

## New Instructions for Lectors and Commentators

Please note that where your name appears on the schedule does not reflect who the lector is and who the commentator is. Please swap with each other so that both of serve in both capacities. Also, please let your partner know if you will not be there and who will be serving in your place.

### 1. Before mass – Please arrive 20 minutes early, dressed appropriately.

1. If you are the **lector** use this time to look over the readings in the lectionary and place it, opened, on the ambo. Be mindful of what Sunday we are celebrating and in what liturgical cycle we are. Adjust the microphone if necessary.

2. If you are the **commentator**, use this time to look over the introduction, the prayers of petition and the announcements. If there are names, please be sure that you know how to pronounce them correctly. Check with Father to see if someone other than you will be making any special announcements at the end of Mass.

### 2. Movements during Mass

1. To begin the call to worship the **commentator** should approach the altar from the center aisle, bow to the altar and then proceed to the lectern.

2. The **lector** will process in carrying the Book of Gospels, slightly elevated. There should be a little distance between the lector and the cross bearer. Upon reaching the altar, the lector keeps going, steps up and places the Book of Gospels in the holder and returns to bow with Father and the altar servers.

3. When the Liturgy of the Word is to begin, the **lector** should sit and wait until everyone is seated before standing and going to the ambo. Bow to the ambo **before** stepping into the altar area to read.

4. At the 5:30 PM Saturday Mass or any Mass where there is no music, there is no need to announce the responsorial psalm. For example you **should not** say “The responsorial psalm is *I will sing of your salvation*”. Instead, you should only say “*I will sing of your salvation*”.

5. The **lector** should remove the lectionary from the ambo after reading, close it, and place it on the shelf below. Try to avoid hitting the microphone. This takes practice.

6. After reading, bow to the ambo **again** and then return to your seat.

7. The **commentator** should wait until we are finished praying The Creed before moving to the lectern for the Universal Prayers (Prayers of the Faithful).

8. The **commentator** should move toward the lectern for announcements as the children are finishing receiving their bulletins. You should wait until Father returns to his chair before beginning. Generally, if anyone is making a “special announcement” they will precede you.

9. After Mass, the lector should remove the lectionary and the Book of Gospels from the ambo and return them to the sacristy. If there has been an RCIA dismissal, only one of the two books will still be in church. The other has left with the dismissal catechist and he or she will return it to the sacristy.

### **3. Silence**

The Liturgy of the Word is to be celebrated in such a way as to favor meditation. Any kind of haste is to be clearly avoided and as such brief periods of silence are appropriate.

- There should be a 5-7 second pause at the end of the reading before saying “The Word of the Lord”.
- There should be an ample period of silence before beginning the Responsorial Psalm, and again before beginning the second reading.
- During the Universal Prayers (Prayers of the Faithful) there should be a brief period of silence after our “personal silent petitions” before saying “We pray”.

### **4. Prepare, prepare, prepare!**

**Resources:** There are three copies of the **Workbook for Lectors, Gospel Readers and Proclaimers of the Word** in the Sacristy for your use. If you take one home, please return it. If you would like to purchase your own copy the information is below. The pronunciation guide, the website of the USCCB, and the Laudate App are also great resources.

#### **Workbook for Lectors, Gospel Readers and Proclaimers of the Word**

Liturgy Training Publications, [www.LTP.org](http://www.LTP.org) \$14

#### **Pronunciation Guide for the Lectionary**

Liturgy Training Publications, [www.LTP.org](http://www.LTP.org) \$5

#### **United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)**

[usccb.org/bible/readings](http://usccb.org/bible/readings) audio is available

#### **Apps for Apple and Android Phones**

Laudate audio is available on a podcast on this app