

St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church Guidelines for Lectors

As a lector at St. Philip the Apostle Church, you are fulfilling a mission to your fellow community members to proclaim the Word of God. This sacred duty involves a sharing of your faith and prayerful preparation is extremely important.

In addition to the importance of acting reverently in this ministry, it is also important that we lectors not distract from the proclamation of the Word. Proper dress and demeanor will allow us to let the Word of God speak through us. These guidelines are intended to help you with specific aspects of performing the ministry of lector.

Lector Schedule

The lector schedule is developed as early in advance as possible. Generally, the schedule will cover 30-60 days. Please take note of the lector position assigned to you. Lector 1 is responsible for the first reading and Lector 2 is responsible for the second reading. It is always a good idea to review both readings.

When you arrive at Church

Please be at church 15 minutes before Mass begins. Go to the sacristy and sign in. Be sure to check to make sure that the Lectionary is at the ambo (lectern) and is opened to the correct reading. There is usually a copy of the intercessions on the counter in the clergy sacristy. Familiarize yourself with them because if there is no deacon you will have to read them.

Assemble with the other ministers in the foyer so that you can be ready when Father is ready to pray. If you are serving at the Saturday 5 p.m. or the Sunday 9 a.m. Masses, you can wear a robe. If you are serving at the 11:30 a.m. Mass, you do not wear a robe. **At all times, whether wearing a robe or not, you should wear proper attire that is consistent with the dignity of your ministry.**

The Liturgy of the Word

When not wearing robes, the lectors do not process in or out but should sit near the front of the church so they can walk to the ambo in a timely manner when the Liturgy of the Word begins.

If processing in (wearing robes), the lectors walk in front of the deacon. If there is no deacon, Lector 1 processes in directly behind the altar servers and Lector 2 carries the Book of Gospels directly behind Lector 1, holding the Book of Gospels slightly elevated so the assembly may see it. Upon arriving at the sanctuary, Lector 1 bows and proceeds to the pew. Lector 2 does not bow but walks up and places the Book of Gospels on the altar, exits the sanctuary, bows and sits next to Lector 1.

After the celebrant finishes the opening prayer, the lectors get up and approach the sanctuary with Lector 2 on the left and Lector 1 on the right. They both bow and walk up to the ambo. Lector 2 is seated while Lector 1 is reading.

Before beginning the reading, take a moment to compose yourself and check to make sure the microphone is at the appropriate height. When you begin the reading, start by

simply saying, "A reading from the book of the prophet....." **Do Not Say:** "The first reading is....., The second reading is..."

The beginning of the reading should not be rushed. One of the most common faults is to begin before the congregation is seated *and* attentive. Eye contact is important throughout, but especially at the beginning of the reading and at the end. Pause at the end of the reading, and then say, "**THE WORD OF THE LORD!**" while looking at the congregation. Say it with strength and conviction because what you have just read **IS** the Word of the Lord.

Upon completion of the first reading, Lector 1 sits down. After the choir finishes the responsorial psalm, Lector 2 approaches the ambo and begins the second reading. After finishing the second reading, please place the Lectionary on the shelf of the ambo. Upon leaving the sanctuary, both lectors should bow reverently in the same manner as when they approached it and return to their seats.

If there is no deacon, Lector 1 is to read the intercessions. Allow yourself enough time to reach the ambo before the end of the Creed. Approach the ambo in the same manner as before. These prayers deserve the same quality of reading as do the Scriptures. Again, the words need to catch the attention of the people so they can pray with you. Please remain at the ambo until the concluding prayer is finished. Then return to your seat just as before.

If there are any announcements, Father will usually read these. If he signals you after Holy Communion, please proceed to the ambo to read the announcements. Again, the lector should bow before and after while standing at the steps facing the altar.

At the end of Mass, only if you are robed, process out in the same manner as you processed in. Lector 2 may assist the EMs if needed in opening the doors and greeting parishioners after Mass. Lector 1 will go back to the ambo and place the Lectionary back on the ambo and open it up for the next Mass. If the deacon has not yet picked up the Book of Gospels from its stand, bring it back to the clergy sacristy.

Points to Remember

If you are not able to serve during a particular upcoming schedule period, please notify the Lector Coordinator. If you are unable to read on your scheduled date and time, **YOU** are responsible for finding a substitute from the list of lectors.

Thank you for your service to our parish community.

Rachelle Parry
Lector Coordinator
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Father Hanh Van Pham
Pastor