

# HOLY INNOCENTS CATHOLIC CHURCH

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(732) 922-4242  
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3455 WEST BANGS AVENUE  
POST OFFICE BOX 806  
NEPTUNE, NEW JERSEY 07754-0806

## Easter Vigil Lector Protocol

### **Before Mass (All Lectors)**

There are five readings at the Easter Vigil Mass:

Reading 1 (Gn 1:1-2:2)  
Reading 3 (Ex 14:15-15:1)  
Reading 5 (Is 55:1-11)  
Reading 7 (Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28)  
Epistle (Rom 6:3-11)

**Each lector will be assigned a reading with one lector also being assigned the Epistle.**

1. Practice your assigned reading(s) the week before your scheduled mass;
2. Arrive at least 30 minutes early and sign in, making sure that the celebrants and other three lectors know that you are there;
3. Check readings upon arrival and then place the Lectionary under the lectern, making sure that the Sacramentary is on the lectern open to the Exaltation (for the Deacon to sing);
4. Find a seat on the end of a pew near the front of the Church (the Mass is likely to be crowded);

### **Entrance Procession, Exaltation and Old Testament Readings**

5. The Easter Vigil celebration begins by a procession outside where the Pascal Candle will be lit;
6. Upon returning to the Church, the Deacon will ascend the altar and sing the Exaltation;
7. Following the Exaltation, the lights of the Church will be raised and the Celebrant will begin with a prayer;

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## **Reading#1 (First Lector)**

8. At the conclusion of the prayer, ascend the altar steps from the center aisle (bowing as you do so);
9. Look at the congregation and announce the first reading confidently (Note: check with the Choir Director before the reading and ask if the Choir will be singing the last stanza of each verse i.e. "*Thus evening came, and morning followed-the first day*", etc.);
10. Read at a moderate pace, taking time to pause or add emphasis where appropriate;
11. Conclude the first reading by pausing and then clearly and confidently announcing "The Word Of The Lord";
12. After the reading, descend from the altar (do not bow) and take your seat among the congregation (a responsorial psalm and prayer will follow);

## **Reading#3 (Second Lector)**

13. Following the prayer, ascend the altar from the center aisle (bowing as you do so), look at the congregation and announce the third reading confidently;
14. Read at a moderate pace, taking time to pause or add emphasis where appropriate;
15. Conclude the third reading by pausing and then clearly and confidently announcing "The Word Of The Lord";
16. After the reading, descend from the altar (do not bow) and take your seat among the congregation (a responsorial psalm and prayer will follow);

## **Reading#5 (Third Lector)**

17. Following the prayer, ascend the altar steps from the center aisle (bowing as you do so), look at the congregation and announce the fifth reading confidently;
18. Read at a moderate pace, taking time to pause or add emphasis where appropriate;
19. Conclude the fifth reading by pausing and then clearly and confidently announcing "The Word Of The Lord";

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20. After the reading, descend from the altar (do not bow) and take your seat among the congregation (a responsorial psalm and prayer will follow);

## **Reading#7 (Fourth Lector)**

21. Following the prayer, ascend the alter steps from the center aisle (bowing as you do so), look at the congregation and announce the seventh reading confidently;
22. Read at a moderate pace, taking time to pause or add emphasis where appropriate;
23. Conclude the seventh reading by pausing and then clearly and confidently announcing "The Word Of The Lord";
24. After the reading, descend from the altar (do not bow) and take your seat among the congregation (a responsorial psalm and prayer will follow);

## **Beginning of Mass and Epistle (Fifth Lector)**

25. The Mass will formally begin with an opening prayer by the Celebrant.
26. Following the prayer, ascend the alter from the center aisle (bowing as you do so), look at the congregation and announce the Epistle confidently;
27. Conclude the Epistle by pausing and then clearly and confidently announcing "The Word Of The Lord";
28. After the reading, place the Lectionary beneath the lectern, descend from the altar (do not bow) and take your seat among the congregation.