

LECTOR DO'S

1. Prepare readings ahead of time. .
- .2. Study texts at home over several days, so you understand context of passage.
3. Read through all of the lectionary readings for the day, including the Gospel, so you can see what connects all of them. This will help you determine what emphasis is to be.
4. Identify type of passage to be read –story, dialogue, prophesy, letter, series of laws, parable, saying, song, etc.
5. Ask yourself questions about meaning of passage. What lies behind passage? Where is climax? What is tone – comforting, scolding, warning, informative, etc.
6. Pick out most important sentence or phrase. Try to communicate it above all else.
7. Look up all words you are unfamiliar with. Check pronunciation. If you trip on pronunciation, move on during reading. 8. Use your imagination to visualize action passages and narratives! Or imagine someone text applies to (like “love is patient, love is kind” ---visualize someone whom you know who is patient, kind! etc.)
9. Pray with the text.
10. Refer to Bible commentaries or guidebooks, study the Scriptures!
11. Practice reading it aloud. Read it aloud alone, into a tape recorder or mike, to someone you trust.
12. Use a mirror to practice eye contact.
13. Vary your treatment of texts that parishioners know well to keep proclamation from becoming flat and hackneyed.
14. Articulate deliberately consonants at ends of words, especially “d's” and “t's”. (God rather than Gaw) and not (rather than naw).
15. Learn to stress phrases or words in various ways. Hushed voice often draws more attention than raised voice.
16. Rehearse passages with run-on sentences (like Paul's' letters) several times.
17. Pay close attention to where stresses are in passage. Make them clear to your listeners.
18. Let facial expressions and body language help you express Scripture. Voice is only part of proclamation.

19. Consider yourself a "*proclaimer of the Word of God.*" It is your skills a *proclaimer* you are refining, not skills of radio announcer or actor or toastmaster.
20. Allow Scripture to influence your life -let them FORM you.
21. Pray to Holy Spirit for guidance in your proclamation.
22. Get Lectionary ready before Mass. Mark page, etc.
23. Know where you will be in entrance procession.
24. Make sure your face can be seen by assembly. Do you need a step/riser for ambo?
25. Approach ambo reverently, for ambo is table of Christ's Word just as altar is table of Eucharist.
26. Walk upright and confidently to ambo, stand up straight at ambo.
27. Make sure mike is adjusted for your height before Mass.
28. Look out at congregation before beginning I to get assembly's attention.
29. Look at individuals in assembly during proclamation -eye contact is important. Speak and look to last pew!
30. Modulate your voice -pitch and volume.
31. Be careful of phasing -linger over more important words and phrases, pass over least important ones more quickly.
32. Address yourself when proclaiming also. These readings are speaking and apply to you too. This attitude will get across to congregation.
33. Provide a moment of reflection after each reading. People should have enough time to mentally repeat last line of the passage before you say, "The Word of the Lord." Assembly should know where passage ends, and invitation to response starts.
34. Remain standing while congregation says: "Thanks be to God." Only after this should you move away from ambo.
35. Recognize psalms are songs -even if they're not sung.
36. At weekday liturgies, if you read psalm, lift your hand to invite assembly into response.
37. Ask for feedback about your proclaiming from the most candid people you know. Ask several people. You might even ask other lectors to come to one of your Masses and sit in the middle of the back of church, to see how

well you come across.

38. Attend workshops and study groups to learn more about word of God. Go to Bible class!

39. Try to read entire book of Bible, book by book, to get a feel for the entire book. Read all of Ruth, say, or an entire Gospel.

40. Commit favorite lines of Scripture to memory, or write them down in a journal.