

LECTORS

It is a special ministry in the church. When we serve God in church, we learn how to serve God outside of church, by helping people who are in need, by taking care of each other and the earth that we live on, by loving people that no one else loves.

The following are changes to the Lector duties:

- Ring the bells precisely at the start of Mass (5:00, 8:30, 10:30). Listen for 7 strokes of the bell before turning off.
- Proceed with the Book of Gospels (gold cover) through the sacristy door. Bow down before the tabernacle at the center of the sanctuary and proceed to place the book in the center of the altar. If the deacon is present, he will be processing in carrying the Book of Gospels. In this case, you need only to bow before the tabernacle at the center of the sanctuary. Proceed to the lectern to begin by reading the introduction to the Mass. **Always read slowly.** The introduction will be in the lector book that is located in the lectern. The following is an example:

***Lector:** Good Morning. Welcome to St. Francis for this Holy Celebration. This Sunday we celebrate the Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time. Today the Lord asks us to reflect on our lives to check whether we are really honoring him with our hearts or only with our lips. Is our participation in the Eucharist only a fulfillment of a ritual and an obligation, or is it a sign of our love for God and his people? What has been the effect of the Lord's word in our lives? Have we really been doers of the word, or merely hearers? With this small thought let us begin this Mass. Please stand for the opening hymn.*

- You will then stand by the chair directly behind the lectern. The cantor will announce the opening hymn after the introduction.
- After the First and Second Readings, you may go to your pew. Please make it a point to sit on the left-hand side of church, making it easier to approach and depart from the lectern on the left side of the lectern.
- The intercessions will be read as in the past.
- The lector will also be responsible for leading the congregation in the Prayer of St. Francis at the end of Mass. Approach the lectern when Father has taken his seat after Communion. Begin reading the Prayer after Father has sat down and the altar has been cleared.
- After the end of the Prayer of St. Francis, please stand by the chair behind the lectern. You will be joining Father and the Altar Servers in the recessional out of church.

Also, crosses have been ordered for Lectors to wear. They will be hanging in the Sacristy. We hope to have them available in the near future.