Lector Training at St. John Vianney

1 . Arrive 15-20 minutes before Mass. Please be certain to check-in with the facilitator just inside the main church doors.

1. The FIRST READER will proclaim the First reading and lead the Prayers of the Faithful. The FIRST READER will process in with the Gospel book. At the foot of the sanctuary, the FIRST READER will bow with the priest and the altar servers and then place the Gospel Book on the altar in the red holder. Return to the base of the stairs and stand on the far left of the priest and the altar servers. The cue for the first reading is when the priest completes the opening prayers and everyone is seated. You remain standing and proceed to the stairs. Bow at the foot of the sanctuary and bow again after reading when you proceed to your seat. The cue for the Prayers of the Faithful is when the Creed reaches "Communion of Saints, forgiveness of sins...". Your duties are finished when you return to your seat.
2. The SECOND READER will open the Mass by standing at the Cantor Stand and reading the Welcome message to the people. The SECOND READER will proclaim the second reading. The cue to go to the Ambo is when the cantor finishes the psalm and leaves the cantor stand. Bow at the foot of the sanctuary and bow again after reading when you proceed to your seat. This completes your duties. If you are not able to process in with the Gospel book and climb the stairs to the altar, please indicate on your paperwork that you can only be Lector #2.

What is "liturgy"? The work of liturgy is not our work alone, but it is a participation by the people of God in the work of God. To serve the Lord and help meet the spiritual needs of the faith community.

We may think that we are qualified or equipped, but please remember that "God doesn't call the equipped but God equips the called."

What liturgy is not:

Liturgy is not an obligation simply to be fulfilled.

Liturgy is not a talent show. Liturgy is not a performance - it must be done with the utmost reverence and respect.

Liturgy is not acting like in Hollywood, but to act in the way of Christ, to be his hands and feet, and his voice.

*Spiritual Inspiration*:

The Lord has given me a well-trained tongue, that I may know how to speak to the weary a word that will rouse them. — Isaiah 50:4

"It is Christ himself who speaks when the holy Scriptures are read in the Church." — Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy

Lectors assist in feeding the people of God through the Word in a similar manner to the EMS who assist in feeding the people of God through the Body & Blood of Christ.

At any given Mass, there will be a wide variety of concerns, needs and degrees of receptivity to what is heard. But the Word of the Lord is for everyone. The sacred words can and will reach everyone wherever they are. Your ministry is to be clear regarding the words and meaning so that through the Word, Christ can speak to His people.

The readings have been heard repeatedly by the faithful. Your challenge is to proclaim each reading in such a way that it is "heard again for the first time."

General Information and Reminders

* Outfit reflects respect and reverence for the presence of God. It should not distract the people from the ministry. Christ should always be the focus

 Reverent, not casual — please avoid jeans, tennis shoes, sweats, and other "lounging" clothes. Modest, not revealing — avoid low-cut tops and short skirts. Humble, not commercial — avoid large/obvious labels, branding, or printed messages.

* Should reinforce your commitment to the nature of the ministry
* Willing to serve the whole church community
* Willing to serve even if inconvenient or sacrificial
* Willing to serve diligently, taking the required time to do all things well
* Dress as though you are going to serve, even if you are not scheduled
* "Emergency" Subs may be required right before Mass begins due to a shortage of ministers

Minister may become ill during Mass and require replacement (rare, but it happens)

* Demeanor / Attitude/ Posture / Movement
* Avoid slouching, shifting your weight constantly, sticking hands in pockets, etc.
* Participate fully and reverently in liturgy as much as possible (e.g. kneeling, genuflecting, etc.)
* Keep all necessary talking to a minimal volume

 Restrict all unnecessary talking, including before and after Mass

* Shows respect for the presence of God
* Shows respect for others during their prayer and meditation
* Pace yourself — do not rush, but do not proceed too slowly, try to have good pacing and rhythm.
* Eye contact — respectfully address the person/people to whom you are ministering.
* Instill reverence — focus on the nature of your ministry and its role
* Pronounce your words clearly and crisply; do not mumble, moderate inflection
* If you are able, try to convey emotion and meaning in the message. Avoid an overly dramatic performing Shakespeare style.

 Avoid a completely uninteresting monotone pattern.

* Practice makes perfect — practice the readings beforehand so that you are familiar with the context and words.

Practice with the microphone at the ambo. Speak into the microphone, but don't whisper and don't yell. Keep your mouth directed towards the microphone.

 Seek feedback from others for improvement.

* Be ready for any unusual names or spellings especially for prayers of the sick and those who have died.
* Pray about the readings; ask the Holy Spirit to help you discern the Word's meaning
* If you arranged a sub, make sure they know what readings to use—this is your responsibility
* Remember to project your voice, and proclaim the word of the Lord. Try to keep in mind that you are speaking to the person sitting at the last pew.
* Be sure to sit in the designated assigned pew.
* When proclaiming the readings, be sure not to add or subtract words, because remember, it is not our words, but the Word of the Lord, inspired by the Holy Spirit.
* Please bow at the foot of the sanctuary, and then after reading, another bow at the foot of the sanctuary before going back to your seat.

 The First Reader approach the ambo once Creed reaches "...Communion of Saints, forgiveness of sins..." to lead the congregation in the prayers of the faithful.

* No procession out because the Word of the Lord has been proclaimed, and is now the living word in people.
* Please contact Marti Bolcer for the schedule.

**To Note:**

* -Pre-Mass announcements now ARE NOT GIVEN FROM THE AMBO, but are instead given from the **cantor stand**. Ideally only the Word of God is given from the ambo when there is a nearby cantor stand. Likewise, unless the accompanist is also the psalmist (and thus obviously must be at the piano); the responsorial psalm will now be proclaimed by a cantor from the ambo for Sunday liturgies.
* -Lectors before and after proclaiming the readings, need to reverence the *altar* with a bow (not the tabernacle or the ambo)
* -Lectors on Sundays never use hand gestures to signal a response (at the end of the reading after saying “the Word of the Lord”, or during the prayers of the faithful to signal “Lord hear our prayer”). The only time the lectors will use hand gestures will be at the **daily mass** during the responsorial psalm.
* -Lectors should observe a slight pause after proclaiming the first reading before saying “The Word of the Lord” (approx 1.5 second pause) and a short pause before going into the responsorial psalm (approx 3 second pause).
* -Lectors do not add in additional introductions not specified by the lectionary.  For example, it is not appropriate to introduce “Our first reading this evening is from the Book of Genesis…”. Lectors will simply say what is the lectionary specifies, “A reading from…”.    At daily Mass, Lectors do not an introduction before the responsorial psalm, “The responsorial psalm is…” OR “Our response is…”. Lectors will simply say the response, “I love you, Lord, my strength.”

Readings available on US Catholic Bishops' web site - http://www.usccb.org/

Thank you for your service!!!