

## **CHURCH OF SAINT MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION**

Waco, Texas

### **Guidelines For Lectors**

As a special Minister of the Word (Lector) at St. Mary's Parish you have been asked to perform a most meaningful function in the Mass. Along with this privilege comes responsibility.

The following instructions are offered to help each of us better fulfill our duties in as uniform a manner as possible as this gives dignity to our actions in glorifying God. Please read these instructions carefully and then keep them handy so that you have reference to them in the future.

Each quarter, you will be provided with a schedule for serving. If you are unable to keep your scheduled time, please attempt to get a substitute on your own. You will be furnished a list of current Lectors at St. Mary's with telephone numbers that you may use to assist in obtaining a substitute.

You will also be furnished a guidebook that contains the readings, along with a pronunciation guide. Please prepare for your readings, in advance, through prayer, study and practice.

When you serve in this ministry at Mass, please remember to show reverence for the sacredness of the Scriptures in your manner of dress and decorum.

Please arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the beginning of the Mass at which you are scheduled to read.

When you arrive, please:

- Obtain a medallion from the cabinet in the vestry to be worn around the neck.
- Perform a final review of the readings prior to the beginning of Mass.
- Ensure that the Lectionary is on the Ambo, opened to the proper page, and that the General Intercessions are on the Lectionary stand. Do not carry these in with you as you process in at the beginning of Mass.

In the entrance procession you will follow the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. When you arrive at the altar area, walk to the right and pause, facing the altar. When the priest and deacon bow, you should also bow. Then proceed to the first pew on the organ side of the church.

In the absence of a deacon you are to carry in the Book of the Gospels, held up high in front of you. You do not bow when you are carrying the Book of Gospels. After reverencing the altar, place the Book of the Gospels on the altar in the stand provided for it. Then proceed to your seat.

At the appointed time for the reading, proceed to the Ambo without any undue length of time.

Following are some helpful hints for proclaiming the reading:

- Adjust the microphone to your level. Speak into the microphone, but do not get too close – about 1-2” from your mouth should be sufficient.
- Read slowly – VERY SLOWLY – it might seem to you that you are dragging, but remember it is important that people understand what you are saying. Read slow and read with understanding and feeling. This can be done more easily if the readings are gone over prior to the Mass.
- Begin each of the two readings by saying, “A reading from...”
- End each reading with “The Word of the Lord.”

After your readings, place the Lectionary on the table beside the steps. As the priest or deacon walks to the front of the altar for the Book of Gospels, please proceed to your seat.

In the absence of a deacon, go to the Ambo at the end of the Creed for the General Intercessions. After you have finished reading your intercessions, the priest will conclude with a short prayer. Please remain at the Ambo during this prayer, then return to your seat.

At the conclusion of the “Lamb of God” prayers, walk to the side of the altar and remain standing on the main floor. You will be joined by the Cantor, who will stand on your right. Remain on the main floor until the deacon(s) have received both the Body and the Blood of Christ (when the priest hands the chalice to the first deacon, they have “received” both species). If there is no deacon, remain standing on the main floor until the priest has taken the Blood of Christ in his own Communion. At that point, take one step up, along with the Cantor and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and receive Communion from the priest and deacon. After receiving communion, return to your seat.

At the conclusion of the Mass, process out as you did coming in. Process out behind the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and in front of the priest and deacon(s).

Remove the Lector’s medallion and replace it on the cabinet.

You have been privileged to participate in a very wonderful way in the Mass. Please take your responsibilities seriously and realize that the rewards are great.

Finally, and most importantly, on behalf of the Parish I sincerely thank you for your continued generosity in serving the People of God, the Church, at St. Mary’s Parish.

Rev. Joseph F. Geleney Jr.  
Pastor

Lectors Guide: <http://www.lectorprep.org/>  
Pronunciation Guide: <http://netministries.org/Bbasics/>