

# Lector and EMHC Guidelines

## Lector

Arrive 15 minutes early

## Timing

- Wait until Father and congregation sit, then approach the pulpit for the First Reading.
- For the Second Reading, count one second to yourself before standing and approaching the pulpit.
- Regarding the Prayer of the Faithful / Petitions, there is less reason for pause, because Father starts the prayer. You may approach the pulpit as Father is introducing the petitions; after the last petition make a half turn towards Father for the final prayer, then as everyone else is seated, return to your seat.
- Any bowing should be done towards the main altar, which is the focus of the Mass (as opposed to the high altar).

Reading – Prepare, read slow and clear

## EMHC

Arrival – Sign in 15 minutes before Mass; sign up for a specific location; whoever is stationed next to Fr at the front will step out if an additional priest or deacon arrives.

Before Communion – At the Sign of Peace go to the atrium, sanitize your hands, return to stand in front of communion rail on St. Joseph's side. Once Father has consumed both species and the chalice is placed back on altar, come forward; the two cup bearers come first, line up behind the altar. EMHCs will distribute precious blood, #1 goes to lector first then precede down the line, #2 goes to end of line, typically "last" altar server. All EMHC go to their stations typically as soon as they get their ciborium, although choir loft distributor should head down aisle before cross-aisle distributors, and atrium distributor should go to spot before front person (with priest). All exit the sanctuary around the right side of the altar.

During Communion – If host falls on floor, either consume immediately or return it to the altar; if someone approaches with arms crossed, say, "May God bless you." No extending of hand, as blessings during the liturgy are reserved for the ordained.

After Communion – Consume any precious blood at your spot. Return to altar, place vessel on altar or hand to Father (for Fr. Valit, take your vessels to credence table). Go to credence table to purify fingers. Remain on the right side to genuflect (or bow if necessary) with Father as he closes the tabernacle. Then exit sanctuary as Father is returning to the altar. **No extra bow necessary.**

## Both Lector and EMHC

Dress Code – No jeans, no flip-flops, collared shirt for men, (sport coat preferred).