

# Prairie Catholic's Guidelines for our: Lectors

## **Guidelines for Lectors**

In the words of the Second Vatican Council, those assembled to celebrate Mass should be "Instructed by God's Word and nourished at the table of the Lord's Body." Since lectors are among those who proclaim God's Word at Mass, they play an important role in "instructing" those assembled. For that reason, the Ministry of Lector is a very important one; and the exercise of that ministry needs to be taken very seriously. If the lectors do not exercise their ministry effectively, God's Word is drained of its effectiveness, and we do a great disservice to the assembly and to the God that we have pledged to serve. God is "almighty", and his Word has a transcendent power of its own. But God, in his loving kindness, has chosen to work through human instruments. Lectors are such instruments. We are God's instruments in proclaiming his Word to his people. All the lectors meet twice year and those wish to be lectors call the pastor.

Since lectors perform a public function, their conduct is always under scrutiny. So they must always be careful not to bring discredit to their ministry or the Church. Lectors should:

1. Prepare diligently and thoroughly enough to proclaim the Word of God effectively.
2. Dress in keeping with the dignity of the ministry and the liturgy.
3. Perform the duties of the ministry faith-fully.
4. Show respect for the Blessed Sacrament, and always act in a dignified manner when exercising your ministry.
5. If a lector is unable to serve at a Mass as scheduled and assigned, it is the sole Responsibility of that lector to find a replacement/substitute lector ahead of time. Do not be a "no show" as it is not fair to the other lector serving at the same Mass.

## **Duties of the Lectors**

Make the Introduction at the beginning of Mass.

Carry the Book of Gospels in the procession when there is no Deacon for the Mass.

Proclaim the First Reading. Proclaim the Second Reading if the servers are not ready.

Lead the Prayer of the Faithful

Read the announcements after Communion.

## **Preparation Before Mass Begins**

As mentioned above, lectors should thoroughly prepare the readings that they are going to proclaim. Practicing all readings for the Mass is recommended, in the event that the other person is unable to serve.

- 1) Arrive at least twenty (15 ) minutes before the start of Mass.
- 2) After arriving, say a short prayer asking for God's help in exercising your ministry.
- 3) Make sure that the Lectionary is in the sacristy. It is recommended that Lectors review the Lectionary before Mass to make sure they know which page and where on the page their reading is found.
- 4) Make sure the microphone is in place and that the sound system is on.
- 5) Make sure the Book of the Gospels and Intentions are placed in the sacristy, ready to be carried up.
- 6) Make sure all page numbers are correctly marked with ribbons in the Book of Gospels and the Sacramentary.
- 7) Lector will carry the Book of Gospels in the Entrance Procession. . The Lector processes immediately in front of the Clergy. Lector may sit with their families during Mass. If you are coming from the pews bow before the altar.(the Prayer of the Faithful and the Announcements.)
- 8) After proclaiming the First Reading be sure the Lectionary is open to the correct page for the Second Reading. Return to your seat.
- 9) Normally a Cantor or the Choir will lead the Responsorial Psalm. However, if there is no Cantor or Choir for the Mass, Lector will lead the Responsorial Psalm. And immediately thereafter proclaim the Second Reading. The reason for this procedure is that there should be a pause for reflection after the First Reading (but not after the Responsorial Psalm). This arrangement will allow time for the necessary reflection.
- 10)While the assembly recites the Creed, at that point where it says we believe in one Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church should proceed to the Ambo, and be ready for the Prayer of the Faithful.