

# SAINT BRIGID CATHOLIC CHURCH



LECTOR MINISTRY  
2019

### **What is a Lector?**

Lectors are entrusted with the crucial task of making the word of God come alive by proclaiming it to the parish. This role is a joy and honor for those who undertake the responsibility. Proclamation of the Holy Word can be a powerful way of engaging the parish in the wonderful mystery of the Mass. The key here is that we are to “proclaim”, not “read.” To proclaim, we need to know and understand the readings before we step up to the Ambo.

### **Lector Requirements**

The Archdiocese of Atlanta requires that all lectors be fully initiated Catholics, living in communion with the Church. Thus, a lector should have received both Holy Communion and Confirmation and should not be living in a state of grave sin.

### **The Lectors’ Tasks**

At Saint Brigid, there are two lectors for each mass. First Reader (FR) and Second Reader (SR). Even though you are scheduled as a FR or SR, always prepare for both readings in case the other lector has an emergency and isn’t present.

#### *First Reading (FR):*

- Watches for a sign from the presiding priest to begin the Mass.
- Reads the Mass Introductions before Mass begins.
- Prepares for and proclaims the first reading at the appropriate time.

#### *Second Reading (SR):*

- Prepares for and proclaims the second reading at the appropriate time.
- Removes the lectionary from the middle of the Ambo, *only if* the deacon is present.
- Reads the Intentions, *only if* the deacon is not present.

#### *7:30 Sunday Mass only*

- In addition to above, FR will also read the Responsorial Psalm
- SR must also sing the Alleluia Antiphon (or the Gospel Acclamation during Lent).

### **The Sanctuary is Holy**

#### *Appropriate Dress:*

As Lectors, our dress should be modest and convey the respect and solemnity of the Mass. We should wear our “Sunday Best.” Men should be in a jacket and tie and women should have their shoulders covered. Jewelry and other accessories should be kept to a minimum. We are simply the messenger and should never let our dress, manner or actions take away or distract from God’s word.

### ***When You Arrive at Church***

- Please arrive 15-20 minutes before Mass begins.
- Sign-in at the Usher's Room so that the Sacristan knows that you are present. There is a Lector Ministry schedule posted on the bulletin board in the Usher's Room. Initial next to your name on the Lector Ministry sheet. If you are a substitute, write your name next to the name of the lector whose place you are taking for that Mass.
- Lectors and their families should sit in the first two rows of the far left (as you face the Altar) section of pews – preferably FR on first row, SR on second row. The FR must be able to turn to look back at the entrance to the Sanctuary to watch for the Presiding Priest's or Deacon's signal to begin.
- The FR should check the Ambo to review the Mass Introduction (see sample in Appendix A) and to verify that the Lectionary is open to the correct first reading. The SR should also check the lectionary at the Ambo to review the page for the second reading.
- Beginning about five minutes prior to mass start time, the FR should turn to watch for the Presiding Priest or Deacon's signal to begin.

### ***Approaching and Leaving the Ambo***

- When leaving your pew to reach the Altar, walk to the center/right side of the Ambo and bow towards the Altar. Then turn and walk to the left (far) side of the Ambo, climb the stairs, and move behind the Ambo to face the congregation. If the cantor is present, please coordinate your bow to the altar with that of the cantor.
- **As you approach and leave the Altar, you should make a bow towards the Altar (not the Tabernacle).** Never walk and bow at the same time; stop before bowing.
- When leaving the Ambo, walk back down the stairs, return to the center/right side of the Ambo and bow again, coordinating with the cantor when they are present.

### ***Beginning of Mass***

- Once Father has signaled the beginning of Mass, the FR should proceed to the Ambo, following the guidelines for "Approaching and Leaving the Ambo" as found in this handbook.
- The FR reads the Mass Introduction. (Do not read start the introduction while music is playing. Wait for the prelude to stop.) Please remember the introduction may be the first thing that new parishioners hear at mass. When we say, "we warmly welcome you" look out at the parishioners and smile.
- After doing so, please move the page to the right side of the Ambo. Homily notes (if present) should be on the left side of the Ambo and not moved.
- The FR then returns to his/her seat in the pew, following the guidelines for "Approaching and Leaving the Ambo" as found in this handbook.

### ***Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) Occurs During Mass***

- Generally the Vigil, 9:00 AM and 10:45 AM masses while school is in session.
- If there is a CLOW, the red lectionary will be on the lectern at the start of mass
- If CLOW occurs during Mass, the FR should **not** approach the Ambo **until after the music has stopped and** the CLOW leader has begun walking up the center aisle.

### ***If No CLOW***

- The FR should approach the Ambo immediately after the Opening Prayer.

### ***First Reading***

- Announce the first reading. Pause. Complete the text of the reading. Pause deliberately before saying, "The word of the Lord." Wait for the congregation's response, "Thanks be to God." The FR should return to his/her pew.
- The only time that a lector should remain on the Altar is during the 7:30am Mass for the purpose of leading the Responsorial Psalm. Raise your right hand to indicate when the congregation should say the response.

