

Church of Saint Mary
Lector Annual Meeting Summary Held 10/23/14 @ 8pm in Church

- 1) **Distributed agenda, Lector Handbook, and new 2014-15 Lector Workbooks** (Year B; starts on Nov 30; First Sunday of Advent). Those not present can pick up a copy at the sacristy (box on floor under window shelf) on your next visit.
- 2) **Sign ups Assignments** for Thanksgiving, Immaculate Conception. Attendees were able to volunteer for Christmas/NewYr Schedule; remaining slots will be assigned then distributed in Nov. There's **NO** additional Noon Mass during Advent this year. Msgr will provide readings that are not in missalette for 11/1&2 (All Saints Day).
- 3) **Opening Prayer.** Msgr McCann welcomed and thanked all for their continued dedicated service with a Blessing of Readers.
- 4) **Review of the core values of the lector ministry.** Fr. Vin Ritchie joined us to thank everyone and demonstrated many of the vocal tips that improve your reading. Fr. Chris Costigan also joined the discussion. Occasional eye contact with the congregation, move lectionary higher on the Ambo (ADJUST THE MIC!) so you speak at microphone level when you look up. This Ministry requires **YOU being adequately prepared** for your assignment. Don't walk into the sacristy asking which lector role you're assigned to and then start reading the passage for the first time in the sacristy lectionary.
Only Exception: When you are a last minute volunteer due to no-shows, it's understood you've had no time to prepare. When you see a lector vacancy at last minute, don't hesitate to walk to lector chair area and offer assistance.
"Room for Improvement" discussion focused on:
 - a. **Every lector is asked to read the whole updated Lector Handbook, available online (link)**; It has current protocols. Even experienced lectors may be surprised to learn something that you haven't been properly following!
 - o READ the "**Tips to Prevent Common Mistakes**" on sacristy bulletin board **EVERY time** you serve. They really do help you prevent the most common mistakes.
 - b. **The 1st and 2nd Readings, Don't add any additional introductory words** like "This morning's first reading is..." Don't read the instructional red ink summary sentence or two that appears at the top of the passage in the lectionary. **Begin each scriptural reading with "A Reading from the ..."**. On Sundays with optional readings, you need to prepare for all options; Celebrants can choose any available option. When a Long/Short option is given always prepare for the long form.
 - c. **Give adequate PAUSES.** Pauses allow the congregation to adequately "absorb in their hearts" a scripture just heard.
 - o After the final line of 1st and 2nd readings, **PAUSE (count to 5) before** saying "*The Word of The Lord*".
 - o At Masses without Music (7:30am), give a longer **pause (count to 8) before starting the Responsorial Psalm.** Start the Psalm directly **without any introductory remarks.** Simply start the response and the congregation will respond. At the end of the Psalm, give a **longer PAUSE (count to 8) before starting the 2nd reading.**
 - d. **Universal Prayer:** **Stay at Ambo** until after priest reads Closing Prayer. Lectors asked for larger font and phonetic pronunciation of names (when possible). They **no longer end** with "*In silence we add...*". Celebrants sometimes choose to add similar words as part of the celebrant's Closing Prayer.
 - e. **Announcements:** When celebrant stands after communion, move to Altar step, wait for Concluding Prayer to finish (celebrant usually eye signals you) then step up to the Cantor Stand.
 - f. **Help your fellow lectors** by providing them **constructive** feedback. We all improve from others' comments.
- 5) **Q&A Forum.** Bookmark and use the Lector webpage resources: <http://stmary.ws/94-2/lectors/>
 - a. **Can I use the convent side when walking around the Altar?** Yes, the Convent side vestibule is rarely in use, and can be used at the Processional or Recessional. At Recessional, lector should start walking to the side alcove as soon as they see Altar Servers lining up.
 - b. **Recessional: Bow or Genuflect to the Altar?** Our protocol is to **Bow** to the Altar (A bow at the neck preferred; but a bow at the hip is acceptable). However, lectors should follow whatever the celebrant's lead, so genuflect if he genuflects.
- 6) **Closing Reflection:** excerpts from (A Flemming's) "**The Ministry of Lectors**", [available online](#) (pg 2 Nov2010 Liturgy Links). On Behalf of the parish, a hearty **THANK YOU** for your continued dedication & service in this ministry and to all who **regularly check their email and reply timely** to eMail requests for trades and volunteers.
- 7) **Group photo** taken to be placed the St. Mary Lector Website & Handbook cover, followed by new lector orientations.

Other Reminders

- **Adult Lectors:** Parish Office follows up on required Registration and Background Check forms. Adult lectors over 18 must attend ONE Virtus Training Session "Protecting Gods Children" www.virtus.org (next 'local' session is at Notre Dame/New Hyde Park on March 18, 2015).
- **Scheduling:** Most no-shows are due to it not being on your calendar. **Put your assignments on your family calendar(s)** when a new schedule is received; start trade/switch requests as soon as possible –include Lector role#1 or #2 when you trade assignments, so the switched lector knows which role to prepare for.
- **Questions, Suggestions and comments are always welcomed.**
- **Best way to reach Rich Bentley?** eMail: RBentley@downstate.edu or Cell: 917-751-1399.