

Ritual Action for Lectors during Mass

1. Lectors take part in the entrance procession by walking immediately in front of the deacon or the presiding priest and behind the altar servers and the EM Captain. The deacon or, in his absence, one of the lectors solemnly carries the closed Book of Gospels by holding it with uplifted hands so that it is displayed to the assembly and places it flat on the altar.
2. When carrying the Book of Gospels, the lector does not genuflect or bow. If not carrying it, the lector simply walks with hands at his/her sides and makes a profound bow to the altar before going to his/her seat in the assembly in a location that gives them easy access to the ambo.
3. At the time of the Liturgy of the Word, the lector approaches the ambo slowly and with reverence. The lector pauses before beginning the first reading read for the Lectionary while the assembly is settling. After completing the reading, the lector remains in place for a period of silence before leaving the ambo.
4. The first reader returns to his/her seat after the reading and before the Psalm is intoned. The second reader approaches the ambo after the Psalm and returns to his/her seat before the Gospel Acclamation, after allowing for a period of silence, as described above. When only one lector proclaims both readings, he/she is seated during the singing of the Psalm. If the Book of Gospels is used, the lector is to close the Lectionary after the last reading and store it on the shelf of the ambo.
5. The Gospel Acclamation is an acclamation which is always to be sung by a cantor. If not sung, it is omitted. Lectors do not normally function as cantors of the Responsorial Psalm and/or the Gospel Acclamation.
6. Ministers of the Word are not to add their own words to the texts. The words of announcement (“A reading from...”) and conclusion (“The Word of the Lord”) are intended to be read exactly as printed in the lectionary. If the Responsorial Psalm is recited, the lector begins the recitation with the antiphon in the Lectionary. Announcing, “Responsorial Psalm” is unnecessary.
7. The announcement of the reading (“A reading from...”) and the ending, (“The Word of the Lord”) need to be distinguished from the reading itself. Lectors make this distinction by observing a pause of two or three seconds after the former and before the latter phrase. Both are stated in a matter of fact tone without special emphasis.
8. The General Intercessions are introduced from the chair by the presiding celebrant and announced by the deacon or in his absence by the lector. The deacon or the lector approaches the ambo while the priest offers the introductory prayer. Unless the response is different that “Lord hear our prayer,” the person announcing the intercessions should refrain from saying “The Response is: Lord hear our prayer.” He/she remains in place until the presiding celebrant has concluded the prayer.
9. Anything that might distract from the proclaimed Word or from the dignity of this ministry is to be avoided. Such distractions include: leaning on the ambo, placing hands in pockets, shuffling from one foot to the other, wearing inappropriate or immodest clothing or wearing anything that draws attention to the lector.
10. The lector joins the presider and other ministers in the closing procession. Neither the Lectionary nor the Book of Gospels is carried in the recessional.