### ***Second Reading***

- At the completion of the Responsorial Psalm, the SR should approach the Ambo.
- Announce the second reading. Pause. Complete the text of the reading. Pause deliberately before saying, "The word of the Lord." Wait for the congregation's response, "Thanks be to God." Close the Lectionary and place it on the lower shelf of the Ambo. It is very important that we move the Lectionary out of the way because the Deacon will carry the Book of Gospels to place on the Ambo. Return to pew.

### ***Second Reading – 7:30 Mass Only***

- The second lector will sing the Alleluia (both the opening and closing Alleluia AND the verse in between). This is required for all masses with the exception of Lent. **During Lent, the Alleluia is not performed**, but the Gospel Intonation is sung ("Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory")
- When finished with the second reading, *if there is not a Deacon present*, leave the Lectionary open to the Gospel reading from which Father will read. The SR then returns to his/her place in the pew.

### ***Prayers of the Faithful -- 7:30 Sunday Mass Only***

- If there is not a Deacon or Deacon in Formation (DIF) present, the SR will be responsible for reading the Prayers of the Faithful. Remember to verify before Mass begins whether a DIF will be reading the Intentions.
- The SR (or FR if no SR is present) should approach the Ambo towards the end of the Profession of Faith when the congregation says, "*I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son...*"
- The SR returns to the pew when the Celebrant has concluded the Prayers of the Faithful.

## SUBSTITUTION PROCEDURES

- If you are unable to be at your scheduled Mass, you are responsible for scheduling a substitute for the reading. First check with lectors within your mass and then if no response, send to the entire lector roster to find a substitute.
- Alert the lector captain for your mass of the substitution or the swap in scheduled days. Also alert your co-reader for the assigned mass that you have a substitute.

## SCHEDULING PROCESS

The mass lector captains and ultimately the coordinator of the Lector Ministry is responsible for scheduling all Masses except the Life Teen Mass. The coordinator also schedules lectors for Holy Days of Obligation and other holiday masses. The regular process is as follows:

1. The mass lector captains send an email to the mass roster about two/three weeks before a new schedule is necessary. All lectors will have an opportunity to notify the Coordinator of availability during the next two months. If a lector knows that he/she will be out of town a particular month, the Coordinator can schedule around the unavailability. **If you have not provided your availability, you will not be scheduled.**
2. Schedules are established in a two-month cycles. Easter and Christmas schedules are done separately due to the number of masses that need lectors.
3. The mass lector captains will (generally) provide an e-mail reminder to you when you are scheduled to read.

## LECTOR MASS CAPTAINS

5:00 PM Vigil	Jolie Cooney	<a href="mailto:joliecooney@gmail.com">joliecooney@gmail.com</a>	770.570.6446
7:30 A	Annamarie Robb	<a href="mailto:arobb6@bellsouth.net">arobb6@bellsouth.net</a>	678.566.4062
9:00 AM	John Baker	<a href="mailto:lynjohn102304@comcast.net">lynjohn102304@comcast.net</a>	678.274.8611
10:45 AM	Jennifer Grizzle	<a href="mailto:Jennifer@theprstudio.com">Jennifer@theprstudio.com</a>	404.291.1310
12:30 PM	Matt Woods	<a href="mailto:woods2998@yahoo.com">woods2998@yahoo.com</a>	615-479-1798

### Lector Ministry Coordinator

Jennifer Grizzle      [Jennifer@theprstudio.com](mailto:Jennifer@theprstudio.com)      404.291.1310

## **GENERAL PROCEDURES**

### **LECTIO DIVINA (DIVINE READING): AN INTRODUCTION TO PRAYING SCRIPTURE**

#### The Four Rungs of Guigo's Ladder

1. Lectio
  - a. Read and Re-read. Ruminare the words.
  - b. 4 basic questions: Who? What? When? Where?
  - c. What are the nouns & verbs?
  - d. Every word is important.
  - e. Careful reading produces a bountiful harvest of much fruit.
  
2. Meditatio – Christian meditation makes full use of the intellect to understand God's Word and to hear God's voice.
  - a. It's a quest.
    - i. Why does this passage include these particular people?
    - ii. Why are these details noted; why using this repetition or pattern in writing?
  - b. Goal of meditation is to go where the Spirit leads us.
  
3. Oratio
  - a. We start to talk thru our questions, puzzlement, wonder, fear, complaints, and happiness regarding the things we discover on the sacred page.
  - b. How does this apply to our lives?
  - c. Blessed Mary 'kept all these things in her heart'.
  
4. Contemplatio
  - a. God's gift. We become the receiver.
  - b. Effortless; beyond our abilities of mind & will.
  - c. Restful gaze upon Author of all beauty & wonder; gaze of love.
  - d. Natural contemplation.
  - e. Infused contemplation

During training, we will select a reading and practice Lectio Divina. It will also be the reading we practice with at the ambo.

