

SAINT JOHN XXIII PARISH

LECTORS' GUIDELINES

"The Church has always venerated the Divine Scriptures just as she venerates the Body of Christ, since from the table of both Word of God and of the Body of Christ she unceasingly receives and offers to the faithful the bread of life, especially in the sacred liturgy" (Vatican II Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation No 21 (Dei Verbum))

LECTOR'S DUTIES AT ALL MASSES

- 1) During the pandemic, there is only one lector per mass.
- 2) During the week, you will receive a reminder email from the Lector Coordinator that you will be a lector for the coming weekend, with a link to the readings. If you are unable to read as scheduled, it is your responsibility to arrange an exchange with another lector. Report changes to the Lector Coordinator Gina Powell, so that she can inform the sacristan to update the Sacristy duty roster. Currently, our sacristan is Cecilia Cuello and assisted by Menchie Castillo.
- 3) ARRIVE 15 MINUTES BEFORE MASS IS DUE TO BEGIN AND SIGN IN AT THE SACRISTY.
Find the sacristan to let her know you are there. If you don't arrive in time or give notice of possible late arrival, the sacristan will appoint another lector in your place. Please accept this substitution with good grace. Even if you are not scheduled to read, to assist the sacristan, tell her that you are present.

4) APPROACHING THE SANCTUARY TO PROCLAIM THE WORD

The lector approaches the sanctuary after the Collect (Opening Prayer), venerates the altar, reads the first reading, followed by the Psalm, then continues on to read the second reading.

Before starting to read, wait for people to settle, achieve a good degree of silence, claim your space, assume correct posture, and take several deep breaths. Read from the Lectionary.

5) HOW TO INTRODUCE AND END THE READINGS

Read as printed in the Lectionary:

e.g. "A READING FROM THE PROPHET EZEKIEL". No variations please.

Pause at the end of the passage for at least five seconds, look up and say "The Word of the Lord". Do not raise the Lectionary.

After the congregation's response "Thanks be to God" pause again for 5 seconds before you go on to read the Psalm, followed by the second reading.

After the second reading, leave the sanctuary via the lectern side and return to your seat.

6) **RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Never introduce the Responsorial Psalm. Just read the response, the congregation will repeat it. To give guidance, say the response with the congregation after each verse.

7) **ALLELUIA or Acclamation**

There is no Alleluia.

8) **BIDDING PRAYERS (Prayers of the Faithful)**

The celebrant will say the Prayers of the Faithful.

9) **THOROUGH PREPARATION**

Reading the texts for ten minutes before Mass is not preparation.

- Several days beforehand, read the entire readings for the Mass. Look up your readings in the Bible and see where they came from – what goes before and after.
- Read the passages aloud several times before coming to Church to make sure that you understand the sense and punctuation of the piece. Practice where you are going to pause and where you are going to draw breath.
- Telephone the priest or another lector if you have trouble pronouncing words in the passage.
- Meditate on the message and pray for guidance in delivering it successfully.

10) **DRESS CODE**

- No formal dress code. Some choose to dress formally for Easter, Christmas, and other important Masses.
- Use your common sense and good judgment.

11) **DELIVERY**

- Deliver the reading as a personal message. You are the mouthpiece of the Lord.
- Speak slowly and enunciate each word clearly, do not “swallow” the endings of words or sentences.
- Vary your tone to bring out the meaning of the passage.
- Accentuate key words and phrases.
- Use pauses to emphasize meaning.
- Project your voice, but without shouting, speak up and out.
- No hand movements, no “dramatic” delivery
- Look up and out into the congregation from time to time (make eye contact).
- Be reverent. Your attitude on the altar is all important.