

ST. ANDREW'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, MYRTLE BEACH, SC
LECTORS INSTRUCTIONS

June 16, 2017

ADVANCE PREPARATION FOR READING:

Reading the Sacred Scriptures in the context of the Divine Liturgy of the Mass is part of the privilege and the responsibility of fully initiated members of the Body of Christ. Lectors speak the very Word of God. They are the voices which, in the here and now, communicate God's Son Jesus Christ's words to the Assembly of Christians. They minister the true Word of God. Accordingly, Lectors must prepare to speak the Word effectively. That means reading and living with the assigned readings during the days preceding the Lector's assigned Mass. The Lectionary Workbook, which our parish provides to all Lectors, is an invaluable resource for readings preparation.

LECTIONARY:

For Sunday readings, we have a three-year cycle, years A, B and C, starting with Advent. To find the correct set of readings, you need to know the title or number of the particular Sunday, and whether it is in Ordinary Time, Advent, the Christmas Season, Lent or the Easter Season. The Church Bulletin will always mention that information. Some special Sundays and Holy Days will have only one set of readings, no matter which of the three years (A, B or C) we are then in. For Weekday readings, we have a two-year cycle, years I and II. If the calendar year is "odd," e.g., 2002-03, then we are in weekday cycle I. If the calendar year is "even," e.g., 2003-04, then we are in weekday cycle II. Lectors should know the cycle and week of the year it is, e.g., the Third Sunday of Lent, Cycle A, or the Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C.

SCHEDULING:

Lectors are scheduled for a one month period of time based on a rotating schedule for the Masses that you have indicated as preferences. By the 15th of each month, if you know you will not be able to serve at any time the next month, please indicate the dates in the spiral notebook that is located by the sign-in table in the front vestibule. Lector schedules are available by this sign-in table and also on the St. Andrew web site under Liturgical Ministry Schedules. If you are scheduled to serve and cannot be present at that Mass, it is your responsibility to find a replacement for yourself from the list of approved Lectors. Please inform the Mass Coordinator by e-mail or telephone when you make arrangements for another Lector to read in your place.

DRESS:

Keeping in mind the dignity of your role in the Mass as Lector, you should dress neatly, modestly, and respectfully. In general, this means not wearing anything that would shift attention from the scripture to your appearance.

CHECK-IN:

Fifteen minutes before Mass is to begin, check in with the Mass Coordinator and check off your name on the sign-in sheet. This is to insure that we have Lectors for every Mass and to give you quiet time to prepare yourself with the Lectionary and the Intercessions when no Deacon is serving and to allow for any special instructions.

ENTRANCE:

The Lector does NOT participate in the processional. The Book of Gospels is carried by the Deacon. If there is no Deacon, the Lectionary should be left on the ambo for all the readings.

READING METHODS:

A. It is most important to read slowly and distinctly (sloooowly and dis-tinct-ly), enunciating clearly both consonants and punctuation, pronouncing loudly and clearly even the difficult words, especially those pesky proper names sprinkled throughout the Bible. The microphone is there to help, adjust it only if necessary, but do not expect it to take the place of speaking loudly and clearly. There is never, ever, any need to hurry. Sloooooow down! Recognize that in our congregations there are some for whom English is not their first language. Every man, woman and child present should be able to hear and understand the Word of God.

B. Read with expression, fully expressing the meaning of the words, phrases and sentences, as you understand that meaning to be, so that the people may hear what the readings really mean, and so that they may not be subjected to listening to mere formulas of words lacking any clear meaning. If the meaning of the readings is unclear to you, then the solution to that problem is in your further preparation before Mass, and not in using a neutral, flat rendition of the mere words. Most Lectors err on the side of too little drama in their reading. Take some risks!

C. It is important to take your time throughout all of the readings. Wait for all of the people to sit down, to get settled, and to become quiet before beginning any reading. Drama is important not only to the dignity of the occasion but also to assist the people in their understanding of the readings.

D. While at the ambo, please avoid all unneeded touching of it, leaning on it, fingering it, drumming it, in order to minimize distracting audio and visual interference. Learn to use the microphone effectively, placing both it and yourself at an appropriate distance so as to carry your voice to the whole assembly.

E. Remember that you are reading and proclaiming to the people of God the very Word of God addressed to them today, as well as historically. You minister to the people by speaking to them God's side of the conversation between them (and you) and God. That conversation is what prayer and worship are all about. You Lectors have both a great privilege and a great responsibility. Preparation is the key to doing it well.

PROCEDURE:

F. The objective is to maintain a simple elegance in the liturgy. Moments of silence are important parts of the liturgy that should not be filled up unthinkingly. **After the priest completes the Opening Prayer, and the server with the Sacramentary has sat down, Lector #1 proceeds to the altar.** When reaching the step in front of the altar, before stepping up, reverence the altar and then proceed to the ambo without rushing. Do not carry anything with you to the ambo.

G. After reaching the ambo, adjust the microphone, only if needed, and pause one moment to allow the assembly to settle and get ready to receive God's word. Then look up and announce the first reading in a loud, clear voice, saying only exactly what is printed on the page. For example, you might say, "A reading from the book of the Prophet Jeremiah." Please note, you do not say, "The first reading is . . ." or anything other than what is printed on the page.

H. After announcing the reading, then look back at the page and begin the reading, Speak slowly, clearly, and loudly. You are bringing the Word of God to life. When you have finished, pause one moment, look up at the congregation, and announce the end of the reading, proclaiming, "The Word of the Lord." Do not hold the book up. Then return to the floor level, reverence the altar, and return to your seat.

I. **After the responsorial psalm has ended, the Lector for the second reading should wait a bit before coming up. Not too long. Say, the length of a Hail Mary. So, after the responsorial psalm is ended, they should say a silent Hail Mary, then come up for the reading.** When reaching the step in front of the altar, before stepping up, reverence the altar and then proceed to the ambo without rushing. After reaching the ambo, adjust the microphone, only if needed, look at the page to find the text, look up and announce the second reading loud and clear (again, say only, e.g., "A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans," never say, "The second reading is . . ."). Then look back at the page and begin the reading. When you have finished, pause, look up and announce the end, saying, "The Word of the Lord."

J. Then return to floor level, reverence the altar, and return to your seat.

K. When a deacon is assisting at Sunday Mass, he reads the General Intercessions. When there is no deacon, Lector #2 reads them. The Lector should locate them before Mass and practice them. If you cannot find them, check with the Mass Coordinator. **THE SECOND LECTOR SHOULD BEGIN THEIR WALK TO THE AMBO AT THIS POINT IN THE CREED: "I BELIEVE IN ONE, HOLY CATHOLIC...." SO THAT THEY CAN BE IN PLACE AND READY WITH THE INTERCESSIONS BY THE END OF THE CREED.** leave your seat and approach the ambo as you did for the second reading. Read the prayers slowly, loudly, and clearly. Remain at the ambo until the priest finishes the concluding prayer, return to your seat as you did after the second reading.

QUESTIONS: Please contact Caroline Paulhus at 843-692-9932 or email candjpaul@frontier.com. Lectors are also required for Weddings and Funerals. Please volunteer for those ministries.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS AND FAITHFUL SERVICE AT THE ALTAR.