### ***Before a Scheduled Mass***

- Study the assigned readings in the Lector Handbook. You should study all of the readings so that you can better and more fully understand the individual readings. Additionally, studying all of the readings beforehand allows you to substitute if the other lector is unavailable. If the handbook is not available, contact the Coordinator of the Lector Ministry to obtain a copy. Readings can be found at [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)
- **Study and understand the reading.** Know the historical AND liturgical context and try to understand the links between both readings and the Gospel. Study aids can be found at <http://lectorprep.org/> and tips for Lectio Divina (the study of scripture) can be found at <http://www.fisheaters.com/lectiodivina.html>. See Appendix A for preparation tips and guides to assist in studying the readings.
- Practice in front of a mirror if possible. Watch that you are speaking to the congregation and not primarily to the Lectionary.
- Use pauses to emphasize the beginnings and endings of readings. After announcing the source of the reading (i.e., “A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel), pause deliberately before beginning the text of the reading. In the same way, pause deliberately again at the end of the reading before saying, “The word of the Lord”.
- The Lector Handbook should specify correct pronunciation of difficult-to-pronounce words, especially Old Testament names. If still unsure, ask one of the Priests before Mass to verify correct pronunciation or visit the pronunciation website at [www.netministries.org/basics//words.htm](http://www.netministries.org/basics//words.htm). (or simply Google “bible pronunciation”).
- The most important aspects of public speaking are to annunciate (speak very clearly) and to speak slowly. Even if it feels as though you are speaking too slowly when rehearsing, practice it that way! Adrenalin can cause us to rush through our reading during Mass.

Other websites and tips to help you study the reading:

[www.Lectorsproclaim.org](http://www.Lectorsproclaim.org) – website prepared by St. Thomas Aquinas. Lots of useful tips  
[www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org) - daily readings, audio recordings of daily readings and interpretations of passages  
[www.lectorprep.org](http://www.lectorprep.org) - good site to preview readings and get in-depth understanding of passages  
<http://www.archatl.com/offices/odw/events/lectors.html> -training material and manuals. Somewhat generic but useful in a pinch

APPENDIX A

**Mass Introduction the Sixth Sunday of Easter, Year A,  
May 20-21, 2017**

***This page will be used by other Lectors please do not remove or write on.***

Good **morning /afternoon /evening**. Welcome - to Saint Brigid Catholic Church, on this Sixth Sunday of Easter. We extend a special welcome to any newcomers or returning Catholics joining us today. Please know how happy we are that you've joined us at Mass

If you need assistance to receive Holy Communion, please let the ushers know and the Blessed Sacrament will be brought to you in the pew.

**Read ONLY for Sunday 7:30 and 9:00 AM Masses:**

- Please join us for Coffee and Donuts Fellowship after Mass today.

**Read for all Masses EXCEPT LIFE TEEN:**

- A Communal Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated **tomorrow/today** Sunday, following the 12:30 PM Mass.

**Read for all Masses**

- Vacation Bible School "Packet and T-Shirt Pickup" is this weekend in the Life Teen room, along with a few First Eucharist banners.

***Pause***

\*\* The readings for today's Mass can be found in your Gather hymnal beginning at number **964, Year A** again **9-6-4 Year A**.

Please ensure all cell phones or other electronic devices are turned off or on silent mode; as not to cause a distraction during this Holy Mass

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**Lector Notes**

Before Mass begins please go to the podium and read the opening statement when the priest gives the signal.

***THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR TIME AND TALENT TO THIS MINISTRY***



## **APPENDIX B**

### *Glossary of Terms*

**Altar:** The table upon which the Sacrifice of the Mass is offered and celebrated.

**Ambo:** The podium from which the scriptures are read during the Mass. At Saint Brigid, the Ambo is the podium to the left of the Altar as you face the Altar from the pew.

**Deacon:** Someone who has been ordained into the Diaconate, the lowest level of Holy Orders. The name comes from the Greek word for service.

**Genuflection:** Bending of the knee, a natural sign of adoration or reverence. A person genuflects with the right knee in passing before the Tabernacle to acknowledge the Eucharistic presence of Christ.

**Lectionary:** The book(s) that contains the scriptural readings for the Mass.

**Lector:** The Reader. Usually used to denote the lay minister who proclaims the scripture readings at Mass.

**Parochial Vicar:** A Priest assigned to the Parish who assists the Pastor in the general parochial work of the Parish.

**Sacristan:** The sacristan assists the priest by setting up the altar, preparing bread and wine, the chalice and cloths, checking the microphones and lighting. He/she makes sure that the ministers are in place for their various ministries of reading, commentating and processing with gifts to the altar.

**Sanctuary:** The part of the church immediately surrounding the Altar.

**Tabernacle:** The receptacle in which the Blessed Sacrament is reserved in churches and chapels.

*Thank you for sharing your time and talent  
with the Saint Brigid Community*