

## GUIDELINES FOR THE MINISTRY OF LECTOR



### Holy Spirit Catholic Parish

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### USE YOUR GIFT FOR THE GLORY OF GOD

*“The end of all things is near; therefore, be serious and discipline yourselves for the sake of your prayers. Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you have received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and power forever and ever. Amen.” (1 Peter 4:7-11)*

### ALL OF US BELONG TO THE ASSEMBLY OF GOD’S PEOPLE

Before we are a lector, or any other minister in the assembly, we are one with each other as a people called by God to come together in worship. The fundamental ministry is that of the assembly. Under the leadership of the presiding priest, all of us are celebrants in the paschal mystery – the death and rising of Jesus. Therefore, it is important for all to participate fully and actively in our liturgy, singing the acclamations, psalms and hymns. We listen attentively to the Scripture readings and homily. All liturgical ministers, including lectors, have an added responsibility to set an example to others in the sacred assembly, to be models of prayerful participation.

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR THE MINISTRY OF LECTOR?

All members of the parish, male or female, who are fully initiated (i.e. have been baptized, confirmed and received their first communion) are eligible to serve in this ministry. Lectors should be mature Roman Catholics, persons of character who have by their actual Christian living shown that they have taken their faith seriously. They should possess a love of Scripture and a profound faith in the presence of God in the proclaimed Word. Lectors must be able to speak clearly and possess sufficient poise and composure to proclaim before the community. They are not to serve in another ministry at the same liturgy.

### RESPONSIBLE MINISTRY

The parish has a responsibility to invite people to serve in a particular ministry and to train and support them so that they may serve to the best of their ability. Those called have a responsibility to attend parish workshops when offered and to exercise their ministry when scheduled. Lectors unable to serve at the scheduled time, must find a replacement, otherwise the community suffers when it gathers for worship. An information sheet with current data is required for all lectors, and the coordinator will provide ministers with information regarding diocesan workshops and other opportunities for developing relevant skills. Suggestions may be given to the coordinator or the pastor.

## **SCHEDULING**

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Two lectors will be scheduled for each Sunday eucharistic celebration. Lector 1 is responsible for the welcome, announcements, the first reading, and the psalm if it is not sung. Lector 2 is responsible for the second reading, and the intercessions, if there is no deacon assisting.

## **PREPARATION**

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Prepare throughout the week by reading and prayerfully reflecting on the Scriptures you will proclaim. Each lector should prepare both readings, in case the other lector is unexpectedly absent. The parish has the [Workbook for Lectors](#) and other resource material available to assist with your preparation. It is helpful to find the passages in the Bible and read the immediately preceding and following text to gain a deeper sense of the text's meaning and context. Be sure to read the passage aloud at home several times. If possible, read the passage aloud to someone, and then share with them what it means for both of you.

## **BEFORE THE EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATION**

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At least 15 minutes before the liturgy, the lectors make their presence known to the presider and sign in beside their names on the schedule sheet. If not sitting with family members, lectors may wish to reserve (signs available) a seat near the front on the ambo side of the worship space. Lector 1 should take the binder with the announcements and test the microphone at the lectern for proper volume. Join the presider and other ministers for the preparatory prayer, and then go to the lectern and watch the presider for a signal to

begin reading the announcements. Return to your seat in the assembly following the announcements.

Place the binder with the intercessions at your seat ***if there is no deacon assisting***. Following the ministers' preparatory prayer, lector 2 will join the entrance procession, following behind the ministers of holy communion, and ahead of the deacon and the presider. All liturgical ministers stand facing the altar, in front of the first pew. When the presider kisses the altar, return to your seat.

## **PROCLAMATIONS**

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After the opening prayer, the assembly is seated and prepares to hear the Word of God. Slowly and reverently, lector 1 goes to the ambo, ensures that the microphone is at the correct height, and looks at the assembly before beginning. If there is Children's Liturgy of the Word, wait until the children are leaving before going to the ambo. After the psalm has been sung, lector 2 goes slowly to the ambo. If the psalm is not being sung, lector 1 remains at the ambo and invites the assembly to join in the refrain by raising arms to the side. Following the psalm, wait in silence for at least 15 seconds before returning to your place. Lector 2 moves slowly to the ambo for the second reading.

All lectors should ensure the proper microphone height before they begin to speak. Introduce the reading using only the words printed in black. Pause for 5 seconds, and then proclaim the reading clearly and at a moderate pace. Look up occasionally, especially at a word or phrase you want to

emphasize. Pause at points suggested by the punctuation. Suggestions for delivery can be found in the [Workbook for Lectors](#) and the lector manual. After finishing the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, pause for 5 seconds and then say "The Word of the Lord." Remain at the ambo in silence for a period of at least 15 seconds. Standing there is a sign to the assembly that reflective silence is appropriate following proclamation.

## **INTERCESSIONS**

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***If there is no deacon assisting***, immediately after the Creed, lector 2 proceeds to the ambo. After the presider's invitation to prayer, the intercessions should be read clearly, without rushing. After each intercession, pause briefly before saying "We pray." Following the presider's concluding prayer, lector 2 is seated.

## **DRESS**

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All lectors should present themselves for service in a manner that shows respect for God's Word proclaimed in our midst. See the lector's resource binder for dress guidelines applicable to all liturgical ministers.

## **QUESTIONS**

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Your service of ministry is greatly appreciated by the parish. If at any time you have questions, do not hesitate to contact the parish coordinator for lectors:

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