

## Pandemic Liturgical Guidelines: Lectors

While we are all eager to resume our lives, we must be aware that restrictions remain in effect in our communities in order to prevent the up-curve of the coronavirus, which would lead again to quarantine and closures. As we resume Mass, we will need to pay attention to specific details. We pray that as time progresses they can gradually lessen until they go away.

1. If you are caring for someone who is ill, immune compromised (i.e. someone with cancer, HIV, lupus, or any autoimmune disease), or you are immune compromised you should refrain at this time from serving in this or any other ministry. Your ministry at this time is caring for that person, or for yourself. While you may be disappointed, this sacrifice is necessary and our Lord is asking this of you at this time.
2. It is important that you take your temperature prior to leaving home when you are scheduled to serve as lector. If it is elevated, and/or you are feeling ill you should stay home. Do not come to church. While you may feel guilty about not being able to serve, imagine how it would feel to know that someone got ill because of you! It is greater service to stay home and let your parish know that you are ill instead of risking your and others health.
3. Before coming into church, make sure to sanitize your hands and place on a mask. Then follow the usual protocols for ministering as a lector at your parish. Make sure to follow all the rules of social distancing (no hugs, no handshakes and staying at least 6 feet away from another person).
4. Sit in a pew that is as close as possible to the ambo. At this time, the liturgical procession has been simplified.
5. When it is time to proclaim the texts, take off your mask and approach the sanctuary. Bow and proceed to the ambo and read. If you are the only lector, stand aside so the cantor can come and lead the responsorial psalm. Make sure you remain at the appropriate social distance. If there is a second lector, go back to your pew and place your mask back on.
6. After the cantor is completed leading the responsorial psalm, re-approach the ambo, proclaim the text and then leave the sanctuary space, go back to your pew, and place your mask back on.
7. If there is no deacon, you may be asked to lead the Universal Prayer (Prayers of the Faithful) which may be in a vinyl folder. If so, you will follow the same protocol as you did when you first began reading.
8. Depending on protocol at your parish, you may be asked to take the Lectionary, Book of Gospels and the folder with the Universal Prayer back to the sacristy after Mass is done. Your pastor may also ask you to assist by placing the books back, wipe them down with a Clorox wipe or another anti-bacterial spray/wipe and then dry with a clean towel (if paper throw away; if cloth place in the laundry).

