

Lector Guide - Queen of Angels Church



“When you answer the call to be a minister of the word (one who proclaims the Bible readings to the assembled faith community), you enter a deeper relationship with the

Word of God as revealed in sacred scripture.

You take upon yourself the duty and privilege of bringing the printed word to life – making it flesh, so to speak.

Your ministry as reader gives choice to God’s healing and strengthening word as it goes forth irrevocable to the ends of the earth, achieving the purpose for which God sent it.”

- Aelred Rosser from “A Well Trained Tongue”

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Lector at Queen of Angels Church. Proclaiming the Word of God at liturgy is a true privilege. This guide will hopefully help you be more comfortable with the procedures at Queen of Angels Parish.

What kind of preparation should I do before the weekend?

Preparation for your ministry as a lector includes **spiritual**, **scriptural**, and **practical dimensions**. Begin by, *at least* once during the week, going through the readings in the ***Workbook for Lectors*** a few times. Then, read them aloud to yourself, or with other family members.

- **Spiritual preparation** involves praying over the Sunday’s readings and reflecting on its message, either alone or in a group. Use a daily meditation booklet or website such as *Living Faith*, www.findinggod.org, *Word Among Us* or *Magnificat*, to help you develop the habit of reading the Bible daily. Spend time to hear what God is saying to you through His Word.
- **Scriptural preparation** involves understanding the text so it can be proclaimed with meaning to the assembly. This type of preparation involves reading the passage in context i.e. noting where it is placed in the Bible; what verses come before and after the reading. Lectors can refer to biblical commentaries and other study aids to deepen their understanding of the author and the era in which the passage was written. Commentary in the *Workbook for Lectors*, footnotes in the Bible or writers on websites such as www.liturgy/slu.edu or www.lectorprep.org give insights from the wisdom of the Church on the meaning of scripture.
- **Practical preparation** involves mastering difficult words, learning the right pronunciation and practicing the delivery of the text aloud, ideally in the presence of someone who is able to critique the delivery. In your *Workbook for Lectors* there are pronunciation hints for unfamiliar words in the text. You can use the *Guide to Pronunciation*, a small pamphlet in 2nd sacristy cupboard, to help as well. You are welcome to come before Mass and practice using the microphone.

What if I am unable to attend my scheduled Mass?

It is very important that you get a substitute for your Mass. We attach an updated phone list with each schedule. You may go on www.queenofangels.org under “schedules” on the sidebar to look to see who is scheduled that day.

When do I arrive for Mass on my scheduled day?

Be sure to arrive at church **at least twenty minutes early**. As you arrive, be sure to sign in the sacristy, and let the presiding priest know you are there. He will instruct you of any changes in the liturgy that would affect you. Make sure the other scheduled lector is in church as well.

What kind of preparation should I do after signing in?

After you sign in, and check with the priest, go to the ambo and check the lectionary to see it is set for the correct day. If you are the 1st Lector, make sure the announcements are on the lectern. Read through them a couple times. Check for any names you cannot pronounce, and ask the priest if you are unsure. Next make sure the Book of Gospels is in the sacristy and ready for you to bring up in the procession.

If you are the 2nd lector, make sure you know where your reading is in the lectionary on the ambo. Make sure the grey Lector's Binder is on the shelf in the ambo. Open up the binder and look at the general intercessions. Read through them a couple times. Check for any names you cannot pronounce, and ask the priest if you are unsure. Return the binder to the ambo shelf.

Where should the Lectors sit?

The lector should sit in the first couple pews near the ambo, normally in the side pews near the statue of St. Joseph.

General Intercessions

The prayers of the faithful will normally be said by the Deacon. If the Deacon is not present, the second lector will read the prayers. The folder containing the intercessions should have been placed on the ambo shelf, prior to the beginning of Mass. The lector should proceed directly to the ambo and begin the prayer after the priest says the introductory part. Make sure that you respond to the petition, **“Lord hear our Prayer”**, together with the congregation, you are not an announcer but a participant. Pause for three seconds at the end of each prayer and before saying, ‘We pray to the Lord.’

Dress Code

All liturgical ministers are asked to observe the following dress code:

Men/Boys:

Slacks
Dress shoes and socks
Belt
Collared shirt
Jacket and tie are encouraged

Women/Girls:

Nice slacks and shirt/blouse (or)
Skirt (of modest length) and
shirt/blouse (or)
Dress of modest style and length

Both Men/Boys and Women/Girls:

No jeans
No shorts
No t-shirts
No tennis shoes
No flip-flop sandals
No beach attire
Back, shoulders, midribs and undergarments should be covered.

If you would like to receive training for this ministry please contact Diana in the office at 619-445-2145 or email diana@queenofangels.org. You can be scheduled for the Mass time your family normally attends.