

PROCEDURES FOR LECTORS

Two Lectors are scheduled for each Mass: Lector 1-First Reading and Lector 2-Second Reading. To prayerfully prepare these Readings use your copy of *The Workbook for Lectors*. All Lectors try to weekly use *this Workbook*. If you cannot be there for your assigned Mass, please, please contact your own replacement, or call the Parish office, 526-4424. A Roster of all the Lectors is available in the sacristy annex.

Before Mass:

- Lectors please arrive 10 minutes before the Mass.
- Place a check mark by your name on the schedule. If you are a substitute write your name at the assigned position.
- Please wear Sunday clothing that is modest and appropriate.
- The Lectionary is in the sacristy.
- *The Workbook* is there to assist you in proclaiming Holy Scripture. After both Lectors have read through their Scripture passages, place the Lectionary on the ambo.
- When **Deacon is not present** Lector # 1 prays the Intercessions. These prayers are on the table in the sacristy. Be sure to place them on the Ambo.

Procession:

- Lector 1 and 2 take your position directly in front of Deacon. Process in, genuflect/bow and **go directly to a chair against the wall near the choir**—join your family after the proclamation of the Gospel.
- When the **Deacon is not present**, Lector 1 and 2 take your position directly in front of Father. Lector 2 goes directly up the sanctuary steps, places the **Book of the Gospels** at the **center** of the altar then takes his/her place in a chair next to the choir members..

During Mass:

- At the conclusion of the Opening Prayer Lector 1 goes to the middle aisle, bows and proceeds to the Ambo. At the conclusion of Proclaiming God's Holy Word proceed to the foot of the altar, bows and be seated by the choir..
- At the conclusion of the Responsorial Psalm Lector 2 proceeds to the foot of altar bows and goes to the Ambo. At the conclusion of the Proclaiming God's Holy Word, **close** the Lectionary and **place** it on the shelf in the Ambo. Proceed to the foot of the altar, bow and be seated by the choir.
- When the Deacon is **not present**- Lector 1 goes to the middle aisle, bows and approaches the Ambo **during** the Creed (if no creed - then at the conclusion of the Homily i.e. at Baptisms and certain enrollments). Father offers the introductory prayer and you **remain** at the Ambo until after the concluding prayer.

Recessional:

- Lector 1 and Lector 2 stand side-by-side at the first row of chairs in the center aisle ahead of the Cross Bearer.
- The Celebrant, Deacon, Servers and both Lectors genuflect/bow together, turn and recess to the back of the Church.

After Mass:

- At conclusion of the recessional Lector 1 returns to the sanctuary picks up the Lectionary/**The Book of the Gospels** and returns them to the sacristy annex.

Thank you and God bless you in this Ministry!

SKILLS OF THE PROCLAIMER

1. Prayerfully study your *Workbook for Lectors*. Be aware of your service to your fellow worshipers. Read so well that no one will find it necessary to follow in the Missalette.
2. Work closely with the homilist. If your reading of the Scripture is not understandable, it will interfere with the homilist's message.
3. Approach the place from which you will read with modest but confident bearing, as if something important is about to happen...INDEED, IT IS!
4. Always read publicly only what you have read privately.
5. It is important to maintain some eye contact with your hearers.
6. Discover, in your preparation, where the "center of gravity" lies in each sentence. Let the stress in your voice fall on that which the author intends to affirm, deny or call into question.
7. If you are an inexperienced reader, read to a competent critic who will tell you the truth and help you improve. Taped recordings are not critics. They can confirm one's worst weaknesses.
8. Verbs are more important than adverbs; nouns are more important than adjectives. Let your stress fall on nouns and verbs.
9. Do not swallow the ending word in a sentence. Be sure never to swallow verbs for they are the words which cause the sentence to have meaning.
10. Read intelligently, with animation, and when indicated, conversationally.
11. Read slowly, brightly, briskly and clearly. After all, the Bible is GOOD NEWS. This remains true even when tragedy has overcome Israel or when Jesus is dying on the cross.
12. If a sentence contains two ideas that are set in contrast, stress the two words that bring out the contrast, the second slightly more than the first.
13. Read Jesus' stories as if you were telling a story.. Read the theological part of a letter of Paul as if you were conducting an argument. Read Sirach or Wisdom or much of Matthew as to bring out the individual wise sayings. Read the Prophets with ardor, the admonitions of Paul with regret, and the love poetry of the Song of Songs with passion.
14. After having concluded, pause. Then say in a matter-of-fact tone, **The Word of the Lord**
Note: leave the book rest on the ambo when you say this. Do not proclaim this as if it were an inspired utterance.

