

**St. Agnes Church**  
**Ministry of Lector Guidelines**

**Welcome to the Ministry of Lector!**

Lectors are called to proclaim the Word of God. This call is not merely to read words on a page, but rather it is a practiced, thoughtful, cogent and a prayerful oration vital to the Celebration of the Eucharist.

Lectors must learn the customs and procedures required to be so deeply involved in the Mass, practice and polish each reading and arrive early to each assignment. The Lector's role in the Mass is visible and important. Lectors serve with the approval of the Pastor.

**Guidelines**

All lectors who are physically able are asked to follow this procedure to insure a uniform practice for all Masses at St. Agnes. Appropriate attire is required! Jackets and ties are suggested for men; business/professional styles for women.

- You are one of the first faces that people will see. *SMILE!!*
- Practice your readings at home prior to Mass!
- Arrive at the church at least 10-15 minutes prior to Mass. Make sure the microphone is "on". (Switches are on the left as you enter the left sacristy.) *Avoid adjusting the microphone unless it is extremely high or low.* (If adjustment is necessary, please touch the metal "neck" only – not the foam mic cover).
- Go to the sacristy. Find and review the announcements for the Mass. (If there is no deacon, please also read/review the typed petitions so as to be prepared to deliver the Prayer of the Faithful.)
- Check the readings at the ambo. You may remain seated in the sanctuary until you make the announcements.
- Be ready in the sanctuary about 7 minutes prior to Mass. Always deliver the announcements from the lector's stand NOT the ambo.

- Tolling of the bells is your cue to approach lector's stand. After last toll, begin reading all announcements, then return to the Lector's position in the sanctuary.
- Proclaim the "Word of God": After the priest finishes the Opening Prayer, proceed to the ambo to proclaim the first reading. Please be seated following the first reading.
- *In the absence of a cantor: the lector is responsible for introducing the Psalm response. (It is not necessary to begin with, "The Psalm response is...".) Just begin by reading the response aloud. Following each verse, your pause will signal the congregation to respond. After the psalm, pause briefly, then proclaim the second reading.*
- After the cantor finishes singing the Psalm, return to the ambo and proclaim the second reading. Upon completion, mark the first reading with the book's ribbon and place the lectionary on the side rest so that the ambo is clear for the priest or deacon to proclaim the Gospel.
- Following the Creed, the priest will give a brief introductory prayer for the Prayer of the Faithful. **ONLY in the ABSENCE of a Deacon:** The lector will go to the ambo and following the priest's introduction, will read the Prayer of the Faithful petitions.
- At the conclusion of Mass, turn the microphone off. Make sure the lectionary ribbons are in the proper place and the readings are ready for the next lector.