

# St. James Lector Ministry

## PROCEDURES FOR ST. JAMES LECTORS

### PREPARATION:

Pray, prepare, and practice so you can proclaim the Word of God in a way that is meaningful for all who hear you. Your voice will be strong and clear if you get a good night's rest, avoid milk products, and drink plenty of water before your Mass. Help others understand you better by practicing enunciation and relaxation exercises.

You are the instrument God is using to bring His message to the congregation. Make sure all can hear and understand you.

### ATTIRE:

Lectors are proclaiming the word of God, so dress appropriately. You might even try to coordinate the color you wear with the liturgical color of the season (check the Parish Calendar for this information).

### WHEN TO ARRIVE?

Please arrive twenty minutes before Mass. Check in so the sacristan knows you've arrived and can tell you of any special procedures scheduled for your Mass. If possible, sit as close to the ambo as you can.

### WHO PUTS THE READING BOOK ON THE AMBO?

The sacristan usually has the reading book open on the ambo. But it's always good to check before Mass to make sure it's there and open to the correct page.

### WHO CARRIES IN THE GOSPEL BOOK?

Usually whoever is proclaiming the first scripture. Lead the procession, holding the book above your head for all to see. After placing it in the stand on the altar, turn and line up next to the servers and wait for the presider to join the line. Bow when he does and go to your seat.

### WHEN DO WE GO UP TO PROCLAIM OUR READING?

After the presider is seated, the first lector makes his/her way to the ambo. The second reader should wait until the cantor has finished the responsorial psalms and returned to his/her seat before making his/her way up to the ambo. Never rush!

### WHAT DO WE DO AFTER WE'VE FINISHED THE READING?

If you're proclaiming the first reading, move the ribbon and or turn the page so the second reading is prominent.

If you're proclaiming the second reading, close the book and place it on the second shelf to make room for the Gospel book.

Then return to your seat.

## WHAT DO WE DO AFTER MASS?

After Mass the lectors should pick up the collection basket from in front of the altar and the children's offering from the bowl in front of the ambo, and take both to the sacristy where there are bank money bags and a plastic bag. Put plastic bag with the children's offering and the collection basket money in a bank bag and hand it to the presider. One of the lectors is to accompany the presider to the safe for deposit. Return the basket to the back of the church with the individual collection baskets. Return the Gospel book to the table in the back of the church or if you are at the last Mass, put it in the vestment room.

## WHAT IF YOU CANNOT LECTOR AT YOUR REGULAR DAY/TIME?

We ask lectors to **try to find their own replacements**. First try calling one of the lectors listed as substitutes. Then try switching with a lector who usually reads on another Sunday at your same time. If you can't find a replacement, call Dick or Mary Loy Brown.

## HOW DO YOU DECIDE WHO READS WHICH READING?

The easiest way is to rotate each month. You can also determine whether a particular reading would be more effectively read by one or the other, i.e., male voice vs. female; adult vs. youth; low-pitched vs. high.

### *Prayer for Lectors*

*Lord, invest me with Your Power  
as I prepare to proclaim Your Message.  
I will try to hold within me  
the meaning of Your Words,  
With Your help I will communicate,  
not just with my lips, but  
with my whole heart and soul.*

*Lord, make me a hollow reed,  
a vessel to carry Your voice to Your people.  
Free me of excessive concerns  
for my performance.  
Help me instead to concentrate  
on delivering your Sacred Message.  
Turn all my apprehension and nervousness  
into an energy for proclaiming Your Word  
with power and authority.*

*May Your Spirit fill me*

as it fills the holy words I am about to  
proclaim.

*Amen*