



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
MISSOULA'S JESUIT PARISH

Lector Guidelines

Weekend Masses:

- Practice your readings during the week and be well prepared before getting to the church for Mass.
- Before Mass, check in using the list in the sacristy so the sacristan/priest knows you are there. You may put on a medallion that designates you as the lector for that liturgy. Check the ambo and make sure the lectionary is opened to the proper first reading. Adjust the microphone if necessary. Take the Book of the Gospels off the altar to the back of the church for the procession.
- This is a good time to ask someone from the congregation to bring up the gifts during preparation. If there is a baptism during Mass, please ask members of that family to bring the gifts forward.
- While standing in the back of the church waiting for the procession, assist the ushers in welcoming people to the church.
- During the entrance procession, walk immediately in front of the presiders, behind the altar servers. Hold the book in front of you, slightly elevated.
- When you reach the front of the church, continue to the altar and place the Book of the Gospels on the stand, return to the foot of the altar and bow with the rest of the procession. Return to your seat. (sit on the side of the church where the ambo is located)
- After the opening prayer, while everyone is being seated, walk to the ambo to read the first reading, bowing to the altar from the first step. Begin reading slowly and clearly, with pauses at commas and periods and take special care to pronounce every word very clearly. Pause briefly after the reading before saying "The Word of the Lord."
- Step back next to the altar of Mary for the Psalm to be sung.
- When the cantor has sat back down after the Psalm, return to the ambo to read the second reading.
- After the second reading, close the Lectionary and place it on the shelf in the ambo. Bow to the altar from the first step and return to your seat.
- If there is NO deacon assisting at Mass, your next duty is to read the Prayer of the Faithful. At the end of the Creed, proceed back to the altar to read this. The presider will read an introductory prayer and a closing prayer. When the closing prayer is finished, return to your seat.
- At the end of Mass, recess out with the priests and altar servers, but DO NOT take the Book of the Gospels. Join the presiders and altar servers at the foot of the altar, bow together and recess out.
- After Mass, take the Book of the Gospels to the sacristy and put away the medallion.