

The Catholic
Community of

St. John & Blessed Sacrament

*Duties of the Sunday
and
Holy Day Readers*



St. John & Blessed Sacrament

Opening Prayer

Lord,

As I accept your calling to be a Lector,

Bless me with passion that I may keep doing it with fervor.

Bless me with inspiration that I may keep doing it with excellence.

Bless me with wisdom that I may keep doing it with prudence.

Bless me with humility that I may keep doing
with servitude and bless me with love,
that I may keep doing it for you.

Amen!



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INTRODUCTIONS

Video Presentation

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The Treasure We often Overlook

www.lectorresources.com

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wLs8a7x-4R0&list=PL7jII0lwEBMWgTVufKYJBI4qL2FCJVMd>

Opening Comments

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WHY AM I HERE?

THE PRACTICAL WORK OF BEING A
LECTOR

True or False?

Brenda has a
Procedural Quiz

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Preparing for Mass

- Arrive 20 minutes before Mass begins.
- Check to be sure the audio system light is turned on. There are two different locations to accomplish this.



Located in the room at the end of the hallway by the vestment room

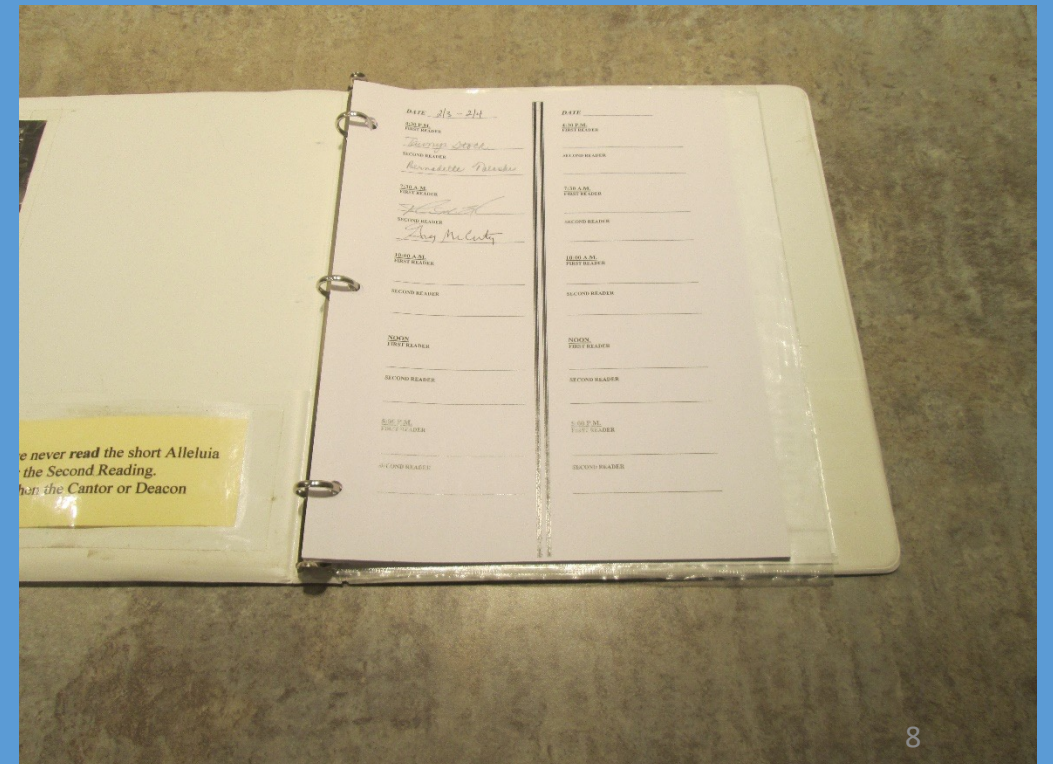


On the brick wall between the piano and organ

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Preparing for Mass

- Sign in and check the schedule to see who is reading with you.
- Introduce yourself to each other and review your readings.
- 10 minutes before Mass, if you have not seen/talked to your fellow reader and no one has signed in, speak to the celebrant. Enlist a reader from the assembly to fill in.



