

Lector Training

St. Thomas More Newman Center

Thank you for choosing to serve the parish in this very important ministry.

Please arrive at church at LEAST 10 min. before mass. It is very stressful for the Mass Coordinator (MC) to not know if the Lectors will be there.

If you cannot serve on a scheduled day, it is your responsibility to find a sub. If you become ill or have an emergency the morning/day of serving, please notify the MC if you are unable to contact or get a replacement (MC's have and make available a contact list for the mass they coordinate).

When you arrive at church, please check your name off in the sacristy so that the MC knows who all is there.

L I – Get the [Book of Gospels](#). This is the thinner red book with the icon on front that is in the nook to the left of the Altar. You need to get this when you come in. Also, check [to make sure the clear holder for the book is on the altar](#).

L II – make sure the [Prayers of the Faithful are at the Ambo](#). There is also a copy in the sacristy to review beforehand. On occasion, there are none, in which case the priest will say them.

About 5 min before the start of mass, assemble at the back of the church. There is typically a short prayer with the priest, AS, and Lectors.

The Altar Server (AS) always carries the cross: L I carries the Book of the Gospels; L II processes in

PROCESSION ORDER*:

Altar Server goes first with cross

AS will go to the right of the Altar

LECTOR I with [Book of Gospels](#)

[L I will to the left of the altar](#)

LECTOR II

[L II can go to either side of the AS or L I](#) (go to the side you are sitting on)

Priest

Goes to the center (if there is more than 1 priest, be sure to leave extra room in the center)

** There may be times during the year where others are part of the procession. The pries will clarify the order*

AS takes the cross to the stand, **L I** takes the book and from either the side or back, places it in the holder. **L II bows and goes to seat. L I exits the altar, bows and goes to seat.** Please try to avoid having to cross in front of the altar.

After the Priest says the opening Prayer and as the congregation sits, **L I approaches the altar, bows and steps to the ambo. Try to speak into the mic and use a strong voice if yours is soft. Finish with "The Word of the Lord". Exit the altar, bow and return to your seat.**

L II - After the Psalm is sung, allow a couple seconds before getting up (unless you are in the back of the church) and **approach the altar. Bow, take your place at the ambo. Again, speak clearly so as to be heard. *** L II needs to put the Lectern in the shelf on the Ambo. Exit the altar, bow and return to your seat.**

After the Profession of Faith (Creed) **L II reads the Prayers of the Faithful.** Approach the Altar as before. **Take the Prayers out from the shelf in the Ambo** and take a moment, then begin. Conclude each prayer with "We pray to the Lord." After the last prayer, there is usually something to the order of "And for your prayers". There will be pauses in between people's prayers, and it can be hard to know when people are done. I usually **wait about 4 sec. and if no one offers more prayers, say the final prayer** – something to the order of "For these and all the prayers we hold in the silence of our hearts, we pray to the Lord" (this is on the Prayers of the Faithful – you don't have to remember it!). **STAY at the Ambo while the priest says the concluding prayer. Then put the prayers back under and exit as before.**

That's it!

Lector Training

1. Prepare

- a. Corinne orders Workbooks for Lectors. Be sure you get one, they are immensely helpful
- b. At least a day ahead, make time to review your reading. Make this a prayerful preparation – quiet space without distractions. Read though quietly, for understanding. Then read the notes at bottom of the page in the Workbook. This helps provide context.
- c. Ask yourself “What kind of reading is this?” Is it a parable, a letter to a group of people providing instruction or encouragement, a dialogue, monologue, etc.? This helps inform your reading and delivery:
“In texts that are to be pronounced in a loud and clear voice, whether by the Priest or the Deacon, or by a reader, or by everyone, the voice should correspond to the genre of the text itself, that is, depending upon whether it is a reading, a prayer, an explanatory comment, an acclamation, or a sung text; it should also be suited to the form of celebration and to the solemnity of the gathering. Consideration should also be given to the characteristics of different languages and of the culture of different peoples.” (United States Conference of Bishops- GIRM, no. 38).
- d. Read through again. Read the notes to the left of the text for points of emphasis, pronunciation. Do this several times until you become comfortable with the text.

2. Practice

- a. Read aloud, finding places for inflection, pause, emphasis, tone change (anger sounds different than rejoicing). Don't become overly dramatic, but use your voice to convey the message.
- b. Eye contact is important. Familiarity with the text allows that. Try to focus on different parts of the congregation, not always looking in the same place. Don't forget the choir.
- c. Take your time. Read deliberately. If you make a mistake, just go back and read it correctly. Do not insert or change words (intentionally).
- d. Pause before saying “The Word of the Lord.”

Readings for practice

1. Corinthians 13: 1-13
2. Galatians 5:16-25 (May 24 reading II)
3. Baruch 3:9-15 (Reading VI Easter Vigil)
4. Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13 (reading II Easter Vigil)
5. Job 7:1-4, 6-7 (Feb. 8 reading 1)
6. Romans 1:1-7

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

Romans 1: 1-7

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the service of the gospel that God promised long ago through his prophets in the holy scriptures, this is the gospel concerning his Son who, in terms of human nature was born a descendant of David and who, in terms of the Spirit and of holiness, was designated Son of God in power by resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ, our Lord, through whom we have received grace and our apostolic mission of winning the obedience of faith among all the nations for the honor of his name. You are among these, and by his call you belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, God's beloved in Rome, called to be his holy people. Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.