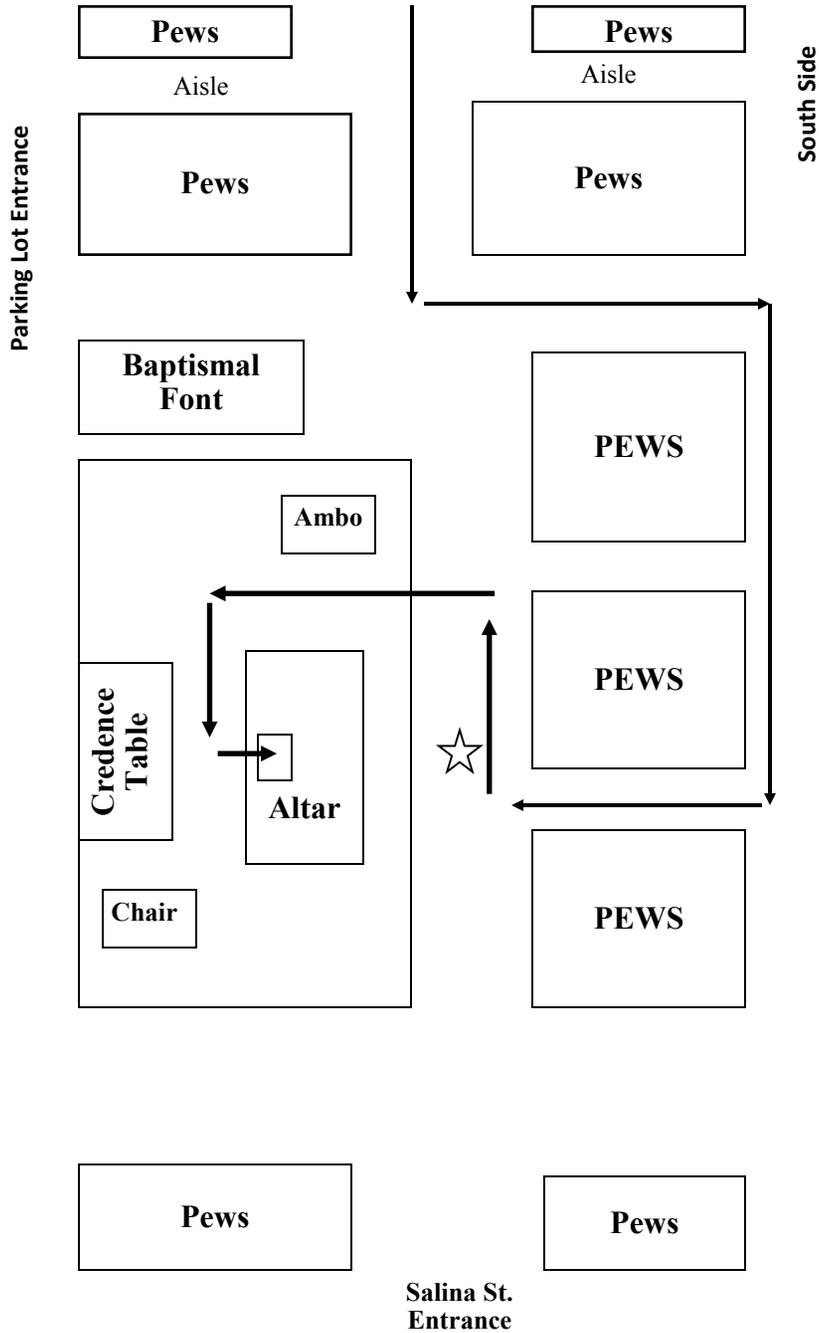


# Diagram Blessed Sacrament Chapel



# St. James



## Handbook for Lectors

## Theology

When the Scriptures are read in the liturgy, God himself is speaking to his people. In the readings, the table of God's Word is laid for the faithful and the riches of the Scriptures are opened to them. By tradition, the office of reading the Scriptures is a ministerial function. The reading, therefore, should be delivered by an instituted lector. However, in the absence of an instituted lector other lay people may be designated to proclaim the readings from the Sacred Scriptures. All lectors should develop a love for the Word of God, particularly because their function is to proclaim God's message, as it is contained in Sacred Scripture, to the congregation.

## Practice

### A Lector Should:

- Be a Catholic in good standing with the Church and in the state of grace.
- Dress appropriately to reflect the reverence of this ministry.
- Begin practicing the Scripture readings for Mass at least one week prior to proclaiming them. The readings for each week may be found in the "Workbook for Lectors", and at <http://usccb.org> under "Readings".
- Prepare both Scripture readings in case the other lector does not show up.
- Practice pronouncing difficult words and names. Proper pronunciation is found in the margins of the readings in the "Workbook for Lectors" or in the pronunciation book in the sacristy.
- Adjust your pace and tone of voice to reflect the meaning of the reading.
- Speak slowly, clearly and with reverence.
- Make eye contact with the congregation as you are reading.
- Find a substitute if you cannot lector at your assigned Mass.
- Arrive at church to sign in 10 minutes before Mass begins.
- Sit behind the ambo when proclaiming both readings.
- Sign up to lector for Christmas, Easter, and other Holy Days throughout the year.

## Procedures

There are two lectors scheduled for each mass. **lector 1** reads the First Reading and **lector 2** reads the Second Reading as well as the General Intercessions.

**Lector 1** processes in for Mass carrying *The Book of the Gospels*.

After bowing at the front and center of the altar, **lector 1** lays *The Book of the Gospels* upon the pillow on the altar and returns to his or her seat in the congregation until it is time for the First Reading.

Once the celebrant is seated after the Opening Prayer, **lector 1** approaches the altar, bows at the front and center point of the altar, and proceeds to the ambo.

Before beginning the First Reading, **lector 1** should adjust the microphone as needed and wait for the congregation to be settled in their pews.

When the First Reading is complete, **lector 1** meets the cantor at the front and center of the altar and bows before returning to his or her seat.

When the cantor is finished singing the Responsorial Psalm, **lector 2** meets the cantor at the front and center point of the altar, bows with the cantor, and then proceeds to the ambo. **Lector 2** proclaims the Second Reading, closes the Lectionary and places on the shelf of the ambo, and then walks to the front and center point of the altar, bows, and returns to his or her seat.

Near the end of the Profession of Faith, **lector 2** proceeds to the ambo.

**Lector 2** begins reading the General Intercessions after the celebrant has said the beginning prayer. (Be aware of the pronunciation of any names included in the General Intercessions). At the end of the General Intercessions, **lector 2** waits for the celebrant to complete the closing prayer and then returns to his or her seat.

Lector does not process out with the *Book of the Gospels*.

## Coordinator

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