

Instructions for Lectors

St. Mary Catholic Church | Aspen, CO

In the days before Mass

1. You may look up the readings for Mass here: bible.usccb.org
2. Prayerfully study the readings from Sacred Scripture you will proclaim to the people of Saint Mary's! The importance of this cannot be over stressed. We must love and understand the Word we are 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

3. 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

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

During Mass

7. When the priest concludes the opening Collect Prayer, everyone will be seated. This is when you walk to the ambo to proclaim the First Reading.
8. 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. At the conclusion of the Psalm, approach the pulpit and proclaim the second reading.
9. After completing the second reading, **leave the Lectionary book open on top of the pulpit.** You may now return to your seat in the pews.

Prayers of the Faithful

10. After the priest proclaims the Gospel and preaches the homily, we then stand to profess the Creed. Be ready to begin your approach to the pulpit to read the 'Prayers of Faithful' when the words, "*I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord the giver of life...*" are spoken during the Creed. You should be at the pulpit, ready to read the petitions as soon as the priest says the introduction. When the priest completes the concluding prayer of the petitions, you may return to your seat in the pews.

Final Note

11. What a remarkable honor to be minister at 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.
12. 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.