

CDM Lector Guidelines

updated August 2011

General Ministry Information:

1. Each lector is responsible to serve when rostered. In the event he/she is unable to serve, courtesy and common sense dictate that he/she to find a substitute, or switch with another lector.

2. Your respect for God and his people should be reflected in your appearance and attire. Please note:

~ no T-shirts, tank tops, muscle shirts, or halters; shorts; blue jeans; apparel with signs, logos, messages or athletic shoes. Jewellery and clothing that would be distracting to the assembly should not be worn.

3. Lectors should sit at the designated location near the ambo.

4. A Liturgical Minister may perform only **one liturgical ministry at a time**, at a Mass. Thus, if you are the lector at Mass, you may not also perform the function of an usher, or extraordinary minister of Holy Communion at the same Mass.

5. Please update the MC if you are substituting someone to read.

6. Prayer, preparation, and practice are the keys to your being an effective proclaimer of God's Word:

a) Pray that you proclaim the Word as God wills it be proclaimed.

b) Prepare well for your reading, reviewing the context of the passage; what happens before or after. Please refer to the links in CDM website for other sources.

c) Practice your reading aloud in the presence of another, who will be able to give you a critique of your proclamation. This will maximize your ability to effectively proclaim God's Word. Lectors should be preparing the readings at least a week prior. Practice making eye contact with the assembly. Remember you want to capture the attention of the assembly, so that the members of the assembly hear the Word of God and can reflect on the words being spoken to them.

d) The readings are printed in sense lines and should be read as such. Avoid at all costs reading words in groups of three, thus destroying the sense of the sentences.

Before Mass Information:

7. Arrive in church at least 15 minutes prior to Mass time. Inform the MC if you are substituting another lector to read.

8. Lectors on duty must look out for one another and quickly steps in to get a substitute in the case of a 'no-show'. Alternatively, the lector present has to be prepared to do both readings should a substitute is not able to be found.

9. Check the lectionary on the ambo and be sure that it is marked to the correct readings.

At Mass Information:

10. The 1st lector is to come forward from the pew after the Opening Prayer is concluded and the celebrant takes his seat at the presiders' chair. When there is a reverent quiet evident, the 1st lector proclaims the first reading, making eye contact with the assembly when announcing the reading “*Uh* reading..” rather than “*Ay* reading..” and when saying “The word of the Lord.” and its response by the people of “Thanks be to God.” When finished, the lector bows at the lectionary & returns to his/her seat within at the pew. In the event that the Psalm is not sung, the 1st lector will have to recite the Psalm at the ambo. Check with the priest especially on special masses.

11. The 2nd lector is to come forward from the pew after the responsorial psalm is sung. When there is a reverent quiet evident again, the 2nd reading is to be proclaimed. When finished with this reading, the lector bows to the lectionary & closes the lectionary and places it into the shelf.

12. Lectors are expected to remain in their designated seats and participate in the Mass until the end. Procession out together with the Altar boys, Communion Ministers & the priest. Wait at the entrance and bow to the priest together with the rest.

After Mass Information:

13. Do a mini self-evaluation by asking: "did I proclaim the meaning of the Scriptures, or merely read the words? Did I effectively communicate to the assembly God's word of salvation using all the skills available to me? What can I do to improve the next time?"