THE PROCLAIMER

After Vatican II the ministry of the lector was opened to nonclerics. Lay people could now proclaim the scripture during the celebration of the Eucharist.

The main job of the lector is to proclaim the good news of the scripture to the assembly, to let people hear the word that is to shape their lives. To do this effectively, the lector must have a strong personal faith and be able to reveal that faith through simple, natural delivery of the word. (Lonergan, Ray "A WELL-TRAINED TONGUE") Do make use of you **Workbook for Lectors**

The purpose of this workshop is to work on communication skills which help people of great faith become true proclaimer of the word.

A reader should have a good sense of the structure of this part of Mass. The several readings are separated by at least a few moments of reflection and silence. If the readings are done well, all will need a period for reflection.

The homily, a reflection on the scripture readings, follows the gospel. The liturgy of the word concludes with the general intercessions (prayers of the faithful).

As good and worthy members of the assembly, we come forth to serve others through the proclamation of our scriptures.

STEPS IN PREPARING TO READ

STEP 1: Have knowledge of the season.

The first thing a reader will want to do is have a knowledge of the season. The seasons of the church year are Advent, Christmastime, Winter Ordinary Time, Lent, Triduum, Easter time, and Summer and Fall in Ordinary Time.

We will be entering the season of Advent. The beginning of the church year. The following ideas about Advent are taken from THE SOURCE BOOK FOR SUNDAYS AND SEASONS by G. Thomas Ryan.

Advent has a twofold character: as a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ's first coming is remembered; as a season when that remembrance directs the mind and the heart to await Christ's second coming at the end of time. Advent is this a time for devout and hopeful expectation.

All humans cherish hope. They possess a natural inclination to desire transformation, fullness, and peace.

These inclinations are right at the surface of cultural practices of the holiday season. We can recognize, even in the rush to the shopping malls, certain craving for light, grace, gifts, and beauty.

The earlier texts of Advent focus on the coming of the Lord in glory, the fullness of our hope for the future. From December 17 until the coming of Christmas eve, the texts focus more on the coming at Bethlehem. They prepare for the Lord's birth.

STEP 2: Each week read all three of readings for the Mass.

Consider all three readings to aid in your understanding of the whole liturgy for that specific Sunday. Read carefully. Some days will have more of an obvious connection. During Advent and Lent the readings reflect the ideas of the season.

STEP 3: Pay special attention to your reading.

Read the selection through to get the meaning. Look up any unfamiliar words or names. Know any reference to people or places. This will give you a general idea of the meaning. If you have difficulty, you might want to write it out in your own words.

To get a thorough understanding, you may want to go to the Bible and read the whole setting.

Look at the kind of reading it is. Some are simple narratives, the telling of a story. These usually involve setting the time and place. There may be character to created and various events of incidents to picture.

The second categories are readings which proceed through steps of reasoning. In this form emphasis and the drawing of conclusion are of special importance.

The third is kind of a group of other types. Most require a creation of a mood. These include visionary accounts, statement of Law, prophetic exhortations, history, and poetry.

STEP 4: Use vocal elements.

Look at the readings to see what kind of vocal elements you may use to enhance and better communicate the meaning of the reading. Some elements to consider are rate, volume, pauses, phrasing, pitch, and stress.

When the reading contains quotes or characters, it is necessary to vocally suggest the characters feeling or to set off a quote. A simple slight change of pitch or volume or a pause before a quote will help to convey the meaning. When suggesting character ask yourself the following questions. Who is speaking? What is the relationship between the characters? What is each one's intention toward the other? How do they affect one another?

STEP 5: Consider your body language.

Even before you are heard by the congregation, you are seen. As you approach the lectern (ambo), your body should be strong, certain, and relaxed. Don't be in a hurry to start. Show by your body that you want to be there. Your body should be straight but not rigid. Try to give eye contact to the congregation and let your facial expression reflect the reading. Consider also that your appearance should not detract from the reading.

STEP 6: Put it all together and practice the selection.

STEP 7: Pray.

Prayer is an indispensable part of the lector's preparation for his liturgical role. Being a reader means to be willing to serve the people, because the reader is minister of the word.

Note: Each Lector (family) will receive *The Workbook for Lectors* for A,B & C. cycles. Please contact the Parish Office if you have not received this book.

Thank you & God Bless you in this Ministry.