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7 to 8 minutes before Mass

- The first reader takes the Introduction, Lectionary and general intercessions binder to the sanctuary.
- Open the lectionary to the appropriate page and place the ribbons so that the pages can be easily turned.
- Place the introductions on top of the lectionary so you are ready to read.
- Place the General Intercessions binder on the shelf in the ambo.
- Adjust the microphone.



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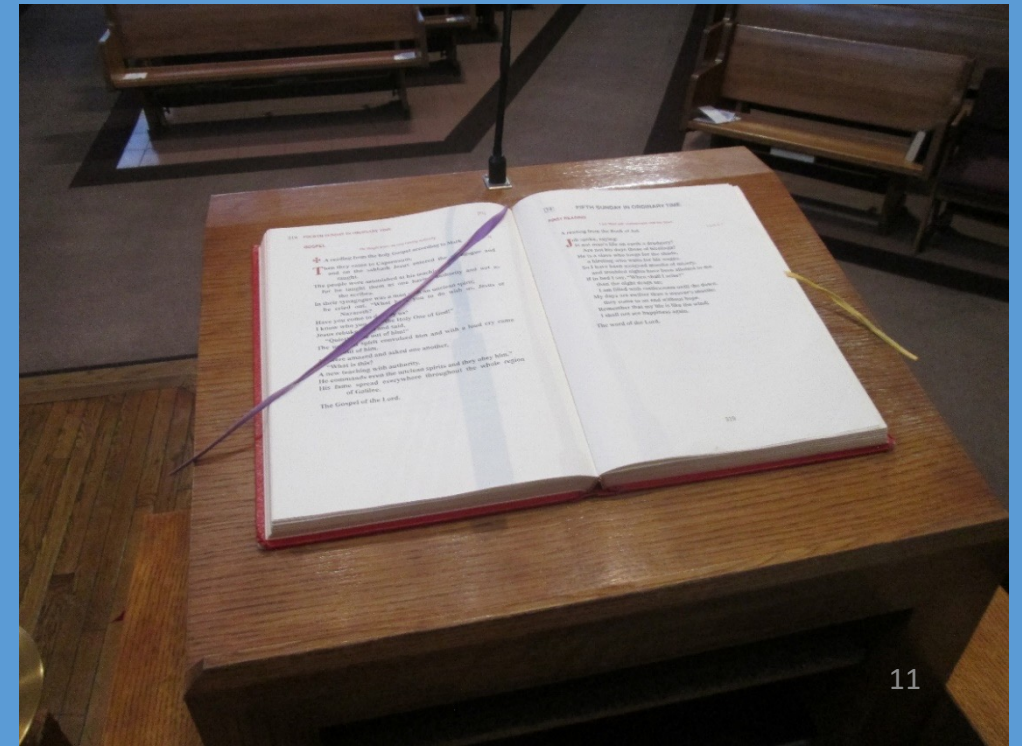
The Start of Mass

- The first reader will read the Introductions for that Mass. Be sure there are no last minute changes.
- Each Mass time has its own specific sheet. (please review before Mass and check with the ushers and organist about gift bearers and cantors)
- Cantors will do a short introduction for most Holy Days.
- Check with the Priest or Deacon on proper pronunciation of names.

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The Start of Mass

- Once the organist has finished, make sure the Priest is in view and ready to approach the altar BEFORE you go to the ambo.
- Reverence the altar by bowing towards the altar before you read the introductions.
- When you are finished reading them, leave the sheet of introductions on the shelf in the ambo and return to your seat.



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The Start of Mass

- If there is no deacon present, the second reader will carry the Book of Gospels to the altar.
- Hold the book slightly elevated. (not straight above your head, but in front of you slightly higher than your face)

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The Start of Mass

- At Father Andrew's direction: Carry the Gospel so that the front is facing the assembly as you walk down the aisle. This means that you are looking at the symbol of St. John, which is the Eagle.
- Follow the altar servers down the aisle.
- Go to the left side and **STAND** until Father bows and genuflects.



