



**SAINT MAXIMILIAN KOLBE**  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

# LECTORS

10/2019

## Dress Code

*“In effect, we all speak by the clothes we wear. Dress is a language, as it is a very form of external expression. It should never be forgotten that the actual clothing of the liturgy is a clothing of sanctity. We are to put on that holiness, realizing the fullness of participation.”*

- Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

Those who serve in the various roles at Mass assist in setting the tone and the high regard with which the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass should be held. It is important, therefore, that liturgical ministers dress in a fitting manner.

For Lectors, Cantors, and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, the dress code is as follows:

- Modest attire is expected.
- Men - a sport coat and tie or suit and tie, preferable.
- Women - a skirt/dress (No higher than the knee), or slacks are also acceptable.
- It would be much appreciated if all ministers could come to Mass dressed as if you were ready to substitute.

Respecting the solemnity of the Mass and the significance of your very public role in the liturgy, please do not wear the following:

- Tank tops, t-shirts, shorts
- Tight clothing
- Jeans
- Short skirts
- Sweatshirts and sweatpants
- Low-cut necklines
- Sleeveless dresses and blouses (without a cover-up)
- Flips flops or running shoes
- Bold or distracting logos
- Any clothing that would be a distraction for others

*\*Servers have a specific dress code that is detailed in the servers' guidelines section.*

While daily Masses do not normally have the same level of ceremony as Sunday Masses, they remain nonetheless the Holy Sacrifice of our Lord. Attire may be more relaxed, but should still reflect the dignity of the ministry being performed.

## Guidelines for Lectors:

### **A. Preparation**

1. Prepare readings in *Workbook for Lectors*.
2. Additional Resources:
  - a. <http://www.usccb.org/nab>
  - b. [www.catholic-resources.org/Lectionary/Links.htm](http://www.catholic-resources.org/Lectionary/Links.htm)
  - c. <http://www.netministries.org/resources/resource-pronunciation-guide>

### **B. Before Mass**

1. Please be at church at least **20 minutes** before Mass.
  - a. Reminder: 10 min prior to the start of Mass, if you are not present, someone else can take your place.
  - b. Sign in and check with the other lector. **You may have to do both readings in an emergency.**
2. Check at the ambo to see if the Lectionary is set to the correct page.
3. Lector 1 should set the microphone at the ambo since he or she is the first one to use it, and if there is no deacon, review the petitions.
4. Lector 2: Review announcements or any other special texts. Please read through prior to Mass. Any special texts are available for review at the sign in station in the work sacristy.
5. It's helpful to sit on either side of the main aisle or the section in front of music ministry in the first 3 or 4 pews.

### **C. Procedures for Mass:**

1. Announcements Before Mass - Second Lector
  - a. No less than five minutes before Mass, please be seated in the music area.
  - b. When the time for Mass arrives, and after having been given the nod by the music director, approach the cantor stand for the welcome and announcements.
  - c. Read the announcements clearly and with **enthusiasm**, pausing between announcements. After inviting the congregation to stand and join in the entrance hymn, please go to your seat, being careful not to cross the center aisle directly in front of the entrance procession.

2. Procession - IF THERE IS NO DEACON - and we are using the Book of the Gospels, Lector 1:
  - a. Walk in the procession behind the servers, holding the Book of the Gospels aloft.
  - b. At the steps, pause, and give a reverent nod to the tabernacle, and then proceed up the steps to the back of the altar.
  - c. Place the open the Book of the Gospels upright in the center of the altar.
  - d. When returning to your seat, stand at the bottom of the steps directly in front of the tabernacle and give a profound bow.
  
3. First Reading - **Lector One**
  - a. When to leave your seat:
    1. If there is Children's Liturgy of the Word, start walking towards the ambo as the children are processing out: it is not necessary to wait until they leave to begin walking towards the sanctuary. In this way, the reading can begin as soon as all the children have left the church.
    2. If there is not Children's Liturgy of the Word, after the Collect, walk towards the bottom step directly in front of the tabernacle.
  - b. Stop at the steps and make a "profound bow" (from the hips) toward the tabernacle. Proceed to the ambo, approaching from the left side.
  - c. If necessary, adjust the microphone so it points to your chin. This allows for you to be most clearly heard and avoids "puff" from the plosive consonants.
  - d. Proclaim the source and the rest of the reading clearly.
  - e. Pause slightly after "A reading from..." and before "The Word of the Lord" (The "A" in "A reading from . . ." is pronounced with the schwa sound, /ə/, the same vowel sound we hear in the word "the".)
  - f. At the end of the reading, out of courtesy, please turn the page if needed to the second reading for the next lector.
  - g. It is not necessary to stand at the ambo for a momentary reflection after the reading. Please immediately return to your seat.
  - h. When returning to your seat, stand once again at the bottom of the steps directly in front of the tabernacle and give a profound bow.

- i. If you are the only lector, simply sit down in a nearby pew or in the music area during the Responsorial Psalm.

#### 4. Second Reading- **Lector Two**

- a. Wait until the Responsorial Psalm has concluded, then **walk** deliberately towards the bottom step of the sanctuary platform.
- b. Stop at the steps and make a “profound bow” (from the hips) toward the altar. Go up to the ambo, approaching from the left side.
- c. Proclaim the source and the rest of the reading clearly (See notes on microphone and pronunciation above).
- d. If the Book of the Gospels is being used, close the Lectionary and place it on the shelf of the ambo in order to make room for the Book of the Gospels.
- e. If there is no Book of the Gospel being used, please turn the page to the Gospel reading.
- f. It is not necessary to stand at the ambo for reflection after the reading. Please immediately return to your seat.
- g. When returning to your seat, stand once again at the bottom of the steps directly in front of the tabernacle, give a profound bow, and return to your seat.

#### 5. After Mass - Second Lector

- a. Please return the Lectionary to the top of the ambo and open to the correct page with the first reading.
- b. After Mass, return the Book of Gospels, if it was used, to the vesting sacristy counter.

### **D. IF THERE IS NO DEACON . . . First Lector - Universal Prayer**

1. The Universal Prayer consists of three parts: opening prayer by the presider, intercessions, and closing prayer by the presider.
2. When we start the final paragraph of the Creed (“*I believe in the Holy Spirit...*”), walk towards the bottom step of the sanctuary.
3. Stop at the steps and make a “profound bow” (from the hips) toward the tabernacle. Go up to the ambo.
4. After the presider finishes the introductory prayer, begin the intercessions.
5. Pause after each intercession.
6. Remain at the ambo until after the Prayer for Vocations.

7. When returning to your seat, stand once again at the bottom of the steps directly in front of the tabernacle, give a profound bow, and return to your seat.

#### **E. DAILY MASS:**

1. See the notes above for movements and procedures common to all lectors.
2. Unless otherwise indicated, the lector at daily Masses also reads the Responsorial Psalm for the day.
3. Begin the Psalm by directly reciting the antiphon from the Lectionary. It is not necessary to announce “The Responsorial Psalm is . . .”.