

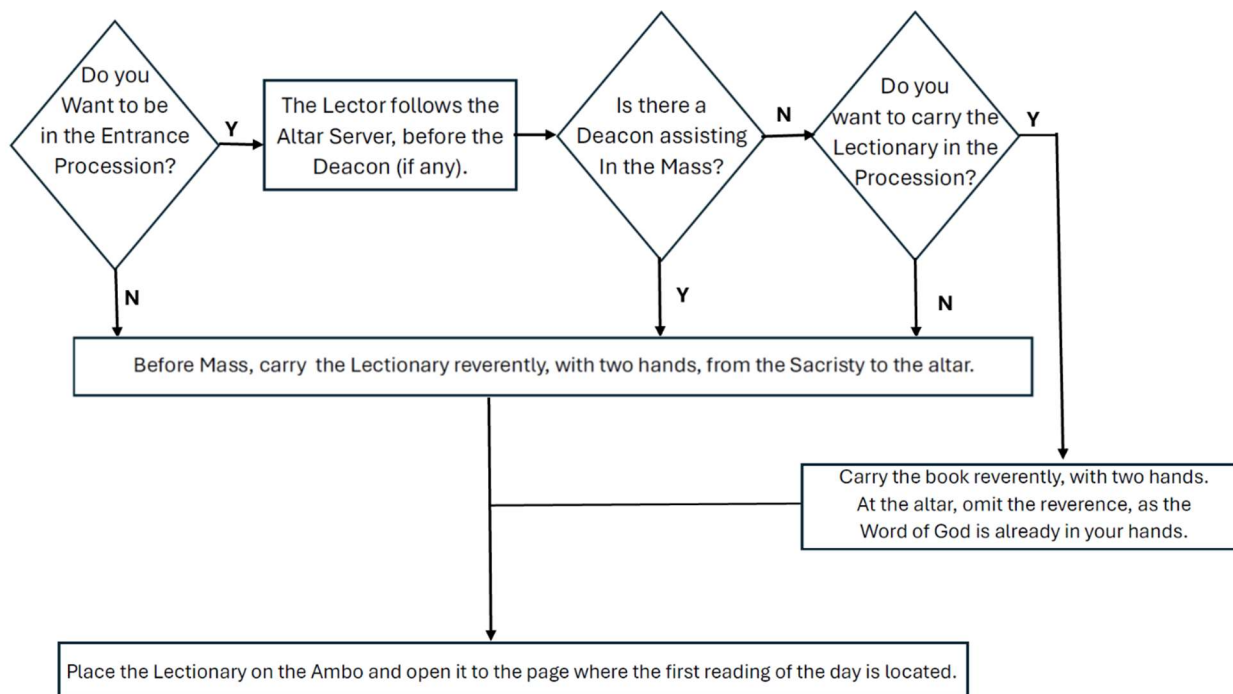
Guidance for Lectors at Immaculate Conception Church, East Aurora, NY

Lectors should generally be seated in a place which allows for easy access to the Ambo, preferably among the Assembly. An important aspect is that the Lector is part of the Assembly so the Lector proceeding from the Assembly to the Ambo has its own significance.

Genuflecting, Bowing, and Genuflecting.

At the time of the Liturgy of the Word, the Lector approaches the Ambo slowly and with reverence. When the Lector passes in front of the Altar, he/she bows to the Altar before proceeding to the Ambo.

