

Lector Instructions, Newman Catholic Community at UCSD

*Thank you for serving as a lector. Please remember that if you are unable to serve as scheduled, it is **your responsibility to call a substitute** on the current telephone list. If possible, give your substitute your practice copy. **Changes from last year or things that often get forgotten are in bold below.***

Preparation:

- Please carefully and prayerfully prepare your reading in advance. Please do not underestimate the importance of this.

Before Mass:

- Arrive at least 15 minutes early and immediately tell the MC you have arrived. **If you don't arrive 15 minutes early, the MC, who is busy about many other things, will have to scramble to find a substitute.**
- Check to make sure the lectionary is on the ambo and that the book is open to the right page and the ribbon set accordingly.
- Familiarize yourself with the way the reading is laid out in the book.
- 2nd reader, prepare the Prayers of the Faithful:
 - You will find them below on the ambo shelf in a black binder.
 - Make sure you can pronounce names. Ask for help if you need it.
 - Do not change any of the prayers without the permission of the presiding priest.
 - Ask the presiding priest if there are any changes as to when the prayers are proclaimed – sometimes there are special rites to consider.
 - Before Mass, return the binder with the prayers to the lower ambo shelf.

During Mass:

- Procession (1st reader):
 - During the procession, the 1st reader holds the Book of the Gospels high (not in front of your face). **Follow the crossbearer at about a half-length of the aisle.**
 - Approach the front of the altar (don't walk behind it), and place the Book of the Gospels in the stand on the altar. Then, before taking your place, stand at the priest's right to bow to the altar.
- Approaching the altar:
 - When it's your turn to read, center yourself before the altar, bow, then proceed to the ambo.
 - 1st reader, approach the altar after the presiding priest is seated following the opening prayer.
 - 2nd reader, approach after a pause following the psalm.
- The Proclamation:
 - Make sure the correct reading is in front of you and that the microphone is pointing directly at your mouth pause.
 - Look to make sure you have the assembly's attention, then take a relaxing breath.
 - Project your reading so that everyone can hear, and proclaim it clearly and expressively.
 - After your reading, pause, then say directly to the assembly, "The Word of the Lord."
 - Remain at the ambo and be attentive to the assembly's response, "Thanks be to God."
 - 2nd reader, then place the lectionary on the ambo shelf to make room for the Book of the Gospels.
 - Then return to your place, bowing on the way.
- Prayers of the Faithful (2nd reader):
 - After the words of the Creed "who *proceeds* from the Father and the Son," or whenever the priest has instructed you, *proceed* to the ambo for the Prayers of the Faithful. Remain at the ambo until the priest has concluded the prayers and the assembly has responded, "Amen."