

Lector Procedures

In the week before you're scheduled to proclaim, become very familiar with the readings. Two good online resources are usccb.org and lectorprep.org.

Arrive at least 15 minutes before the liturgy begins. Go to the sacristy, look over the readings to make sure you've practiced the correct ones, and check to see if there will be a Deacon. If not, read over the Intercessions as you'll be praying them. Also, if there's no Deacon, you'll be carrying in the Book of the Gospels.

In the entrance procession, the Lector follows immediately behind the altar servers carrying the Book of the Gospels over your head. If there is a Deacon, you can just sit quietly in the lector pew before Mass.

After the opening prayer after the Gloria walk to the ambo. Proclaim the first reading.

After the Psalm proclaim the second reading. After the assembly has responded "Thanks be to God", close the lectionary and place it on the lower shelf below the ambo. Return to the lector pew.

If there's no Deacon take the Intercessory binder with you to the ambo when the assembly gets to the "one Holy Catholic Church" phrase of the Creed. There's an opening prayer to the intercessions which the presider proclaims, then you pray each of the intentions, waiting for the assembly to respond "we pray to the Lord" before praying the next intention. After the final intercession, turn and face the presider as he prays the closing prayer of the intercessions. Stay at the ambo until the presider begins to sit.

As the assembly is seated and the Deacon and/or altar servers begin setting the altar for the Eucharistic prayer gather any belongings you may have with you in the lector pew and quietly exit the sanctuary to take your place in the assembly. If you usually sit on the east side of the church, go back through the sacristy and mothers' chapel to that side of the church. Otherwise just go through the choir area and down the steps to the west side.

After Mass return the Book of the Gospels, the lectionary, and the intercessions binder, which will be on the ambo, back to the sacristy. If you're the only lector it will probably take you two trips, which is better than trying to juggle all three volumes and dropping something.

Thank you for your ministry.