



LECTOR

Standard Procedures

1. Be there! If you are unable to attend your scheduled Mass, please try to find a substitute.
2. Prepare! Preparation and rehearsal are critical. Remember, we are proclaiming the Word, not just reading it. Refer to Proclaiming the Word article for help.
3. Arrive 10 minutes before Mass begins. Inform the priest that you are the Lector.
4. If necessary, rehearse reading one more time and confirm pronunciation of difficult words or names from the reading.
5. When the reading time arrives, proceed towards the lectern, pausing briefly to bow before the altar.
6. Announce "A Reading from..." then pause briefly. Turn to the priest and say "May I have your blessing Father."
7. After the priest blesses you, begin the actual reading. Refer to Proclaiming the Word article for tips.
8. After you have completed the reading, pause momentarily, look at the congregation and announce "The Word of the Lord."
9. Step down from the lectern and return to your seat, bowing briefly towards the altar.

Proclaiming the Word

1. Be prepared. Spend time during the week leading up to Mass looking over the reading you have been assigned. Use available web sites to get an understanding of the reading and the historical context. This will help you proclaim the word as it was intended.
2. Break the reading down and decide where you may need to provide extra emphasis, perhaps an extended pause, to allow the congregation to reflect on the reading.
3. Start strong and confidently. Memorize the introduction to the reading (e.g. "A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians.") Memorize the first line of the reading so that you can begin the reading maintaining good eye contact with the congregation.
4. Read SLOWLY. People have a tendency to read too fast. Deliberately pause at natural breaks in the reading to allow the congregation time to absorb the reading.
5. Your goal should be to proclaim the reading in such a way as to have the congregation listen to you, rather than read along in their missals.
6. In the end, as Lectors we are not intended to be actors. Do not be overly dramatic in proclaiming the reading as that can become distracting to the congregation.