

THE MINISTRY OF LECTOR

The Lector proclaims the Word of God in the First and Second Readings of the Mass and also the General Intercessions (Prayers of the Faithful). What a great honor and distinction to be called to proclaim His Word! You are not merely a reader; you are a Proclaimer of His Word!

When we speak the Word of God, we are God's mouthpiece. Each person will hear a message through you as His instrument, and through the Holy Spirit. God calls those with a good voice for reading and a good level of comfort to stand in front of the congregation.

Since this Ministry involves much more than merely reading a story, Lectors should spend time prior to the Mass reading and praying over the Scripture. Readings for each day of the year can be found at USCCB.org. A copy of the weekend readings can also be found in the Liturgical Ministers' room in the Lectionary (red book) opened on the shelf as you walk in. This Lectionary is an exact copy of the one you will read from at the Ambo. Take a minute to acquaint yourself with the page(s) the reading is on and whether you will need to turn a page during the reading.

A copy of the General Intercessions (Prayers of the Faithful) is also on the shelf for you to practice before Mass.

Before Mass

1. Dress appropriately since you will be entering the Sanctuary. Lectors should wear professional and modest clothing. Shorts, strapless dresses, halter tops, blouses or dresses that are low-cut or have bare midriffs, and flip-flops are not appropriate.
2. Dispose of any gum or candy.
3. Arrive at least 15 minutes before Mass time. For weekend Masses, put a checkmark by your name on the schedule so that the Sacristan knows you are present.
4. If you do not check in by 10 minutes before a weekend or Holy Day Mass, the Sacristan will find a replacement. If your name is marked through on the posted

schedule in the Liturgical Ministers' room when you arrive, someone else has already been selected to serve in your place.

5. Lectors are listed on the schedule in order of what they will be reading. Lector 1 reads the First Reading. Lector 2 reads the Second Reading, and Lector 3 reads the General Intercessions (Prayers of the Faithful).
6. Take a minute to reacquaint yourself with the readings or intercessions. A copy of the weekend or Holy Day readings may be found in the Lectionary (red book) that is opened up on the shelf as you walk in to the Liturgical Ministers' room. This Lectionary is an exact copy of the one you will read from at the Ambo. Take a minute to acquaint yourself with the page(s) the reading is on and whether you will need to turn a page during the reading.
7. A copy of the General Intercessions (Prayers of the Faithful) is also on the shelf for you to practice before Mass. This also is an exact copy of the sheet that is on the Ambo.

During Mass

1. In the procession, you will follow the Altar Servers. Father and Deacon (if present) will process behind you.
2. When you reach the steps to the Sanctuary, bow towards the Altar, then proceed to your seat among the Congregation, preferably somewhere close to the Ambo.
3. **LECTOR #1**
 - a. After praying the Collect (Opening Prayer), Father and the Congregation will take their seats. The first Reader will then move forward to take his/her place at the Ambo. Bow toward the Altar before ascending the steps. Pause to be sure the noise and people have settled.
 - b. **10:15 AM Mass -Children's Liturgy of the Word** – before beginning the Reading, wait at the Ambo until Father has blessed the children, the music has ended, and the door to the Chapel has closed.
 - c. Look out at the Congregation to let them know you are beginning.
 - d. Position the microphone so that it is approximately 2-3 inches away from you. The end of the microphone has an adjustable neck – like a bend-y straw. Make sure to adjust it as needed. Speak slowly and clearly. Be sure to project in a strong voice,

pronouncing every word and not trailing off at the end of sentences. Make eye contact with different sections of the Congregation throughout the Reading. By now, you should know it well enough to confidently do this since you have prepared during the week.

- e. Once you have finished the reading, walk down the steps and bow towards the Altar together with the Cantor. Then return to your seat.

4. LECTOR #2

- a. After the Responsorial Psalm is complete, make your way to the Sanctuary steps and bow towards the Altar with the Cantor(s) before ascending the steps.
- b. Look out at the Congregation to let them know you are beginning.
- c. Position the microphone so that it is approximately 2-3 inches away from you. The end of the microphone has an adjustable neck – like a bend-y straw. Make sure to adjust it as needed. Speak slowly and clearly. Be sure to project in a strong voice, pronouncing every word and not trailing off at the end of sentences. Make eye contact with different sections of the Congregation throughout the Reading. By now, you should know it well enough to confidently do this since you have prepared during the week.
- d. Once you have finished the reading and if a Deacon is present, he may instruct you to close the Lectionary and place it on the shelf inside the Ambo. Otherwise, leave the Lectionary as is. Proceed down the steps and bow to the Altar before returning to your seat in the Congregation.

5. LECTOR #3

- a. If you are assigned as Lector #3, you will read the General Intercessions (Petitions). A copy of these is in the Liturgical Ministers' room for you to practice before Mass. This is an exact copy of the one that is on the Ambo. Phonetic spellings of unusual last names is given for the last petition, which lists the name of the person for whom the Mass is being offered. If you do not know how to pronounce a name or any other word within the Intercessions, please ask Father, Deacon, or the Sacristan for guidance.
- b. Immediately following the Homily, the Creed will be prayed (unless there is a Baptism). **When the people get to the line "I believe in one, holy, Catholic and apostolic Church" the Lector should make his/her way to the Ambo**, bowing to the Altar before proceeding up the stairs.
- c. **By the time the people reach "... I look forward to the resurrection of the dead..." the Lector should be AT THE AMBO ready to begin.**

- d. Be sure to adjust the microphone so that it is approximately 2-3 inches away from you. The end of the microphone has an adjustable neck – like a bend-y straw. Make sure to adjust it as needed.
- e. Father will give a short introduction to the Intercessions. Once he is finished, immediately begin reading the Intercessions. Speak slowly and clearly. Be sure to project in a strong voice, pronouncing every word and not trailing off at the end of sentences. At the end of each petition, look up and out to the Congregation as you announce (without rushing), “We pray to the Lord.” Then wait for the people to respond, “Lord, hear our prayer.”
- f. After the last petition, Father will give a closing prayer. Wait at the Ambo until he has finished the prayer, then walk down the stairs, bow to the Altar, and make your way back to your seat among the congregation.

Schedule

1. At St. Boniface, we use Ministry Scheduler to schedule all of our Lectors. Before a new schedule is published, an email will be sent out asking for you to make note of your availability in the upcoming months. Be sure to mark out any weekends you know you will be unavailable so that you do not get scheduled for those Masses.
2. If you should be scheduled for a Mass for which you are unavailable, use Ministry Scheduler to submit a Sub Request as soon as possible. This informs the Parish Secretary and the Sacristan that a sub is needed. It also allows other Lectors who may be attending that Mass to fill the request.
3. Likewise, when other Lectors submit a Sub Request, you will receive notification. If you are available for that specific Mass, use the Ministry Scheduler program or app to fill the request.
4. **No Lector should read more than one Reading at a single Mass.** If you are already scheduled to read for that Mass, please do not fill a Sub Request to read another Reading or the Intercessions.