

## Practical Lector Procedure

- Show up 30 minutes prior to mass and sign in on the sheet on the cabinet in the back of the worship space behind the baptismal font (this will be implemented soon, so watch for it)
- Walk to the ambo and make sure the lectionary is in place and opened to the correct page.
- Do your best to sit at the end of the pew to make it easier to get to the aisle.
- First reading – Wait for the close of the opening prayer. When the congregation sits, remain standing and make your way to the end of the aisle in front of the altar. (Note – when children’s liturgy of the Word is happening, the priest or deacon will release the children, so sit and remain until the children have left the worship space, then stand again and walk to the altar). Make a profound bow, bending at the waist, to the altar. Continue walking to the ambo. Take your time here; set the microphone, make sure the lectionary is still on the right page, take a breath and prepare for the reading. This slight

*Note – We are called to proclaim the Word, not to distract from it. This can be a fine line, but some tips are: dress appropriately (no jeans, flip flops, t-shirts, etc), no gum chewing, no hand gestures, no overly dramatic “acting”.*

*Emphasizing something leads to it being contrasted with something else. Note how a simple change in emphasis changes the meaning of the line from the nursery rhyme 'Mary had a little lamb.'*

<i>Mary had a little lamb</i>	<i>Mary, not Tom, had the lamb</i>
<i>Mary <u>had</u> a little lamb</i>	<i>She had it once, but she does not have it now</i>
<i>Mary had a <u>l</u> little lamb</i>	<i>She had one, not two, and not 'the' lamb</i>
<i>Mary had a <u>litt</u>le lamb</i>	<i>The lamb was little, not big</i>
<i>Mary had a little <u>lamb</u></i>	<i>It was a lamb, not a dog</i>

pass in front, then turn and return to your seat.

- Second reading – Wait for the Psalm to be completed and the cantor to close their hymnal or start to walk to the aisle. Stand and make your way to the end of the aisle again to meet the cantor simultaneously, this time to their right. Bow at the same time, and now the cantor will take a step back while you pass in front back to the ambo. Follow the same procedure as for the first reading. Once complete, if the book of the Gospels is on the altar (if there is a deacon to assist at mass it will almost always be there, but may not be there if Father is alone), you can close the lectionary and place it on the shelf in the ambo. If walking back to your seat causes you to walk in front of the altar, bow again and proceed to your seat. If you do not need to walk in front of the altar, it is not necessary, and no bow is required. Walk directly to your seat.

*Tip – Adjust the microphone to be slightly higher than your mouth when your head is up and you are looking at the congregation. This will keep you from speaking directly into the microphone when you bow your head to read from the pages and prevent popping your p’s and t’s.*

If a mistake is made, calmly go back and reread the word or passage. Do not change the wording or provide any interpretations. Once completed, pause again briefly, then say, “the Word of the Lord”. Look over toward the choir and watch for the cantor to start their way to the aisle. Leave the lectionary in place. You can turn the page to the next reading. Walk back to the aisle to meet the cantor in front of the altar simultaneously, on their left side. Both bow at the same time, and take 1 step back to allow the cantor to

*Tip – If a mistake is made and it does not affect the structure or procession of the mass, go with it. If you look like it was planned that way, the congregation will never know the difference.*

*Tip – Be prepared every week to read. If you notice the lector has not signed up before mass, see if they are there, and if not, please go ahead sign your name. If during the first reading, no lector stands, go ahead and take the place as the lector for that mass.*

*NOTE – It is the scheduled lector’s responsibility to find a replacement if they are unable to attend mass. Please contact the lector captain for scheduling considerations.*