

## **GUIDELINES FOR LECTORS**

### **ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH**

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The following guidelines are provided in accord with the *General Instruction on the Roman Missal* which is the official document of the Church providing specific instructions regarding how the Eucharist is to be celebrated.

1. Prior to the beginning of the liturgy, the lector should place the tablet with the Prayer of the Faithful in his/her seat.
2. Together with the Presider, the Crossbearer, and the Altar Servers, the Lector processes carrying the Lectionary.
  - .when everyone has gathered at the foot of the altar, everyone genuflects or bows *except the lector, the crossbearer, and the candle bearers*;
  - .as the presider proceeds to the altar, the lector goes to place the Lectionary on the ambo;
  - .the Lector remains standing on the side of the ambo for the Introductory Rite of the Mass
3. After the Opening Prayer, as the Assembly sits, the Lector proceeds to the ambo.
  - .introduce the First Reading as written in the Lectionary – *A Reading from...*
  - NOT “*This is a Reading from...*” or “*Our first Reading is from...*”
  - .pause between the introduction of the Scripture and the beginning of the Reading
  - .at the conclusion of the reading, pause briefly (5 seconds) and say “*The Word of the Lord.*”, (not “*This is the Word of the Lord.*”)
  - .if the Responsorial Psalm is sung, return to the side of the ambo for the singing of the psalm
  - .after the singing of the Psalm, return directly to the Ambo and proceed as above
  - .if the Responsorial Psalm is not sung, pause briefly at the end of the First Reading
  - .introduce the Psalm directly with the reading of the antiphon – do not say “*The Responsorial Psalm is...*”
  - .at the conclusion of the Psalm, the first reader returns to the side of the Ambo
  - .if there is a second reader he/she goes to the Ambo, and proceeds as above
  - .if there is no second reader, the first reader begins the proclamation of the second reading as described above.
  - .when all the readings have been proclaimed the Lector or Lectors reverence the altar and proceed directly to their seat in the Assembly.
4. For the Prayer of the Faithful, the Lector reverences the altar and proceeds to the Ambo toward the end of the praying of the Creed
  - .the Presider introduces the Prayer of the Faithful

*.the Lector reads the intercessions – please know how to pronounce the name of the person for whom the Mass is offered. Please consult with Fr. Tatro, Fr. Wood or directly with the gathered family for proper pronunciation before Mass begins.*

*.when the Lector has finished reading the intercessions, turn toward the Presider as he prays the concluding prayer*

*.at the end of the concluding prayer, the lector leaves the tablet with the Prayer of the Faithful at the Ambo and returns directly to his/her seat.*

5. For the Recessional of the Liturgy, with the invocation “Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.”, the crossbearer, and altar servers assemble at the foot of the altar with the Presider.

*.the Lector does not process out with the Presider, crossbearer and altar servers. His/her function is now complete as Proclaimer of the Word. Liturgically, we bring the Lord into the world – this is why we do not carry the Lectionary out – we go out ourselves with all the faithful as bearers of the Word to love and serve the Lord!*

- NB.** If you are unable to process due to a health or other issue, please check in with Fr. Ken or Fr. Mike before the start of the liturgy. If a junior lector is scheduled, please check to see if they are present in the event that you may have to proclaim the second reading.