

## **ST. EDWARD CHURCH LECTOR MINISTRY**

A Lector is a lay minister who reads the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and when there is no Cantor the Psalm from the Lectionary at Mass. Lectors are charged with the important work of proclaiming the word of God to those assembled. To do this they must have a good comfort level with using a microphone and speaking in front of a group, and the skill to enunciate clearly and read with a speed and inflection that will enable the listener to gain an understanding of the message being proclaimed. They will be provided with the chance to practice using the microphone at the ambo so they can be comfortable with positioning it for their height and using it in general.

All Lectors receive the Workbook for Lectors and Gospel Readers annually. This book is their aid to a deeper understanding of the readings which in turn makes their presentation of the readings easier. Lectors are expected to review the readings prior to the actual reading. It is wise to review all Lector readings in case your partner on the schedule does not show up.

There is a black Lector binder in the Sacristy that contains the Liturgy Sheet for Mass. This sheet lists the readings for the mass and is the overall script for the Mass. Reviewing this prior to Mass is a double check to be sure that you are prepared for the correct readings. Also double check the Lectionary to make sure the ribbon book mark is in the correct place for the readings for the day.

There are 2 Lectors scheduled for each Mass. One Lector (decided between the Lectors before Mass begins) walks in procession carrying the Lectionary. They move to the left after approaching the altar, bow with the Presider and others and mount the steps to the altar, go to the Ambo, place the Lectionary on the ambo and then go to their seat behind the ambo.

The first Lector listed on the schedule reads the 1<sup>st</sup> reading (and the psalm if there is no Cantor to sing it) then return to their seat behind the ambo. The second Lector reads the second reading and when finished takes the Lectionary and places it on the bottom shelf of the credence table.

If there is no Deacon assisting at Mass, the Lector also reads the Prayers of the faithful from the Ambo. He/she moves to the ambo immediately after the Creed to do so. The Lectors decide between themselves who will do this before the start of Mass.

The Lector who was in the procession before Mass is also the Lector who joins the procession at the end of Mass.

1. Know your schedule. If you will be unable to serve at the liturgy scheduled please find a substitute. When there is no substitute, another unscheduled Lector from the assembly may have to fill in on the spur of the moment and may not be dressed as they usually would when serving as a Lector. (see #2)
2. As Lectors you are perceived as parish leaders and examples for the parish. When you serve in overly casual attire those watching may be distracted or annoyed. Please dress for the occasion when you are scheduled to serve and try and stay on the dressy side of casual. Understandably, when you are stepping up to fill in for someone who did not find a substitute, you may not be dressed as you would when you are scheduled. Thank you for the times you do step up.
3. Take time to pray each day the week before you serve; be aware of God's presence in those around you. Pray for a continued awareness of God's presence in the people, in the Word of God, and in the Eucharist.

4. Schedules are put out four times a year. You will hear the announcement to pick them up in the Church Hall. Schedules are also posted on the St Edward parish website: [sted.org](http://sted.org)
5. Lector needs for Major liturgical celebrations during the Advent/Christmas/Lent and Easter season are filled by volunteers; sign up sheets are posted in the main entrance several weeks before the services. It is greatly appreciated if you sign up early after the posting. Once a year a phone and time preference list is distributed with a schedule. Any changes are distributed with other schedules during the year.
6. The frequency of being scheduled depends on the number of Lectors serving at the mass time. Requests are honored please call requests for the next schedule to be posted at least one month in advance to the person who makes out the Lector schedule. Their name and number will be on the schedule.

Dated: January 2009