

Lector Guidelines at Saint Robert of Newminster

Before Mass

Plan ahead for serving as Lector, and dress for the part. We are after all, serving Jesus Christ, the King of kings. A quick rule of thumb, dress one step above whatever your profession requires. Arrive at least ten to fifteen minutes before the beginning of Mass. Check the ministry book near the Baptismal Font on the pedestal and sign in. Next, check to make sure the microphone is on. You may do this by speaking into the microphone, or by *gently* tapping the foam cover, or by snapping your fingers near the microphone. Confirm that the Lectionary on the Ambo is set to the correct readings for Mass. If there are any difficult names which you are unsure of how to pronounce, check with the priest.

Procession

It is proper for the deacon serving in the Liturgy to carry in the Book of The Gospels in procession. The Lector is to simply take their seat near the front of their pew section before the beginning of Mass if a deacon is serving in the Liturgy. If we do not have a deacon however, a Lector may carry in the Book of The Gospels in procession. The procession is always; servers first, followed by the minister with the Book of The Gospels, followed by the priest(s).

When carrying the Book of the Gospels, the traditional and preferred method at our Cathedral is to have one hand on a bottom corner, and one hand on the opposite upper corner, holding the book straight out from the chest. This keeps the book stable and allows the person carrying it to have clear vision over the top of the book, which is very helpful with navigating our unique sanctuary.

Upon reaching the first step of the sanctuary when carrying an object in procession, it is proper to pause briefly, make a simple bow of the head to show reverence if the Blessed Sacrament is not present (which is the case for Saint Robert of Newminster's current sanctuary), before going up the steps to the Altar to place the Book of the Gospels on the Altar. After placing the Book of the Gospels in the stand on the altar, return to the first step of the Altar with the Priest(s) and Servers. Make the profound bow from the waist in unison with the Priest(s) and Servers, and take your seat for the Introductory rites of the Liturgy.

Reverence

After the *Gloria in Excelsis* is sung, the priest says the Collect prayer. At the conclusion of the Collect, the people respond "Amen," and the Lector for the first reading makes their way towards the Ambo. Before entering the sanctuary, make a profound bow facing the Altar. If you are crossing in front of the Altar, make your profound bow directly in front of the Altar. If you are seated on the Ambo side of the Church, simply proceed to the first step near the Ambo, make your profound bow facing the Altar, then proceed up the steps to the Ambo. Wherever you make your sign of reverence before the reading, is the same place to make your sign of reverence afterwards when returning to your seat. The same goes for the Lector of the second reading, and the Prayers of the Faithful.

Prayers of the Faithful

Again if a deacon is serving in the Liturgy, it is proper for them to read the prayers of the faithful. If not, the same process for the readings applies. Move towards the Ambo when in the Creed, we say "I believe in one, holy, catholic, and Apostolic Church." The priest will say an introductory prayer after the Creed, before the prayer intentions which may or may not match what is on the sheet. After reading the final prayer intention, turn and face the Altar to let the priest know that the intentions are over. The priest will say a closing prayer, and when we all respond "Amen," proceed to your seat following the same instructions noted for the readings.