

September, 2015

Dear Parish Lectors:

Thank you for your faithful service at our liturgies and for going over the readings before Mass.

The following is a reminder and an update which I would like you to observe: Please come dressed appropriately for ministry at the altar. It makes such a difference when the Word is proclaimed clearly and with meaning, **slowly, distinctly** and **loudly**, remembering that those listening do not have the text in front of them. They depend solely on your voice to hear and understand the inspired Word of God.

Please sign up on line for your choice, you can do this months ahead of time. If you don't have a computer please see Mary for signing up.

Ten minutes before Mass is to start, please come into the sacristy to pick up the Gospel book, review the announcements in order that unusual names can be clarified before Mass. Then go to the vestibule (entrance area) to serve as greeters and join in the short prayer. When two lectors are assigned, both precede the priest with the one carrying the Gospel book immediately in front of the priest. **After you place the book on the altar (it does not need to be upright) return to the right of the priest.**

To bow or not to bow - if you cross in front of the altar, bow, if you don't cross in front do not bow. Please do not sing the Alleluia or verse if you cannot sing well. I cannot, so I don't; you don't have to either.

The liturgical guidelines state that the parish announcements be read by someone other than the presider (priest). Ordinarily the person who carries the Gospel book is to read the announcements. Approach the **cantor's microphone** (near the piano) or use the **ambo (pulpit) microphone**, **do so as the priest begins the Prayer after Communion:** ('Let us pray' is your cue.) **Immediately after the Communion Prayer, read** the announcements **slowly**, loudly and clearly.

If you know of others whom you think would be effective lectors and are practicing Catholics, please give their names to the office.

May God bless you in your vital role for our daily and weekend liturgies for you are assist the people in understanding the Word of God.

Gratefully,

Fr. Jim and Fr. Tom