaching sanctuary, L1 does not bow but goes directly into the sanctuary, crosses behind the

altar, and places the lectionary on the altar. L1 then joins L2 in the lector's pew behind the servers. When a deacon is part of the pass, the deacon will carry the Book of the Gospels.

When the priest and servers come to the foot of the steps they bow, and come into the sanctuary. NB. L1 is already in the sanctuary placing the book on the altar when this happens. L1 does not wait for the priest.

After the introductory rites and the opening prayer, it is time for the First Reading.

L1 comes into the sanctuary and reads the first reading.

(Please speak slowly into the microphone and project your voice so all are able to hear. If needed, practice at the ambo sometime before or after Mass in order to hear the sound of your voice over the microphone).

Following the First Reading the choir usually sings the Responsorial Psalm. If for some reason the choir is not singing the Responsorial Psalm, L1 should step back from the ambo after the First Reading, wait at least 30 seconds (look at your watch if it is a help) and read the Responsorial Psalm. Reading the Psalm instead of singing would be the exception rather than the rule, but L1 should always be prepared.

After the cantor has finished the Responsorial Psalm, L2 comes to the ambo and proclaims the Second Reading. There is no large pause between the Psalm and the beginning of the Second Reading.

After the Second Reading, L2 places the Lectionary on the shelf under the ambo. This makes space for the Book of the Gospels proclaimed by the priest.

The homily and Creed follow. At the final words of the Creed L1 is positioned at the ambo to read the Intercessions. L1 should already be at the ambo when the Creed is finished. There should not be a pause waiting for the lector to go to the ambo.

At the beginning of the collection, L1 reads the stewardship intention for the day. When a deacon is part of the mass, the deacon will read the stewardship intention for the day in place of L1.

RECESSIONAL

After the priest reverences the altar, the priest, servers and L1 come to the front of the altar, bow and process out of church. The servers lead, followed by the L1, followed by the priest. L2 remains in the lector's pew.

The book of the Gospel and the Lectionary are not carried in procession at the end of Mass.

Please make sure the books and announcements are in place if there is a Mass following. Otherwise, after Mass is over, please return the Lectionaries and Book of Gospels and Binder to the sacristy.

Lector Resources

The number one resource that Lectors use for preparation is the Lector Workbook, which is handed out at the training. The Lector Workbook helps with reading preparation through

- pronunciation assistance
- sense line format for readings mirror the Lectionary and aid the reader in preparation
- lectionary numbers for each set of readings
- commentaries for each reading, provide users with scriptural background
- information and tips for effective proclamation
- margin notes point to the logical divisions in the passages
- bolded words help the reader know when to stress important sections and concepts

Lector Schedules and sub lists are sent periodically to each Lector. It is the responsibility of the Lector to find trades or subs for dates that they cannot make. When trades or subs are made, please call or email Carole so that she is aware of the change.

The St. Catherine of Genoa website has a number of additional resources available on the Lector portion of the Ministries page - <http://www.st-catherine-genoa.org/ministries.htm#Lector>. This includes

- Lector Training Guidelines (This document).
- Link to the Lector page on the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website. This site has links to the complete text and audio for the current lector readings, as well as video reflections on those readings. There is also a link to sign up for the daily mass readings audio podcast. Clicking on a date in the calendar allows you to view the readings from the selected date.
- Biblical Pronunciation Guide website: This site has audio clips of all those hard to pronounce biblical words.
- Lector Prep website: This site provides some additional information on each week's readings.
- Laudate Smartphone App: This app is free and available for both Android and iPhone. It has many features including text and Podcast versions of the Daily Mass Readings.