

Mission Church Lector Procedures

Introduction

The lector ministry at St. Joseph parish, Mission San Jose, shall adopt the following procedure for proclaiming the Word at Sunday Masses. This procedure is aligned with the General Instruction for the Roman Missal.

Overview

Lectors are expected to prepare for the Readings by practicing in the week prior. Lectors will continue to show respect and reverence for the Readings by dressing appropriately and adhering to this lector procedure. The focus must always be on the reading, not the reader. Clothing should be modest, appropriately simple and in keeping with the dignity of the ministry and they must not detract from the scripture. Stone steps at the base of the Sacristy are original and not glazed. They are therefore subject to chipping and therefore heels are not permitted. Due to the uneven stone surface, low rubber soled shoes are highly recommended.

Logistics

Schedules will be emailed by the last week of the month by the lector lead. After the schedule is finalized, lectors are responsible for their own replacements. If you do not have access to the lector roster, please contact the lector lead.

Preparation

Our clergy leads a weekly spiritual reflection session at the parish office on Mondays at 7 p.m. for proclaimers assigned for the upcoming weekend. While in-person meetings are encouraged, there is also an option to attend this meeting online using Google meet. To quote Fr. Anthony, "It is good for those proclaimers of the Word of God to prayerfully meditate and understand His message before they deliver. Plus, they have a sneak peek into the minds of the clergy as they draft their homilies."

Prior to Mass

Lectors should meet in the Sacristy 15 minutes prior to Mass and sign in that they are in attendance. They should make sure the red Lectionary is on the ambo and open to the proper page and confirm a deacon's participation in the Mass. A deacon will carry the Book of Gospels in the procession and read the Prayers of the Faithful after the Creed. Otherwise, the second lector should review the Prayers of the Faithful while in the Sacristy. Make sure to confirm the pronunciation of any names. Ensure that a copy of the Prayers of Faithful is in its place on the ambo. If there is no deacon, the first lector should respectfully carry the Book of Gospels from the Sacristy to the back of the church and wait quietly with the Priest and Altar Servers. The second lector goes to his/her seat in the pews. The second lector does not participate in the procession.

The microphone system is wireless. Please make sure that the microphone is on before the Mass and switch it off after the second reading.

Procession

As the procession begins and no deacon is present, the first lector raises the Book of Gospels in both hands above his/her head and walks slowly behind the Altar Servers and ahead of the clergy to the Altar. Arriving at the Altar, the lector walks around the left side of the Altar to the center of the Altar table and faces the congregation. When a plastic stand is there, stand the Book of Gospels in the stand. If there is no stand there, lay the Book of Gospels flat on the Altar table. Do not bow, but turn to the right and walk down the left side of the Altar (the way you ascended) and stand next to the Priest at the foot of the Altar. Everyone at the foot of the Altar will then bow to the crucifix and begin the Mass. The lector then moves back to the assigned pew in the congregation. Lectors are members of the congregation and while not reading, their proper seat is with the congregation

First Reading

When the Priest finishes the opening prayers, the first lector (only) walks to the foot of the Altar, bows, and goes to the ambo. After a slight pause to allow the congregation to settle, the first lector proclaims the First Reading from the Lectionary. At the conclusion of the First Reading, the lector pauses before announcing 'The Word of the Lord'. The lector then assures the page is open for the second reading. The lector then leaves the ambo, bows at the foot of the Altar, and returns to his/her place in the pews. Please note that the lectors should fold hands as they approach the altar and sanctuary. (If the first lector is proclaiming both Readings, the lector takes a seat near the altar servers and does not return to the pew after the First Reading.)

Responsorial Psalm

The cantor has the option to sing from the ambo or the balcony. After the First Reading, the cantor will walk to the foot of the Altar, bow, and begin the Responsorial Psalm from the ambo. (If for some reason there is no cantor, the first reader will read the Responsorial Psalm. There should be a respectful pause between the First Reading and the Responsorial Psalm.) At the end of the Responsorial Psalm, the cantor will move to the foot of the Altar, bow, and return to the choir area.

Second Reading

The second reader will wait for the cantor to return to his/her place in the choir area. Then the second reader will rise, go to the foot of the Altar, bow, and then move to the ambo to proclaim the Second Reading. At the conclusion of the Second Reading, the lector pauses before announcing 'the Word of the Lord'.

Prayers of the Faithful

If there is no deacon, near the end of the Creed, "*I believe in the Holy Spirit...*," the second lector should rise, go to the foot of the Altar, bow, go to the ambo, and wait for the Priest to begin the Prayer of the Faithful. The lector should not leave the ambo until the completion of the Parish Prayer. (The complete Prayer of the Faithful includes the Parish Prayer.)

Note, occasionally, the Priest will omit the Creed, or the Creed will be embedded as a part of a baptism, RCIA initiation, or other, special event. The lector should keep an eye on the Priest at the conclusion of the Homily or the special event in case the Priest begins the Prayers of the Faithful

without the Creed.

Recessional

Neither lector participates in the Recessional. The Book of the Gospels and the Lectionary will remain on the ambo after Mass is complete.

Note: The lectors should have completed the volunteer application at Saint Joseph Church and must have completed VIRTUS Safe Environment training (<https://oakdiocese.org/safe-environment>)