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The Start of Mass

- Then approach the altar from the left side, place the Book of Gospels gently and reverently in the center of the altar and return to your seat. (Place it face down on the altar so that the presiding priest does not have to flip the book when he carries it to the ambo)



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The First Reading-STJ

- After the Opening Prayer/Collect is concluded approach the ambo.
- Reverence the altar by bowing.
- Take a moment before beginning to read to ensure that people are settled and able to listen.
- It is not necessary or appropriate to introduce the reading by saying “The first reading is a reading from....” Proclaim exactly what the Lectionary specifies: “A reading from....” this phrase should be spoken while looking out at the assembly.
- After the reading is proclaimed, pause for 3-5 seconds, look up and address the assembly with the words: “The Word of the Lord,” wait for the assembly’s response, “Thanks be to God,” pause for a few moments of silence and return to your seat.

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The First Reading-BLS

- The **First Reader** will read after the priest says (let us pray) and reads the Opening Prayer/collect from the Roman Missal, which the altar server brings to him.
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- Before the **First Reader** goes into the sanctuary to proclaim God's Word, go to the front of the altar bow then proceed to the ambo.
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- Before starting your reading, please look at the whole assembly then begin. After the reading please look up pause a moment then say **The Word of the Lord**. When you have finished the first reading you will exit the sanctuary between the ambo and altar, meet the cantor in front of the altar, bow together and go back to your seat. (**Never exit on the right side of the ambo or behind the partition**).

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Responsorial Psalm, 7:30 Mass only

- At the 7:30 Mass, the first reader should step back a moment, pause and then step forward and start reading the Psalm.
- It is not necessary to introduce the Psalm by saying “The responsorial psalm is....” Simply start with the response and with a gesture invite the assembly to repeat it by raising your arm with your palm extended outward to indicate when the people should repeat the response. You may softly speak into the microphone to help them repeat the response.

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The Second Reading-STJ

- Once the cantor or first reader has left the ambo, the second reader will rise and go to the ambo. Reverence the altar by bowing.
- The same instructions apply for the second reading as for the first.
- After the assembly has responded to that reading with “Thanks be to God,” pause for a few moments, reverently close the Lectionary and place on the lower shelf of the ambo. Be mindful of the microphone so that you do not hit it. Return to your seat and remain standing in place as the symbol you are of the Word of God among us.
- Note: Sometimes the Book of Gospels is not carried up in procession to the altar. If it is not on the altar, leave the lectionary open on the ambo, because the celebrant will read the Gospel from the Lectionary.

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The Second Reading-BLS

- When the cantor is finished singing the responsorial psalm he/she will meet the **second reader** in front of the altar and both will bow, then the second reader goes to the ambo and reads. After the second reading is completed close the (lectionary) and place it on the **middle shelf** of the ambo and (leave the sanctuary immediately. **“New” do not** wait for the ALLELUIA to begin before leaving the sanctuary. Go to the front of the altar to bow and go back to your seat.

