

# Early Preparation

Lectors need to prepare well in advance for their reading, starting at least one week ahead of time. This preparation is necessary to fully comprehend the readings and thus be able to proclaim the word of God more effectively. Be familiar with the Introduction to the lector workbook.

## Other Preparation Tips

- ◆ Please arrive at church at least 15 minutes before the Mass begins.
- ◆ Pre-read the intercessions (first reader) and the announcements (second reader) to correctly pronounce all words and names (a copy of the intercessions and announcements is on the shelf of the credence table in the Day Chapel for practice as well as the Cantor Lectern). The intercessions will be read by the deacon if one is present. If you are uncertain about the correct pronunciation of a name or word, please check with the priest or other parishioner.
- ◆ Please note that the text format in the lectionary is slightly different than in the lector workbook. It is a good idea to familiarize yourself with the reading in the lectionary before Mass.

## Before Mass

### *5:00 PM and 7:30 AM Masses*

Move the lectionary from the priest's sacristy to the ambo and open it to the first reading. Take the gospel book to the entrance table and mark the gospel reading for the day.

### *9:00 AM, 10:45 AM, 12:15 PM Masses*

Be sure that the lectionary is marked for the first reading and the gospel book is marked with the correct gospel reading. Return the gospel book to the entrance table to prepare for the opening procession.

## The Procession

- ◆ The order of procession is as follows: cross bearer, servers, Eucharistic ministers, lectors, and the presider.
- ◆ Gospel book should be carried just below chin-level. Hold the Gospel book by the two lower corners with the front of the book facing away from you.
- ◆ While processing in, the lector carrying the Gospel book (if a deacon is present he will carry the Gospel book) stands on the right and the second lector stands on the left. Both lectors pause at the altar steps and step to the left to make room for the presider. The lector carrying the book does not bow.
- ◆ After the presider bows, the lector carrying the book should process straight up the steps of the altar and place the book on it—with the book standing upright.

## During Mass

### *The First Reading*

- ◆ Do not carry anything with you (like a missalette) as you approach the ambo. Establish and maintain eye contact as you proclaim: "A reading from . . ." Then begin the reading. You should look out at the assembly as you proclaim the reading.
- ◆ After the reading pause, then slowly and distinctly, you say: "The Word of the Lord." Continue looking at the assembly until they respond: "Thanks be to God." Then make sure the book is ready for the next reader and return to your seat.

### *Between Readings*

- ◆ At the 7:30 AM Mass the first reader should read the responsorial psalm from the ambo. At home you may use a missalette to practice reading the psalm. At church always read from the lectionary.
- ◆ At all other Masses, simply return to your seat and sing the psalm with the assembly.

### *The Second Reading*

- ◆ Same procedure as with the first reading.
- ◆ After the reading, close the lectionary and place it on the lower shelf to make room for the Gospel book.

### *The Intercessions*

- ◆ The deacon should read the intercessions when present.
- ◆ If no deacon is present, approach the lower lectern during the Nicene creed.
- ◆ Intercessions are always read from the lower lectern.
- ◆ After each intercession, maintain eye contact until the assembly responds with: "Lord hear our prayer."
- ◆ After completing the intercessions, turn the page to the announcements. Step down from the lectern while the priest completes the prayer.
- ◆ After the priest concludes the prayer, return to your seat.

### *The Announcements*

- ◆ After communion, approach the lectern when the presider stands for the prayer. As soon as the prayer is finished the presider will look to you to begin the announcements.
- ◆ Announcements are always read from the lower lectern.

### **After Mass**

- ◆ One lector reverently retrieves the Gospel book from the altar and places it on the table at the entrance to the worship space.
- 5:00 PM and 12:15 Masses Only*

- ◆ One lector reverently retrieves the Gospel book and the lectionary from the ambo and returns them to the priest's sacristy.

### **General Information**

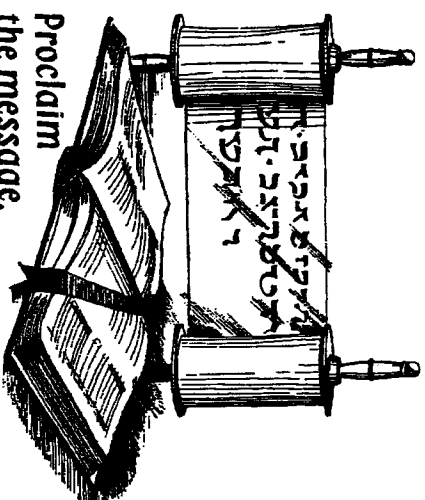
- Dress modestly in your Sunday best.
- Good posture is important. Stand with both feet on the floor.
- Communicate with your co-lector before Mass.
- Always get a replacement if you are unable to fulfill your commitment. Two lectors at each Mass is strongly preferred.
- Lectors have an open invitation to meet with the RCIA leaders each Saturday at 9:00 AM in the library to discuss the week's scriptures.

If you have any questions please contact:



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# LECTOR GUIDELINES



**Proclaim  
the message.**

**St. Charles Borromeo Parish**