

Lector Do's and Don'ts

- ✓ Do practice your reading (and even the other lector's reading) aloud at home before arriving for Mass. Use the Lector Workbook to gain background and advice on passages to emphasize.
- ✓ Or, refer to the USCCB website <http://www.usccb.org/bible/index.cfm> for the day's readings
- ✓ Do register your arrival in the lobby cupboard and check with the other lector
- ✓ Do bow to the altar (not tabernacle) when approaching the sanctuary and ambo
- ✓ Do sit in a pew on the left-hand side near the front to minimize time spent walking to ambo
- ✓ Do pray to the Holy Spirit for understanding of the scriptures and to guide you in your proclamation
- ✓ Do use the step stool (unobtrusively) if needed
- ✓ Articulate the consonants
- ✓ Pause for a breath or two after your reading before you state "The word of the Lord"
- ✓ Do meet the Cantor at the bottom of the sanctuary steps, then bow together toward the altar before proceeding to the ambo or stone bench
- ✓ Do pause for a breath or two after stating "A reading from the book of" and briefly look toward the congregation before you begin the actual reading
- ✓ Do move the Lectionary book aside after the second reading if the Deacon is present
- ✓ Do remain at the Ambo after reading the Prayers until the priest finishes closing the prayers before you return to your pew
- ✓ Do arrange for your own substitute if you are unable to fulfill your assignment

- ⊗ Don't bow to the tabernacle
- ⊗ Don't smile or get flustered if you make simple mistakes or mispronunciations. Just pick up as smoothly as you can and go on without increasing attention to the error.
- ⊗ Don't turn around and leave the ambo immediately after concluding with "The word of the Lord." Remain standing in place while the assembly responds with "Thanks be to God"; then turn around.
- ⊗ Don't say "A reading from the book of..."; instead, say "Uh reading from..."
- ⊗ Don't wait until the Creed is completed before heading to the Ambo for the prayers. Time your walk to arrive at the Ambo by the end of the Creed
- ⊗ Don't emphasize eye contact while reading the Prayers
- ⊗ Don't draw attention to yourself through your apparel, your posture, your gestures or your speech
- ⊗ Don't think of lay reading as a reenactment or a theatrical dramatization
- ⊗ Don't grip the podium during your reading and don't make unusual facial expressions