

## St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church

### LECTOR MINISTRY

#### Our Foundation

*The Church has always venerated the divine Scriptures just as she venerates the body of the Lord, since, especially in the sacred liturgy, she unceasingly receives and offers to the faithful the bread of life from the table both of God's word and of Christ's body.  
(#21, Dei verbum, Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation)*

*This [teaching/study] should be so done that as many ministers of the divine word as possible will be able effectively to provide the nourishment of the Scriptures for the people of God, to enlighten their minds, strengthen their wills, and set men's hearts on fire with the love of God.  
(#23 DV)*

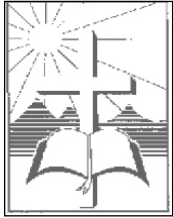
“As Christians, we have a commitment to the word – the word that is Jesus. We have a commitment to the way of life that his words articulate. The early Christians felt that commitment keenly:

*“We will....continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.”  
(Acts 6:3-4)*

For the early Christians, service of the word meant preaching, proclaiming Jesus to all who would listen. But before that word could be proclaimed, it had to be lived. It had to become embodied in the life of the preacher. It had to become flesh.

It is only when words become flesh, real and warm embodiments of our inner being, that they could actually communicate something.....

That word had to take root in their hearts and grow.... That word would continue to speak to the world.” (Fran Ferder, *Words Made Flesh*, p138)



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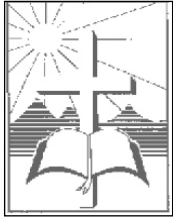
### Mission

As Lectors, we commit ourselves to maintaining a level of excellence in proclamation, to continued study of the Word of God, and to making a sincere effort to live that Word in our daily life.

### Expectations

1. Out of respect for the Lector Ministry itself, and most importantly, the integrity of the Mass, every Lector must be made aware that there is a high standard that must be followed by all Liturgical ministers. Therefore, all Lectors must demonstrate at all times that they have read and are following the guidelines, policies and procedures of St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church (SILCC). for Liturgical Ministers and those specifically for Lectors
2. The following are the requirements and conditions for becoming a Lector and remaining on the Active Lector Roster from one year to the next:
  - Lector candidate is required to complete the necessary training before serving as Lector.
  - Lector must be able to speak comfortably and with confidence before the assembly.
  - Lector's voice should be strong and their speech clear enough that the assembly is able to understand.
  - Lector is expected to continue to develop proclamation skill through attendance at SILCC lector training/refreshers sessions and proclamation workshops.
  - Lector must attend at least one workshop, presentation, or other lector formation specific activity each year, whether at St. Ignatius or elsewhere. If a Lector chooses to do formation *outside* SILCC, he/she will inform by email to the Lector Coordinator what kind of formation it was and where/when that formation was done.
  - Lector must prepare well for their assignments, make every effort to show up for their assignments, and arrive early for the liturgy in which he/she is serving.
3. A parishioner who wishes to become a Lector at SILCC must be vetted by the Lector Coordinator against the criteria set forth and/or a member of the Lector Ministry Team in order to be placed on the Active Lector Roster. At the end of training, a Lector candidate must sign the Lector Ministry Commitment form. His /her name will then be submitted to the Office of Liturgy and Sacraments to be added to the Active Lector Roster. The term "Active" implies "ready to serve", meaning Lector will be scheduled to serve when the NEW schedule is prepared (quarterly) and be able to accept "sub requests" generated by the Ministry Scheduler Program (MSP).

Those who are not quite ready to serve will remain a "Lector Candidate" and will be assigned a Mentor (an active Lector at SILCC) to coach them as needed. Once the Lector Candidate has been recommended by his/her mentor as being ready to proclaim, his/her name will be submitted to the Office of Liturgy and Sacraments to be added to the Active Lector Roster.
4. Each year, Lectors should prayerfully discern their ongoing commitment to the ministry before recommitting to the Ministry. Lectors are obligated to renew their commitment annually to the Lector Ministry by signing the Lector Ministry Commitment form (attached) confirming their intent to give full/active participation in the ministry and its requirements (see "SILCC Lector Ministry Guidelines & Procedures Manual"). Those who do not recommit to this ministry by signing the Commitment form are subject to removal from the Active Lector Roster.



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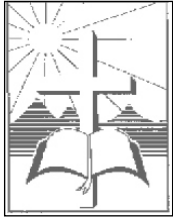
5. Lectors must demonstrate good communication via email, which is the normative manner in which this lector ministry communicates. Additionally, all lectors must be familiar with and utilize the MSP software that SILCC uses for liturgical ministry scheduling.

Lectors must maintain their MSP (Ministry Scheduler Pro) profile and should read their email as regularly as possible. They must use MSP to request substitutes or contact another Lector by phone. If change/substitution is made only by phone, Lectors should notify the Office of the change as soon as possible.

6. Lectors are strongly advised to use the *Lector Workbook* to prepare their readings. This workbook is provided free by the Office of Liturgy to all Lectors and is an excellent resource containing church teaching about the ministry, proclaiming tips, pronunciation guide, explanation of the readings and more.

Liturgical Ministry Coordinator(s), in cooperation with Liturgy Office, will review Ministry Sign-in Sheets, MSP and other data to monitor frequency of service and participation in formation and training.

**NOTE:** Lectors who do not fulfill the above mentioned requirements risk being removed from the ACTIVE list or possibly removed entirely from the ministry. The Lector Coordinator and/or Office of Liturgy will attempt to discuss the matter with the Lectors prior to any action taken.



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## LECTOR MINISTRY

### Lector Ministry Commitment

As Lectors, we commit ourselves to 1) maintaining a level of excellence in proclamation, 2) continued spiritual development, and 3) growing in love of the Word of God through prayer and ongoing study of Scripture.

A parishioner of St. Ignatius who wishes to become a Lector must sign this document to be added to the Lector Ministry. Furthermore, every parishioner who has been serving as Lector at St. Ignatius in the past must sign this document annually as his/her re-commitment to the Ministry.

- **In proclaiming the Word of God in the Mass and other special liturgies, I will execute these privileges with the utmost commitment, dedication and respect.**
- **I will fulfill all the requirements for becoming a Lector and/or for continued participation in the Lector Ministry.**
- **I will follow the Guidelines and Procedures of SILCC Lector Ministry as presented to me at training and by the Office of Liturgy and Sacraments (including the Lector Coordinator).**
- **I understand it is in the fulfillment of all the requirements of the Ministry that I am able to continue serving as Lector in the Lector Ministry.**

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Lector Signature

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Lector Name Printed

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Date