

MARY QUEEN OF PEACE CHURCH

Directives for Lectors

1. The first assigned Lector #1, is responsible for proclaiming the first reading. At Masses where a deacon is present, the deacon carries the Book of Gospels in the entrance procession and places it on the altar. If a deacon is not present, then Lector #1 carries the Book of Gospels in the entrance procession. The Book of Gospels should be carried at or slightly above eye level.
2. The order of the entrance procession is as follows: 1) Crucifix (when three altar servers are present), 2) Candles, 3) Deacon or Lector, 4) Priest.
3. If Lector #1 participates in the entrance procession, upon arriving at the front of the altar, the lector places the Book of Gospels in the holder located on the altar and then proceeds toward the ambo and stands next to the servers until it is time to proclaim the first reading. It is not necessary for Lector #1 to return to his/her seat at this time. If Lector #1 *does not* participate in the entrance procession, Lector #1 approaches the sanctuary from his/her seat after the Opening Prayer (when everyone sits down).
4. At the 9:00 and 11:00 Mass when the Liturgy of the Word for Children occurs, Lector #1 should wait until all the children have exited the sanctuary before stepping up to the ambo to proclaim the first reading.
5. Begin your reading as it is written in the lectionary. Do not ad-lib. The readings always begin with “A reading from...” Pause for a few seconds at the conclusion of the reading before saying “The Word of the Lord.”
6. When a cantor is present, after finishing the first reading, Lector #1 leaves the ambo and meets the cantor in front of the altar where both reverence the presence of Christ in the tabernacle with a slight head bow. The lector returns to his/her seat and the cantor proceeds to the ambo. At 7:30 Mass, Lector #1 reads the Responsorial Psalm if a cantor is not present.
7. The second assigned lector, Lector #2, proclaims the second reading and the Prayers of the Faithful (when a deacon is not present).
8. **Lector #2 leaves his/her pew when the last verse of the Responsorial Psalm is completed.** When a cantor is present, the cantor and Lector #2 meet in front of the altar where both do a head bow together, with Lector #2 going to the ambo and the cantor proceeding to the cantor lectern. At 7:30 Mass, Lector #1 and Lector #2 will meet in front of the altar after the Responsorial Psalm, do a head bow together, Lector #1 will take his/her seat and Lector #2 will proceed to the ambo.
9. After proclaiming the second reading, **Lector #2 closes the lectionary and places it on the ambo shelf**, then proceeds to the front of the altar, does a head bow and returns to his/her seat.
10. Lector #2 proceeds to the ambo when the final part of the Creed is recited, ie., “I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church...” and again does a head bow. The Prayers of the Faithful are read with a brief pause before “We pray to the Lord.” **Lector #2 remains at the ambo until the presider finishes his closing prayer after the intercessions.** Then Lector #2 leaves the ambo, does a head bow in front of the altar and proceeds to his/her seat. **Note that when a deacon is present, the deacon recites the Prayers of the Faithful and therefore, it is not necessary for Lector #2 to enter the sanctuary.**

Practical Considerations

1. Assume Lector #1 is the first lector listed on the schedule. You can swap positions if acceptable to both parties.
2. It is very important that both lectors arrive early and check in with each other in the vesting sacristy. This will avoid any confusion regarding who is doing the readings. If there is only one lector present, he/she will perform all of the duties of Lector #1 and Lector #2.
3. Preparation is very important – the lector proclaims the Word of God which is different than just reading! Use your lector workbooks to prepare both readings. Practice out loud and read slowly. Resolve any questions regarding pronunciation, procedures, etc., before Mass begins.
4. If a deacon is not assisting with the Mass, Lector #2 should review the copy of the Prayers of the Faithful in the vesting sacristy. Leave that copy in the back for the next Mass. There is a duplicate copy of the petitions on the ambo shelf.
5. It is important that the lectors proceed from the assembly to the sanctuary at a moderate pace, similar to the pace of the entrance procession. Lector #2 will proceed to the altar on two separate occasions to proclaim the second reading and to read the Prayers of the Faithful.

Revised November, 2016

Changes in yellow effective First Sunday of Advent 2016