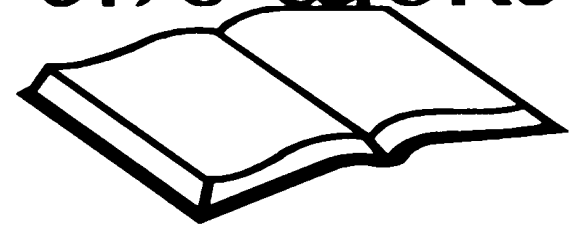


*St. Catherine of Alexandria
Lector Ministry*

PROCLAIM
THE WORD



"There is a variety of gifts, but always the same spirit."

1 Corinthians 12:4

January, 2015

Scheduling:

Schedules are emailed around the 15th of the month for the upcoming two months. They are placed in the mailboxes outside the sacristy for those without access to email. The schedules are also published on the St. Catherine's website. An announcement is published in the bulletin several weeks prior to the next scheduling period to enable lectors to request specific days off. Once the schedules are published, it is the responsibility of the lector to get a substitute.

Holy day signups are done via email and then posted in the vestibule to fill remaining positions.

Attire:

Lectors are expected to wear their "Sunday" best. Shorts, jeans and "loud" colored clothing are not appropriate attire and are not acceptable. Distracting clothing should not be worn.

Preparation:

The call to be a lector is something which demands preparation. No one should proclaim the Word to the community gathered for worship without preparation. On occasion, an assigned lector does not show up and you may need to fill in. This should be the only reason or excuse for not coming prepared. Lectors are provided with workbooks to aid in the preparation process.

- *Read the scripture passage*—Begin by reading the passage to yourself, then read it a couple of times out loud.
- *Understand the scripture passage*—Spend time understanding the following:
 - ◇ *Pronunciation*—Most of the difficulties in pronunciation will involve the names of persons, peoples, and places. Consult your lector workbook, ask the priest, or use the guide found in the sacristy beforehand if you need assistance. A dictionary is also helpful.
 - ◇ *Meaning*—Be sure to research words that you don't know. It is difficult to proclaim the word when you don't have a sense of the meaning.
 - ◇ *Form*—Is the literary form of the passage a story, a letter, or a fragment of poetry?
- *Practice the scripture passage*—Areas to concentrate on are:
 - ◇ *Nervousness*—This is a natural reaction and will gradually fade as you gain experience.
 - ◇ *Voice quality*—Lectors should have a pleasant speaking voice.
 - ◇ *Volume*—Lectors need to be heard and need to make necessary adjustments with the microphone.
 - ◇ *Diction*—Vowel and consonant sounds must be correctly formed.
 - ◇ *Range*—A good lector will use a wide range in speaking.

- ◇ *Pausing*—Pauses enable the parish community to understand and absorb the readings.
- ◇ *Eye contact*—Eye contact is an important vehicle for communicating.

Prior to Mass/Set-up:

Arrive at least 15 minutes prior to Mass and sign in on the sheets in the sacristy. Lector One is responsible for placing the lectionary on the ambo and the binder with intercessions and announcements on the shelf in the ambo. Verify that the lectionary is open to the correct readings and marked with a ribbon. Insure that the plastic holder for the Book of Gospels is located on the altar and then proceed to the vestibule. The plastic holder is not needed when the metal book cover is on the Gospel book—it is able to stand on its own.

Entrance Procession:

Both lectors are part of the entrance procession. The first lector will carry in the Book of Gospels and precede the priest. Carry the Book of Gospels vertically with the front of the book facing outward. The Book should be raised slightly above your forehead and held out in front of you. The second lector will follow the altar servers. Do not rush the procession. This is a time when the parish community is coming together for worship so take your time. When you carry the book in procession, do not bow or stop at the steps. The lector places the Book of Gospels on the altar in the plastic holder with the front facing the congregation. Join the other lector, Presider and servers as they reverence the altar.

During the Mass:

Both lectors should stop and bow before their readings. Make sure the parishioners have settled before you begin the first reading. Speak clearly, distinctly and slowly. After the reading is finished, look up from the book and count to three before saying "The Word of the Lord." There are to be no hand gestures upon completion of your reading. The second lector proceeds to the ambo when the responsorial psalm is completed. After the second reading, place the lectionary under the binder on the shelf in the ambo and return to your seat. The lector responsible for the intercessions should proceed to the ambo near the end of the Creed so they are ready for the intercessions as soon as the Presider concludes the prayer introducing the intercessions. Lectors should not bow when approaching the ambo for the intercessions and announcements. Wait until the Presider concludes the intercessions before you return to your seat. The binder can be left open on the top of the ambo when you are finished reading the petitions, especially if there is a sheet with announcements.

After Mass:

Lector one should place the lectionary, Book of Gospels and the binder in the sacristy. If it is the last mass of the day, leave the Book of Gospels in its stand. Place the Lectionary and binder in the sacristy.