

## PROCEDURES FOR MINISTERS OF THE WORD AT SUNDAY MASS

- Lectors are expected to arrive at least 10 minutes before Mass is scheduled to begin
- Come to the Sacristy in order to check in and check over the readings for that Mass and the Prayers of the Faithful and join the other ministers for the Entrance Procession
- Spend some time in the Church to pray – ask God to help you grow in love for His Holy Word and to proclaim His Word in a reverent and faithful manner
- Join the other ministers and the celebrant in the Entrance Procession – the Lector will carry the lectionary directly in front of the clergy
- At the front of the Church, line up across the front facing the Altar. Ministers are asked to bow slightly and genuflect with the celebrant
- Lector then places the Lectionary on the ambo and returns to his/her family in the pews
- After the opening prayer, the Lector comes forward to proclaim the First Reading
- At the altar steps, the Lector stops, bows slightly to the celebrant and then proceeds to the ambo and proclaims the First Reading – never speak out loud the words printed in red ink and do not say ‘the first reading’
- At the end of the reading, pause and then say clearly, ‘The word of the Lord’
- Pause briefly and return to your family, do not stop and bow
- If the Psalm is not sung, the Lector will proclaim the psalm and then pause (If there is another Lector – the first Lector will return to their pew)
- After the Psalm is sung/read, the Lector comes forward to proclaim the Second Reading using the same procedure as the First Reading
- When the community is almost finished praying the Creed, the Lector returns to lead the Prayers of the Faithful, using the same procedure as before
- At the end of the Mass – the Lector comes forward to the ambo and picks up the Lectionary and returns it to the Sacristy

## GENERAL POINTS

- To proclaim the Word of God in the Assembly is indeed a privilege. The Word should be proclaimed with great dignity and reverence. Please be sure to have practiced the reading several times prior to arriving at Mass in order to understand the sense of the readings and be able to convey that to the listeners.
- Ministers of the Word are fully initiated Catholics
- The role of the minister of the Word should be distinct from other liturgical roles. Except in the rarest of circumstances, ministers of the Word not double as commentator, extraordinary Ministers of Communion, song leader, or usher during the same celebration. It is preferable to have one reader for each of the readings before the Gospel and one for the petitions.
- If unable to fulfill your schedule time, it is your responsibility to find a replacement

## PERSONAL

- A Lector should be a faithful, active member of this parish community in good standing with the Church.
- A Lector should regularly celebrate the Sacraments and strive to make the Word of God an important part of his/her life. It would be a grace abuse to celebrate the Eucharist only when scheduled to read.

## DRESS

- As a minister of the Church at the service of God and His people, a Lector should dress appropriately to proclaim the Word of God. Men should wear a shirt, tie and dress pants. Women should wear a dress or blouse and skirt or dress slacks. It is never appropriate to wear jeans, t-shirts or shorts while carrying out this solemn ministry.

Lord, your words are 'a light to my feet  
and a lamp for my path'.

I ask the graces I need to proclaim the words  
of guidance and love given to us in the Scriptures  
with faith and enthusiasm.

May the voice you have given me become  
Your voice in the ears of those who hear and the  
hearts of those who listen.

May they hear Your message of Love  
through my love of Your Word.

Amen.



PROCEDURES FOR  
**MINISTERS OF  
THE WORD AT  
SUNDAY MASS**

St. Ann's Roman Catholic Church  
Hamilton, Ontario

