

- Process in behind the altar servers or lead the procession if altar servers are not present. The procession usually starts once the cantor begins singing. Line up with the priest in front of the altar. Bow/genuflect and proceed to your seat.
- Once the priest is finished reading from the Sacramentary book and the congregation is seated, begin the First Reading. Once you have finished the reading, pause in reverence to the Word and then say, “The Word of the Lord.” Return to your seat or, at the 7:30 AM Mass on Sundays, read the Responsorial Psalm.
- After the Responsorial Psalm, proclaim the Second Reading, pause in reverence to the Word, and then say, “The Word of the Lord.” Return to your seat.
- After the Profession of Faith and a brief prayer by the priest, read the Prayers of the Faithful. When finished, turn to face the priest. Return to your seat once the congregation begins to sit down.
- Line up with the altar servers in front of the tabernacle if you wish to receive Communion.
- At the end of Mass, line up with the priest before the altar. Bow/genuflect, then follow the altar servers down the aisle.

St. Mark Parish thanks you for your dedicated service!

As we grow, we will eventually have two lectors per Mass. One reader will proclaim the First Reading and the second reader will proclaim the Second Reading and the Prayers of the Faithful.

Both readers will sit with their families, only entering the sanctuary to proclaim their assigned readings.

LECTOR HANDBOOK



St. Mark Catholic Church

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Catonsville, Maryland 21228
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PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

Grounded, fortified and nourished by the Eucharist, the members of St. Mark Church share with all the unconditional love of God through active witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ by learning, living and loving our Faith.

CALL TO SERVE

"You are a 'chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that you may announce the praises' of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light" (1 Peter 2:9).

All liturgical ministers are, first and foremost, members of the Body of Christ. Through their baptism they are the "holy people and royal priesthood" whose right and privilege it is to participate in the ministry of Christ. How the lay faithful exercise this ministry in the world varies, but the fullest and most fundamental expression of it has always been "conscious, active and fruitful participation in the mystery of the Eucharist" (*General Instruction Of The Roman Missal - GIRM, Introduction #5*).

Since the celebration of the Eucharist is the "action of the whole Church" (*GIRM, Introduction #5*), everyone in the assembly has "an individual right and duty to contribute their participation" (*GIRM #58*).

Some of the faithful are called to serve God's people in a more particular way through one of the many liturgical ministries that have flourished in the Church since the Second Vatican Council. This diversity of roles, functions and ministries enriches our celebrations and assists us in our prayer. Serving in one of these ministries is both an honor and a responsibility, and those who commit to it need nurturing and support.

This handbook has been prepared to help you grow in a deeper understanding and love for the liturgy, your ministry and ultimately the Lord whom we all serve. This handbook is designed to assist in properly preparing for Mass so as to assist the faithful experience Jesus Christ in His Word and through His Body.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- All Confirmed, practicing Catholics are invited to participate in this ministry.
- Pray with the Lector Workbook during the week prior.
- Lectors bring the living Word of God to the liturgical assembly. This ministry must, therefore, be treated seriously and with great dignity. The Word of God is not merely read during the liturgy. It is proclaimed, yet not with theatrical show. Effective proclamation involves the delivery of the message with clarity, conviction, and appropriate pace.
- **Dress Code:** Formal attire is required.
- Please send your availability for the month to Tess Tyrrell at tess.tyrrell@archbalt.org by the 15th of the month prior.
- Please contact Daria Kaas at daria.kaas@archbalt.org with any questions or concerns.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Please arrive 10-15 minutes before Mass and sign-in in the sacristy.
- Look over the readings in the Lectionary. Make sure that you understand the text, master difficult words, learn the correct pronunciations, and practice the delivery of the text aloud. A great resource is the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website, where you will find the readings in both written and verbal formats: bible.usccb.org.
- If there are two or more choices given for the readings, please prepare for all readings and ask the priest his preference.
- Place the Lectionary and the Prayers of the Faithful on the Ambo if they are not there already.
- **5 minutes before Mass**, enter the priest's sacristy for a prayer with all liturgical ministers.
- Proceed to the back of the church with the priest so that you are a part of the procession. For the 7:30 AM Mass on Sundays, do not process, as you will read the opening announcements and the Entrance Antiphon and its page number.