- When carrying the Lectionary
 - Carry the Lectionary, which contains the Word of God, with solemn respect.
 - Always use two hands and never tuck it under your arm.
 - Lift the Lectionary in a respectful manner.
 - Genuflecting or bowing in respect to the Tabernacle is not necessary because you are already carrying the Word of God.
- When not carrying the Lectionary
 - *Reverence the Altar (bow in its direction) at the base of the Altar, each time you approach or leave the Altar.*
 - *Otherwise, genuflect or bow when passing the Tabernacle*



Sunday Lector

- Prior to Mass.
 - **Arrive in the Sacristy at least twenty minutes before Mass begins.**
 - **Cross your name off the Lector schedule posted in the Sacristy, to indicate that the Lector has arrived.**
 - **Place the sheet with Prayer of the Faithful and the sheet with the Church Announcements in the Lectionary, for easier transport to the Ambo.**
 - **Determine if you will participate in the Entrance Procession with the priest.** The Lector has the option of participating in the Entrance Procession, whether there is a Deacon or not.
 - *When there is a Deacon assisting at the Mass, the Lectionary is not carried in the procession to the Altar. When assisting in the Mass, the Deacon carries the Book of the Gospels in the Entrance Procession instead.*
 - ***If participating in the Entrance Procession, follow the Altar Servers, and precede the Deacon, if any, and the priest, without the Lectionary.***
 - The General Instruction for the Roman Missal says that the Lectionary should not be carried in the procession to the Altar. However, it is the custom at Immaculate Conception Church to allow a Lector the option of carrying the Lectionary in the procession to the Altar, when there is no Deacon present.
 - ***If you elect to carry the Lectionary in the Entrance Procession,***
 - ***As the priest ascends to the Altar, proceed to the Ambo,***
 - ***Place the Lectionary on the Ambo,***
 - ***Move the Prayers of the Faithful and the Church Announcements to the shelf below,***
 - ***Then, proceed to your seat in the pew.***
 - ***If the Lectionary is not to be included in the Entrance Procession, then, before Mass starts,***
 - ***Take the Sunday Lectionary from the Sacristy,***
 - ***Place it on the Ambo,***
 - ***Move the Prayers of the Faithful and the Church Announcements to the shelf below,***
 - ***Then take a seat in the pew.***
 - **When the Lectionary is put on the Ambo, open it to the page where the first reading of the day is located.**
- First Reading
 - **After the “Amen” to the Collect, proceed into the Sanctuary, and move to the Ambo with reverence.** In proceeding to the Ambo to proclaim the reading, the Lector should never carry a missalette or sheet of paper.
 - **Read the first reading, as in the Lectionary.**
- Responsorial Psalm
 - *Normally, the cantor sings the responsorial psalm.*
 - ***During this time take a seat on a nearby seat on the Sanctuary.***

- *On the rare occasion when there is no cantor,*
 - **Remain at the Ambo**
 - **Read the responsorial psalm from the Lectionary in its entirety.** *When the Lector is speaking the response, it is helpful if they raise a hand to indicate to the congregation when it should repeat the response.*
- Second Reading
 - **Read the second reading from the Ambo.**
 - **After saying, “The Word of the Lord”, return to your seat in the pew.**
- Prayer of the Faithful
 - It is the custom at Immaculate Conception Church that the Lector read the Prayer of the Faithful, instead of the Deacon.
 - **Proceed to the Ambo during the recitation of the Creed**
 - **Retrieve the sheet with the Prayers of the Faithful from where you placed it on the shelf below**
 - **After the priest introduces the intercessions, read each intention from the Ambo followed by, “We pray to the Lord.”**
 - **Remain at the Ambo while the priest concludes the intercessions with a prayer.**
 - **Then, return to your pew.**
- Prayer for Vocations and Announcements
 - It is the practice at Immaculate Conception Church that the Lector leads the congregation in the Prayer for Vocations and reads the announcements after communion.
 - Normally the Lector proceeds to the Ambo as the Communion music stops. Occasionally, the priest may indicate that the Lector begin during the purification of the vessels. Be alert and flexible.
 - **Retrieve the prayer for vocations from the shelf in the Ambo.** At this writing, it is on a laminated yellow sheet of paper. **Also retrieve the sheet with the Church Announcements from where you placed it on the shelf below.**
 - **Read the Prayer for Vocations**
 - **Allow a brief opportunity for the cantor to announce the final song before the announcements.**
 - **Read the announcements.**
 - *If you want to participate in the procession after Mass,*
 - **Remain on the Altar after the announcements**
 - **Participate in a manner similar to the Entrance Procession, following the Altar servers to the Sacristy.**
 - *Otherwise,*
 - **Return to your pew after the announcements.**
 - **After the final song is complete, reverently carry the Lectionary, with the Prayer of the Faithful and announcements, back to their respective places in the Sacristy.**

Tips for Proclaiming the Word.

