

MINISTRY OF LECTOR GUIDELINES FOR ST. AGNES & ST. MATTHIAS CHURCHES

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, articulate and prayerful proclamation vital to the celebration of the Eucharist.

Lectors must learn to practice and become thoroughly familiar with each reading, arriving early enough at church to allow for sufficient preparation for Mass. 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 and St. Matthias. Appropriate attire is required! Jackets and ties are suggested for men; business/professional styles for women. Please carefully avoid wearing shorts, tee shirts, jeans, sneakers or attire that is overly casual or lacking in modesty.

- You are one of the first faces that people will see. *SMILE!!*
- Practice your readings several times at home prior to Mass!
- Arrive at the church at least 20 minutes prior to Mass.
- Make sure the microphone is "on".
 - At St. Agnes: Switches are on the left wall as you enter the left sacristy.
 - At St. Matthias: The microphone is turned on by turning a key all the way to the right on a wall panel in the back sacristy.
- 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.

- Please make sure you have everything you need to fulfill your ministry BEFORE Mass begins and DO NOT approach Father after Mass has begun in search of what you need.
- Be ready in the sanctuary about 10 minutes prior to Mass.
 - Where possible, i.e., at St. Matthias, deliver the announcements from the lector's stand rather than at the ambo.
 - At St Agnes, the announcements are read from the ambo due to technical issues with the sound system.
- Cue to begin:
 - At St. Agnes: Tolling of the bells is your cue to approach the lector's stand. After last toll, begin reading all announcements, then return to the Lector's position in the sanctuary.
 - At St. Matthias: the priest will give a signal from the back of church to begin the announcements.
- Proclaiming the Word of God: After the priest finishes the Collect, proceed to the ambo to proclaim the first reading. Please be seated following the first reading.
- After the cantor finishes singing the Psalm, return to the ambo and proclaim the second reading.
- *In the absence of a cantor: the lector is responsible for introducing the Psalm response. Begin by reading the response aloud. (It is not necessary to begin with, "The Psalm response is...".) Following each verse, your pause will signal the congregation to respond. After the psalm, pause briefly, then proclaim the second reading.*
- 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.
- Make sure the lectionary ribbons are in the proper place and the readings are ready for the next lector.
- Please do not "ad lib" AT ALL during your ministry, neither adding to, nor subtracting from, the entirety of the text to be proclaimed. One never adds, for example, "The first reading is...". Please note that the conclusion of each reading is ONLY, "The Word of the Lord."
- Make sure to Slow Down and Speak Up making a conscious effort to articulate each and every sound so that everyone can hear and understand the word you are proclaiming.