

EVENING PRAYER LECTOR'S HANDBOOK

Blessed Sacrament Church – Midland, Michigan

1. Remember always that the Word of God is integral to our celebrations as Catholic Christians. The Word feeds all of us in a very unique way. The way you move, the way you speak and the way you handle the Lectionary, all proclaim to the assembled community, your reverence for the Word and the special gift that the Word is to all of us.
2. The Liturgy of the Hours is THE daily prayer of the church. It dates back to our beginnings. It is modeled on the Jewish tradition of pausing for prayer at certain times of the day to praise and thank God. Evening Prayer marks the ending of the workday, the time of dusk, when night begins to fall. Our main symbol is "light", the light that is Christ. We pray using psalms, hymns, and prayers. **Our readings are almost always the second reading of the upcoming Sunday.** The gospel, which is the Magnificat, is sung.
3. At Blessed Sacrament Parish we celebrate Evening Prayer in the chapel. Prayer begins at 7:00 pm. During the season of Lent, Evening Prayer is part of the Wednesday Evening Parish Lenten Gatherings. We celebrate in the main church, following the soup supper and reflection.
4. Please take seriously your responsibilities as an Evening Prayer lector. Arrange for a substitute if you cannot serve.
5. Prepare as carefully as you would for a Sunday liturgy. Use your copy of Workbook for Lectors and Gospel Readers.
6. Please arrive at least 15 minutes before Evening Prayer begins. The lectionary will be on the counter in the middle sacristy, ready for you to do a final read-through. Prior to the start of the service, take the lectionary to the chapel and place it CLOSED on the lectionary stand in front of the ambo.
7. Pick up a worship aid for the service. Sit anywhere but be sure it is a place that will be convenient for you to come forward when it is time for you to read.
8. The reading follows the second psalm and its psalm prayer. Come forward, take the lectionary from the lectionary stand and place it on the ambo.
9. Begin the reading with "A reading from_____." [If you have prepared well, you will be able to proclaim this line from memory.] DO NOT use a long "A" as in the letter of the alphabet when announcing "A reading from___." The article is pronounced as in the "a" in the word about. Please DO NOT chop the introduction to the reading, i.e., A Reading/From the Book/Of the Prophet/Isaiah. We should introduce the reading in a single phrase – A Reading From the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.
10. At the conclusion of the reading, pause, look up and say "The word of the Lord", and continue to look at the assembly as they give their response, "Thanks be to God!"
11. Then bow your head and keep silence. This is the time for all to reflect on the Scripture that has been proclaimed. Count slowly to twenty. Then, place the lectionary OPEN on the lectionary stand and return to your place in the assembly.
12. When Evening Prayer has concluded, return the lectionary to the sacristy. Leave your worship aid on the counter in the sacristy.

EVENING PRAYER LECTOR'S HANDBOOK

Blessed Sacrament Church – Midland, Michigan

Your ministry is VITAL to the life of the community! Your attention to details and commitment to our worship will improve the quality of our liturgies. Thank you for your generous service to the people of Blessed Sacrament Parish!

CONTACTS

- For questions regarding Music Ministries or the Order of Worship, please contact Pam Bourscheidt, Director of Liturgy & Music, pamb@blessed-midland.org, 835-6777.
- For questions regarding scheduling, please contact Loretta Schepperly, Office Professional, lorettas@blessed-midland.org, 835-6777 Ext 239.
- For questions regarding procedures specific to a ministry or training, please contact Joe Plevyak, Coordinator for Liturgical Ministry Formation, joe.plevyak@gmail.com, 835-2846.