1. Speak slowly and clearly. Most people tend to speak about twice as fast as a Lector should.
2. Always read the readings ahead of time. Practicing the readings will help words and phrases more easily roll off the tongue.
3. Determine how you will pronounce difficult words or names.
4. The first reading is usually related to the Gospel reading. Understanding how they relate may suggest which words or phrases you want to emphasize in your proclamation.
5. Be aware of the type of reading. Understanding the literary style (narrative, prayer, history, prophesy, exhortation, etc.) helps you to shed light on the tone you should use and the meaning of the Scripture passage.
6. The title of the reading such as “A reading from the Book of Exodus” and the ending, “The Word of the Lord”, should be distinguished from the reading itself. Lectors do this by observing a pause of about three seconds. The same tone of proclamation should be maintained for “The Word of The Lord”.
7. Consider using the following resources to assist in your preparation
 - a. The Workbook for Lectors, Gospel Readers, and Proclaimers of the Word. This book provides suggestions on which words and phrases to emphasize and helpful explanations of each reading.
 - b. www.Lectorprep.com. This is an excellent website that gives historical and theological perspective to the readings, and good advice on how each reading should be proclaimed.
 - c. Daily Readings at <https://bible.usccb.org>. This website provides the readings and also includes a podcast that allows you to listen to someone proclaiming the readings.
 - d. The bible with its footnotes. Sometimes it’s helpful to read the passages before and after the reading for the day to understand its context.

Two-month schedules are prepared six times a year: shortly after February 10, April 10, June 10, August 10, October 10, and December 10. Schedules are available in the Sacristy, shortly after they are printed. Prior notification of any scheduling limitations is appreciated.

Schedules are also made available at www.r716.us/IC.

Separate sign-up sheets are posted in the Sacristy, as required, for Palm Sunday, Easter, and Holy Days of Obligation.

Glossary

Ambo. The Ambo is a permanent podium on the Altar where the Liturgy of the Word takes place. It is the symbol of the presence of the Word of God in the Church, just as the Altar is the symbol of the Sacrament of the Eucharist. The Ambo is to be used for the proclaimed Word, namely, the readings from Sacred Scripture, the Gospel, the homily and the intentions of the Prayers of the Faithful.

Altar. The table used for celebrating the Sacrifice of the Mass.

Assembly. The people gathered at Mass. The congregation.

Church Announcements. Information shared with the congregation about parish-related events.

Entrance Procession. The action of the Priest, Deacon, Lector, Altar Services, and/or others moving from the entrance to the altar at the beginning of a Mass.

Lectionary. A book that is composed of the readings and the responsorial psalm assigned for each Mass.

Lector. The Reader. The person from the Assembly who reads the first and second readings at a Mass. At Immaculate Conception Church the Lector also reads the Prayer of the Faithful, the Prayer for Vocations, the Church Announcements, and sometimes the Responsorial Psalm.

Prayer of the Faithful. The Universal Prayer. A prayer where people respond to God's Word and ask for the salvation of all. It can include petitions for many things, such as the Church, those in authority, those in need, and the local community.

Reverence the Altar. A sign of reverence, such as bowing, that acknowledges the sacredness of the Altar.

Sacristy. A room off the vestibule where the vestments, sacred vessels, Lectionaries, and other religious articles are kept, and where the clergy prepare for the Mass and other functions.

Sanctuary. The part of the church building that is around the Altar.

Tabernacle. A box or vessel on the Altar where the Holy Eucharist is stored. The word tabernacle means, "dwelling place".