

St. Nicholas of Myra Lectors (June 2024)

As a lector, your ministry is not to just read the scripture to the assembly, but to proclaim the story and tell of the event from salvation history. This ministry should be approached through prayer and reflection as you share with the assembly a message that they will take from the church and reflect on throughout the week. Remember the three “P’s...Prayer, Practice, and Proclaim. Prayer about your reading so you can put your heart and soul into it. Practice reading out loud several times during the week. Finally proclaim the reading by projecting your voice.

GUIDELINES:

If you are unable to lector for the assigning Mass, please find a substitute at stnicksministry@gmail.com. Terri Braun will send you a list of substitutes that you can call.

You can find the readings for Mass anytime at the United States Catholic Conference of Catholic Bishops’ website usccb.org. Another helpful tool is the yearly “Workbook for Lectors” published by LTP(Liturgy Training Publications). You can order this online or ask the parish office about purchasing a copy.

There is a great difference between reading the scriptures and being able to proclaim the scriptures. You are invited to read and practice your reading on a daily basis so you will be able to proclaim the word well. Most of all spend some time praying about the readings and discerning what God is trying to say to you and the people gathering at Mass.

On the day that you are scheduled, be at the church 30 minutes before Mass. Please check the schedule in the sacristy to make sure the other lector is present. If the other lector is not present, you will be asked to proclaim both the first and second reading. You can sit anywhere you like but make sure you have easy access to get up and start toward the ambo. You also need to check the lectionary before Mass to make sure you’re proclaiming the right reading.

First Lector:

Following the opening prayer, you need to approach the ambo making a solemn bow or bow from the waist before coming up the steps. Pause momentarily so that there is a quiet readiness for the Word of God to be shared. Look at the congregation first before you begin your reading. This moment of silence is a

powerful sign that something important is about to happen. You begin "A reading from ..." This is not a part of the reading, it is an announcement. There is no need to read it from the page.

Do not rush immediately into the text. Wait a moment before proceeding and proclaim slowly and with deliberate changes in speed and emphasis. At the conclusion of the reading, wait a moment before saying "The Word of the Lord." Again, this is not a part of the reading; it is an invitation to a response from the assembly. After your reading, turn the yellow ribbon and page to the right reading for the second lector. Then take a step back from the ambo for a moment of silence and then proceed down the steps again stopping to make a solemn bow. . Then proceed to your pew.

Second Lector:

The second reading is to begin right after the responsorial psalm. After the responsorial psalm has ended, leave your pew and approach the ambo. Again make a solemn bow or a bow from the waist before reaching the steps. Follow the same instructions listed above for proclaiming the second reading. After the second reading, the lector takes the lectionary and prayerfully closes it and places it on one of the shelves below the ambo. Then they make a solemn bow and head back to their pew. In the situation where there is no deacon to read the Prayers of the Faithful, as the Creed is finishing please get out of your pew and head to the ambo. For the Prayers of the Faithful, Father will pray an opening prayer and then you read the "Prayers of the Faithful" or intercessions. After a closing prayer head to the bottom step and make a bow and head back to your pew.

Thank you for sharing your time and talent in this ministry.