

# Being a Lector at Christ the King Parish (2005)

## Reading vs. Proclamation

- Being a good lector is more than just getting the words right. A good lector commands the assembly's attention, as if to say, "Hey, this is an important message. Pay attention."
- Make eye contact with the people while reading. This requires practicing the text so many times that you are comfortable looking up at times. In other words, don't be a slave to the printed text.
- Pause after you finish proclaiming the Scripture. Take a deep breath and say, "The word of the Lord."

## General Instructions

- Arrive at least 15 minutes before the Mass is scheduled to begin.
  - Sacristans, the other lector, and the presiding priest go into "panic mode" when it appears that a reader is not going to show up.
- Dress code: Dress according to the dignity and respect due to the liturgy.
  - No shorts, flip-flops, Levi-type jeans, tank tops, or tee-shirts (unless especially dressy). Especially, no logo tees.
- Make sure the lector book is on the ambo, open and ready at the right page.
- Unless you are handicapped and need to use the railing to enter the sanctuary, approach the ambo from the altar side. Leave the ambo by the same route.
- Before you read your text, turn toward the presiding priest and listen to the introduction to the reading.
- Saturday Practice:
  - The rule is: No practice, no read. When you are assigned to read, you must attend a practice session on the Saturday morning before.
    - 1<sup>st</sup> Readers: 8:30 a.m. sharp
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> Readers: 8:45 a.m. sharp
  - Be prepared to stay until all of your first or second readers have practiced.
    - We discourage a read-and-un approach. Vital information may be given after you have completed your own practice session.
  - Please do not ask to read out of turn, unless you have a pressing emergency. It's not fair to the other readers who are busy people, too.

## **LECTORING DURING “ORDINARY TIME”**

### **Special Instructions for First Readers**

[Note: These instructions apply to “ordinary” weekends, i.e., outside of a special season, such as Advent, Easter, etc.]

- Make sure that the lectionary (book) is open and ready on the ambo before the start of Mass.
- Opening procession (except at 7 a.m.): Carry in the gospel book.
  - Hold the book above your eye level.
  - Decorated side of the book should face the altar as you walk.
  - Enter the church behind the cross bearer and servers. [Don't hurry! And do not genuflect as you approach the altar.]
  - Place the book on the altar, taking care to balance it well on the tripod. Turn and go to your seat without genuflecting (unless the rest of the process has lined up in front of the first pew and has not genuflected yet—which rarely happens).
  - **Signal to read:** The priest will stand for the opening prayer and say, “Let us pray . . .” Then, he will conclude by saying, “. . . through Christ Our Lord. Amen” and sit down.
    - As soon as he sits, get up and approach the ambo from the altar side.
    - Turn toward the presiding priest and wait while he delivers the short introduction to the reading. Then begin.
    - Always announce the title of the reading, e.g., “A reading from the book of Genesis.”
    - Pause after you finish proclaiming the Scripture. Take a deep breath, look at the congregation, and say, “The word of the Lord.”
    - Turn the page to the second reading, as a courtesy to the second reader.
    - Return to your seat, exiting the ambo from the altar side.  
(At 7 a.m. Mass, the lector continues with the reading of the Responsorial Psalm, leading the congregation in the Response, after each verse.)

[This concludes your role in the liturgy.]

### **Special Instructions for Second Readers**

[Note: These instructions apply to “ordinary” weekends, i.e., outside of a special season, such as Advent, Easter, etc.]

- Make sure that the first reader has opened the lectionary (book) and that it is ready on the ambo before the start of Mass. Also, make sure a copy of the prayers of the faithful is on the ambo shelf.
- Opening procession: Take your place after the last of the Eucharistic

- ministers. Pair up with the last E.M. if there is an odd number of them.
- **Signal to read:**
    - The first reader has returned to his or her seat.
    - The choir has concluded the responsorial song (except at 7 a.m.).
    - Turn toward the presiding priest and wait while he delivers the short introduction to the reading. Then begin.
      - Always announce the title of the reading, e.g., “A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans.”
      - Pause after you finish proclaiming the Scripture. Take a deep breath, look at the congregation, and say, “The word of the Lord.”
      - Close the book and put it under the ambo surface.
      - Place the prayers of the faithful sheet on top of the lectionary (under the ambo surface).
      - Return to your seat, exiting the ambo from the altar side.
  
  - **Prayers of the Faithful:**
    - Before Mass, ask the presiding priest if there will be a recitation of the Nicene Creed at that Mass.
      - If **Yes**:
        - You want to be at the ambo, ready to read the prayers of the faithful when the Creed ends. This requires you to leave your seat and go to the ambo during the final half of the Creed.
      - If **No**:
        - As soon as the homily ends and the homilist sits down next to the presiding priest, that is your signal to go to the ambo for the prayers of the faithful. (Generally, but not always, the presiding priest will say a few words of introduction.)
        - Read the petitions as written on the paper.
        - Remain at the ambo until the priest has read the whole list of sick and deceased people and concluded with a short prayer.
        - Return to your seat
        - **Note:** An extra copy of the prayers of the faithful is kept pinned to the sacristy bulletin board, just in case the sheet should disappear from the ambo.

[This concludes your role in the liturgy.]