

Liturgical Guidelines

In accordance with the Revised General Instruction of the Roman Missal

The Lector at Mass

Before Mass: The Lectionary is placed on the ambo.

The Liturgy of the Word: The readings are always proclaimed from the Ambo. The Lector goes to the Ambo and reads the first reading from the lectionary that is already there. At the end of the reading, the Lector says, "The Word of the Lord". After the people's response, there is a brief period of silence.

It is preferable that the responsorial Psalm be sung. If the Psalms not sung, the Lector may read it in a way that fosters meditation on the Word of God.

If there is a second reading, it is also followed by a brief period of silence. After the readings are complete the book is placed on the table.

Everyone should stand and sing the acclamation before the Gospel together, led by a choir or a cantor. The cantor or choir may sing the verse. The Gospel Acclamation may be omitted if it is not sung.

The Prayer of the Faithful: The Priest directs the prayer from his chair. The intentions are announced from the Ambo or from another suitable place, by the Deacon or by a Lector, a Cantor, or one of the lay faithful.

Announcements: Commentators should not use the Ambo to make announcements. These should be done from another appropriated place.

The Concluding Rites: The Book of the Gospels is not carried out of the Church.

The Commentator at Mass

Before Mass: The Commentator welcomes the assembly, makes whatever announcements are to be made, asks everyone to greet one another and announces the opening song. Then he/she says: I invite all of you now to be silent as we prepare ourselves for this Eucharist by calling to mind that we are in God's presence. This period of silence will be broken when we hear the opening song begin; at this time we ask that you stand to greet our celebrant or recite the entrance antiphon.

Commentators and Lectors should be aware that they are proclaiming rather than reading. Be sure they are speaking directly into the microphone at a distance approximately three inches away. Lectors should pause after announcing the reading, pause between readings and pause at the end of the readings.

Thank you very much for your ministry and service to our community. We hope these guidelines are helpful to you.

Liturgical ministry is an excellent opportunity to fulfill your baptismal call of service to one another. Our liturgies utilize the talents and gifts that God has given this community to the fullest extent. Whether participation is through "behind the scenes" preparation and planning or through a public role of service within the Mass, parishioners help our liturgies to be truly life-giving celebrations.

If you would like to consider learning more about, or joining the Liturgical Minister team, please email Carol at stmarysec@bellsouth.net to submit your information and one of our Liturgical Minister coordinators will contact you.