

Prince of Peace Cluster

Minister Procedures

November 5, 2012

Principles and Practices for Lectors

The reader reads from the ambo the readings that precede the Gospel. In the absence of a psalmist, the reader may also proclaim the Responsorial Psalm after the first reading. In the absence of a Deacon, the reader, after the introduction by the Priest, may announce the intentions of the Universal Prayer from the ambo” (General Instruction, nn. 295-96).

1. The reader’s main function is to properly proclaim the Word of God.
2. A reader of God’s Word must first live that Word in his/her own life. This means taking time every day to reflect on the Scriptures, especially those proclaimed on Sunday, and consider ways to live their message out.
3. The key to liturgical proclamation is FAMILIARY WITH THE TEXT. The skilled lector prepares by reading the lectionary texts (using a missalette or another resource) and in particular, difficult words, names, locations, etc., are familiar. This prevents or minimizes chances of stumbling over words.
4. The lector processes in with the priest celebrant and Mass servers. He/she carries the Book of the Gospels held over his/her head.
5. Upon reaching the altar, the priest and ministers bow (or the priest and a server not holding a candle or other liturgical item genuflect). Then the Book is placed on the stand on the Mass altar.
6. The lector then goes to his/her place and remains standing until after the Collect or Opening Prayer.
7. It is important to read in a clear voice and in a moderate speed (not too fast or too slow).
8. The red letters in the Lectionary are called “rubrics”. These are instructions or words which identify the reading (e.g. “First Reading”). Rubrics are never read. *Only* the words in black are read. Therefore, the proper way to begin a reading is, “A reading from the Book of Genesis” or “A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians.” The conclusion is, “The Word of the Lord.”
9. When in doubt or in the absence of directions from the priest, please use the LONG form of the reading. The priest may use the long form in his homily, so it is best to use it. He will tell you if you are to use the short form.
10. The Responsorial Psalm may be sung by a cantor or choir, or it may be recited by the lector. If recited, the lector recites the response, the people respond, and he/she recites the verse. The lector DOES NOT recite the response with the people.

11. The Alleluia Verse before the Gospel reading is to be sung or omitted. It is never recited (GIRM, n. 62).
12. The Universal Prayer contains specific intentions of a particular community. It is prepared by the priest celebrant and will be placed either in a binder or on the pulpit. The intentions include the Holy Father, civic leaders, the sick, the poor, the local community, the faithful departed, and other needs. The final intention is the daily intention. It is included so people are reminded who the Mass is offered for, but without implying that the faithful are gathered for a particular person. We don't gather on the Lord's Day just for N.'s Mass, but instead as a community of faith in obedience to the Lord's command to keep the Sabbath. Nevertheless, the particular intention of the Mass is announced.
13. Lectors should be properly dressed. A shirt and tie for men and a dress or nice suit for women are appropriate.
14. The readings are proclaimed from the ambo or pulpit.
15. It is helpful for lectors to be prepared to read even if they are not scheduled. Circumstances sometimes leave us "short handed." The priest celebrant can proclaim the readings if there are no suitable lectors, but this is not ideal.
16. On solemn feasts (e.g., Christmas, Easter), it is appropriate for there to be two or more lectors. This symbolizes the different nature of Old and New Testament readings.
17. In order to see and hear the weekend's readings, go to www.usccb.org/bible/readings/111112.cfm
On the right hand side there is an audio for the readings and reflections.

Thank you for proclaiming God's Word to His people!