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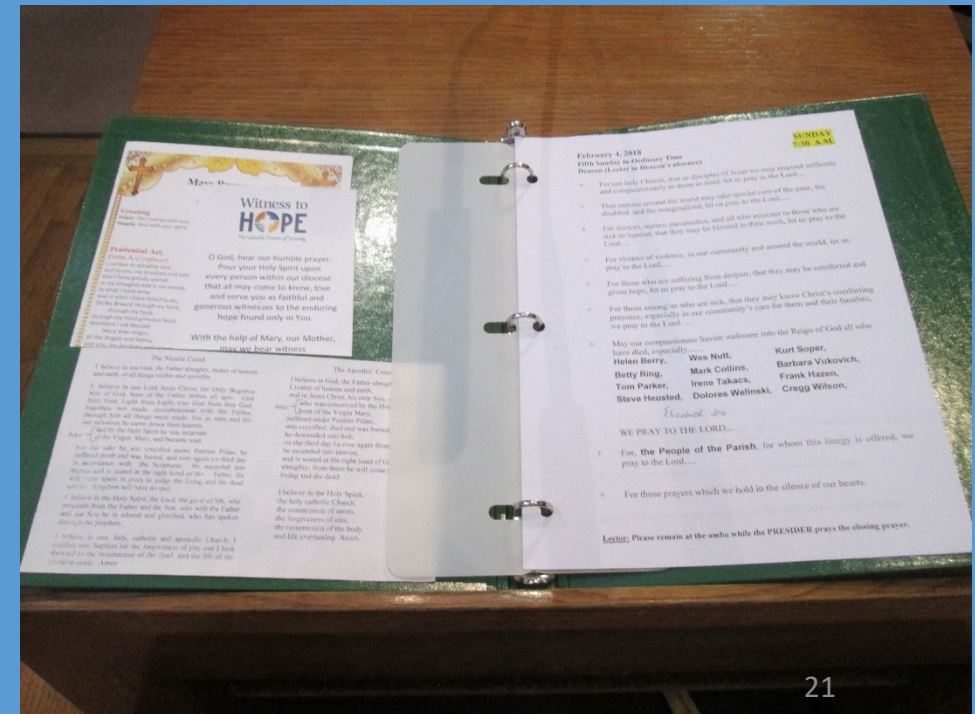
The General Intercessions

- If there is no deacon, the second reader will also read the General Intercessions after the Creed.
- Be aware that these are different for each Mass time. Before Mass, be sure your mass time sheet is the first one on top and you have checked with the presider on the proper pronunciation of the names. Read the names from right to left as they are in alphabetical order.
- Approach the ambo during the last few sentences of the Creed so you will be ready, with the book open, after Father has finished the short introductory prayer.

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The General Intercessions-STJ

- Remember to reverence the altar by bowing your head.
- There are times when we may not recite the Creed, i.e., Baptisms, commissioning, anniversaries, etc.
- When there is a baptism, quietly approach the ambo while the celebrant is still at the Baptismal Font. For other special ceremonies, be alert to what the presider is doing and be prepared to approach the ambo at the appropriate time.



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General Intercessions-STJ

- Be aware of the seasonal changes in how the response may be done.
- Check with the organist if there is any doubt on how the response should be handled.
- Remain standing at the ambo with the book open until the celebrant has said the concluding prayer for the Prayer of the Faithful.

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General Intercessions-STJ

- Close the book and place it on the shelf under the ambo and return to your place in the assembly.



General Intercessions-BLS

- **“New” Second reader** returns to the ambo for the **General Intercessions** before the end of the **(Nicene/Apostles Creed)**. After the General Intercessions, the priest will say a short prayer, please remain at the ambo until he is finished then leave the sanctuary between the altar and the ambo and go to the foot of the altar bow and return to your seat.
- If a Deacon is assisting at your mass he will carry the book of Gospels in the procession and will read the General Intercessions.
- **Second Reader: Please be sure to read the General Intercessions for the mass you are attending. Check the Mass time and date at the top of the page.**

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After Mass

- It is the responsibility of the second reader to carry the Lectionary, the Book of Gospels, the Introduction sheet and the General Intercessions binder back to the vesting room after Mass.
- Place the books on the counter and return the introduction sheet to the back of the provided 3-ring binder so the next introduction sheet is in front and ready for the next Mass.
- If there is another Mass to follow, remove the General Intercessions from your Mass to the back of the book so that the intercessions for the next Mass are in front and ready for that Mass.

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Things to Remember

- It is important that you handle the books that we use with reverence.
- Apart from the readings within them, the books themselves, especially the Book of Gospels, are symbols of our faith and of the salvation of Christ throughout the history of God's people.
- They should be carried with two hands and picked up and put down carefully.

