

Guidelines for Lectors

Archdiocese of New York Requirements:

- At least 14 years old
- A Catholic who has received First Holy Communion and Confirmation, as well as one who leads a life of faith in keeping with the function to be assumed.
- Free from any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared
- Reverential, respectful of his/her faith, and of good moral character
- Possessed of the necessary ability and talents to proclaim the Word of God in a clear, dignified, and effective manner; and
- If married, be in a valid marriage according to the law of the Catholic Church

Dress: Please dress in a manner which reflects the dignity of the Word of God. Athletic wear is not appropriate, as lectors are expected to wear their “Sunday best” when serving in this role.

Liturgical Books: Readings should be proclaimed directly from the Lectionary and not from a missalette, printout, or electronic device.

Style of Proclamation: Please speak in an “audible, clear, and intelligent” proclamation of God’s Word. This requires an appropriate use of inflection, pause, projection, phrasing, articulation, posture and pace.

Preparation: You should prepare yourself to proclaim the Word of God through study, prayer, and practice. Familiarity with the text, its role within the context of the whole of sacred scripture, and its relationship to the other readings for the day should be carefully considered. You should set aside time for prayer with text to be proclaimed. You should also practice the proclamation of the readings aloud prior to the celebration of Mass, and special attention should be paid to the pronunciation of words and phrases.

Upon arrival: (15 Minutes before Mass begins)

- Sign your name on the printed schedule in the Ministry Schedule - White Binder in the Sacristy upon arrival.
- Get the white binder that has “Lector” on it
- Read through the Intentions
- Check the Lectionary-RED - compare to missal for today’s Mass
- Turn microphone on

Start of Mass:

- Once the altar servers and Eucharistic Ministers are lined up, You are ready to read from the white binder once the bell rings...intro script from white binder, then once the music starts go sit in the pew (make sure you bow at the Altar when you go up and prior to returning to the pew).
- As soon as the priest sits after “collect” (Opening Prayer), stand and go up for 1st reading, BOW at the altar
- Psalms – Saturday: 4PM Janet does, 530PM Lector reads; Sundays: 730am Mass – Lector reads, 845am Mass – Lector reads accompanied by the Contemporary Group, 1045am – Janet does, 1230 Mass -if no music, Lector reads, 530pm Mass – If no music, Lector reads. (Always check with the musicians to confirm and if there is no music, the Lector reads.)
- After Psalms – Go up to read the 2nd Reading (remember to bow)
- Towards the end of the Nicene Creed, when you say, “I confess one baptism” ...head back to altar **for intercessions** in the Lector, white binder UNLESS a Deacon is present as the Deacon will do the intercessions.
- Receive Holy Communion on the Altar. Go up to receive when the Eucharistic Ministers and Altar Servers go up (should be as soon as the priest receives Holy Communion).
- Announcements are after the communion prayer in the white, Lector binder, only if Fr. Quinn is NOT there does the Lector read the announcements.
- After the Final Blessing, you announce the final hymn if there are no musicians. If you are not announcing anything, line up to process out with the other ministers.