

Finding a Substitute:

If you are unable to lector at the Mass for which you are scheduled, it is your responsibility to find a substitute. We will provide you with a list of the lectors and contact information for the lectors. If you do not have success in finding a substitute, call the other lector scheduled for that Mass, asking him/her to do both readings.

Schedules:

Please check in advance, so you know your schedule. Schedules are available on the parish website, www.saintannparish.org and hard copies are available on the sign-in table in the Gathering Space.

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Sacred Silence:

The Liturgy of the Word is to be celebrated in such a way as to promote meditation, and so any sort of haste that hinders recollection must clearly be avoided. During the Liturgy of the Word, it is also appropriate to include brief periods of silence, accommodated to the gathered assembly, in which, at the prompting of the Holy Spirit, the Word of God may be grasped by the heart and a response through prayer may be prepared. It may be appropriate to observe such periods of silence, for example, before the Liturgy of the Word itself begins, after the first and second reading and, lastly, at the conclusion of the homily. (General Instruction of the Roman Missal, 56)

Lector Resources:

- Readings: www.usccb.org/bible
- Understanding the Context: www.preacherexchange.com/
- Pronunciation Guide:
<http://netministries.org/resources/resource-pronunciation-guide>



St. Ann Catholic Church

Lector Guidelines

“When the Sacred Scriptures are read in the Church, God Himself speaks to His people, and Christ, present in His own Word, proclaims the Gospel.”

(General Instruction of the Roman Missal, 29)

Who Can Serve as a Lector?

An active parishioner who has the mastery of reading in the English language; not everyone has the talent for this ministry. All lectors must be approved prior to serving. In addition, a lector must be in good standing with the norms of the Catholic Church, including marriage guidelines.

Purpose:

To Proclaim the Word of God. It is important to convey God’s Word as it is intended, and not a performance or storytelling act. It should be evident that you have practiced reading the passage and have a general understand of its meaning.

Lector Coordinator/Scheduler:

The Coordinator will email lectors schedules. They are available on the parish website, and you can obtain one my mail if requested.

When there are optional readings, please contact the Lector Coordinator to confirm correct readings.

Preparation: Before Mass Begins

Practice the reading at home prior to Mass.

- Arrive 15 minutes before Mass begins
- Check-in at the ministry table
- Go to the Priest sacristy
- Make sure the books are set up on the correct page for Mass
- Second Reader: Takes the Lectionary to the ambo
- First Reader: Processes in with the Book of Gospels (if Deacon is not present), but do not process out following Mass
- Wait until Priest genuflects before placing Book on altar

Appropriate Dress when Serving as a Lector:

Lectors are to set the example of reverence for the True Presence by their actions and dress.

- Men: Slacks, dress shirt and tie w/ coat preferable. No sandals, blue jeans, shorts or t-shirts.
- Women: Dresses, pant suits or skirts (appropriate length). No shorts, plunging neck-lines, or halter tops/spaghetti straps without a jacket or sweater.

Approaching the Ambo to Read:

“The dignity of the Word of God requires that the church have a place that is suitable for the proclamation of the Word and toward which the attention of the whole congregation of the faithful naturally turns during the Liturgy of the Word.” (General Instruction of the Roman Missal, 309)

- Bow at the altar, either at the center or side of the altar
- If you come up the center aisle, walk straight up to the ambo
- If you are seated in the side section, bow to the altar then approach from the side.

Microphone Etiquette:

- Turn off the microphone prior to adjusting microphone.
- Make sure the microphone is as close to your mouth as possible.
- After reading, turn off the microphone.

General Guidelines:

REVERENCE - Any time a lector approaches the altar, he/she should give a short bow at the first step or side of the altar.

- Take a deep breath to calm yourself
- Speak loudly and directly into the microphone
- Read slowly (especially when you are nervous, when you tend to rush things, so consciously read slower)
- Enunciate clearly
- Pause at appropriate times
- Be aware of punctuation
- Do not adjust/move the ribbons

First Reader:

- Approach the ambo after the Opening Prayer
- After reading, please turn off the microphone, pause for no more than 3 seconds, exit the sanctuary (down the steps), turn to bow at the altar before returning to your seat

Second Reader:

- Approaches at the conclusion of the Psalm.
- Please turn off the microphone when finished
- Put Lectionary on the bottom shelf of the ambo

Intercessions:

- If the Deacon is not present, Intercessions will be read by the second reader
- Approach the ambo during the part of the Creed (I believe in One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church)
- Following the Petitions, remain at the ambo until the end of the Vocations Prayer. (turn off the microphone)

Conclusion of Mass:

- Carry the Lectionary and Book of Gospels back to the Priest sacristy; do not bring back the weekly Lectionary.
- Offertory Collection (requires 2 people)
 - * After Mass—both lectors, or one lector and a second person, will take the collection basket with the money to the Priest sacristy
 - * Place the bag with money in the metal box
 - * Return the basket to the table where the gifts are in the back of church