

Instructions for Lectors During COVID-19

St. Mary Catholic Church

In the Days before Mass

1. Look up the readings for Mass at which you will be reading at www.usccb.org.
2. Pay special attention to lectors at other Masses and the logistics of reading. What they say, how they stand, etc.
3. Prayerfully study the readings from Sacred Scripture you'll proclaim to the people of Saint Mary's! The importance of this cannot be over stressed. We must love and understand the Word we're proclaiming and take it into our hearts deeply before we are able to effectively proclaim it to others. Your proclamation of Sacred Scripture will be even more powerful to the extent that you have wrestled with the impact of the Word in your own life.

Proclaiming Sacred Scripture

4. Read slowly with passion. Let me repeat, read slowly! In order to help with intelligibility, be careful to pronounce the hard final consonant of words ending in the letters "D", "K" and "T." Here's a little tip: if you have difficulty pronouncing the final "D", "K" and "T", you're reading too quickly!

Ten minutes before Mass

5. Read over *Prayers of the Faithful* to carefully check for pronunciation of names. Prayers of the Faithful are kept in the binder in the ambo.
6. Adjust the microphone to your height.
7. Make sure the Lectionary is turned to the First Reading for the day.

During Mass

8. After the Introductory Rite, Fr. Darrick and the congregation will be seated. This is when you walk to the ambo to read the First Reading.
9. After the first reading, be seated in a chair to the side of the pulpit, next to the statue of Mary, while the cantor sings the Responsorial Psalm.
10. When Deacon Phil is present, after you finish the second reading, move the Lectionary book from the top of the pulpit to the lower shelf so there's room for him to place the Book of the Gospels. You may then return to your seat in the pews.
11. If Deacon Phil is not present, leave the Lectionary book open on top of the pulpit. Then go back to the chair next to the pulpit after the second reading. Remain there while the priest reads the Gospel and delivers the homily. Then you will be ready to read the *Prayers of the Faithful* after the Creed.
12. You do not need to wear a mask during Mass while in the sanctuary, but please wear one coming and going about the church or while in a pew.

Prayers of the Faithful

13. When Deacon Phil is present, he will read the Prayers of the Faithful. When we do not have a deacon, come to the pulpit near the conclusion of the Creed. Begin your approach when the words, "I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord the giver of life..." are spoken during the Creed. Be ready to read the petitions as soon as the priest says the introduction.
14. When the priest completes the concluding prayer of the petitions, you may return to your seat in the pews.

Final Note

15. What a remarkable honor to serve the Holy Mass! Because of the importance of your ministry, we ask you to wear your "*Sunday goin' to meetin' clothes*". Dignified and modest dress shows respect to our Lord present in the Holy Eucharist and is a great reminder to others of the importance of the Holy Mass.
16. When contemplating your attire, remember that you will be both standing and sitting in the sanctuary and facing the congregation. If you are wearing a dress or skirt it should extend past your knees *when sitting down*. Conservative attire should be the priority for all, passing on any form fitting outfits and covering knees, shoulders, and necklines.