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Things to Remember

- Your choice of attire also says something about your ministry and the importance of us gathering in praise and worship of our Lord.
- Most often you will know when you will be serving as a reader, a leader within the community of our parish.
- Therefore, you should be dressed in such a way as to convey that you knew you were coming to serve and cared about that service to the people and to God.
- Your clothing should never distract from your ministry.
- Give some thought to what clothes in your wardrobe would be most appropriate, keeping in mind that simplicity and dignity should be your goal.

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Weekday Readers-STJ

- A Master schedule is maintained and posted in the Sacristy.
- If you are unable to Read on your scheduled date, you are required to obtain your own substitute. If you are unsuccessful, please contact Bob Briscoe 636-7562.
- The Lectionary will already be placed on the Ambo, please review and adjust mic.
- Fr. Dieudonne and the retired Priests will have you read the General Intercessions. Please confirm prior to Mass.
- If you are required to read the General Intercessions, after the Homily the Celebrant will pause and may sit for a moment. Proceed to the Sanctuary, bow before you step up and approach the ambo.
- Pause, read the General Intercessions. The Celebrant will conclude, take your seat.

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Weekday Readers-STJ

- After the Collect is read, when Father starts to sit down, approach the Sanctuary, Bow before you step up and approach the ambo.
- Pause, take a breath, look out, then start the First Reading.
- Pause.
- Read the Responsorial Psalm. (except Wednesday 10am when Cantor is present)
- If there is a Second Reading sit down, Note: as the Primary Reader it is your responsibility to obtain the Second Reader in advance of that day. If you are unsuccessful, please contact Bob Briscoe 636-7562.
- Go back to your seat and stay standing.
- The Celebrant will proceed with the Gospel.
- When Mass is complete, please return the Lectionary to the Sacristy, Place it on the countertop if you are the 8:00am Reader, The 10:00am Reader should place it in the cupboard.

Online Ministry Scheduler

- The ministry scheduler has been in use for over 2 years now.
- <https://web4ucorp.com/ministries/index.php?org=johnblessedsacrament>.
- The Password is: jesuslovesme
- Once the Schedule is published online and you cannot serve on a date you are scheduled, it is your responsibility to request a substitute through the scheduler.

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Resource

- Guide For Lectors, The Liturgical Ministry Series by Virginia Meagher and Paul Turner.
- At St. John, please contact Alex Boros at 810-653-8425/1.ajboros.13@gmail.com, or Brenda Stikeleather at 810-297-8550 bstikeleather74@gmail.com. At Blessed Sacrament, please contact Joanna Coselman at 810-618-7366 or jcoselman@flintschools.org. Also Pat Ockerman bluewave40@sbcglobal.net
- Weekday Readers contact Bob Briscoe (810) 636-7562
E-mail at bobcat2284@yahoo.com

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Conclusion

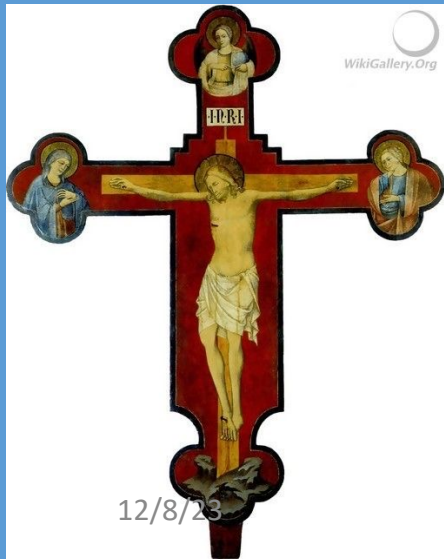
Questions??

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Closing Prayer

Dear Lord,

I have accepted your call to proclaim your word and ask your continued guidance in my endeavor. Help me to recognize the Importance of your call to be a lector. Open the hearts of all who worship with us when they hear the word of the Lord proclaimed, so they may hear your voice when I read. Let nothing in my life or manner disturb your people or close their hearts to the action of your Spirit. Cleanse my heart and my mind and open my lips that I may worthily proclaim your word. **Amen.**



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Thank you and God Bless!