
IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH LECTOR RESOURCE



PRAYER OF A MINISTER OF THE WORD

Lord, invest me with your power as I prepare to proclaim the marvel of your message. I have prepared my reading. I have tried to take within me the meaning of what I am about to proclaim. Help me to proclaim, not just with my lips, but with my whole heart and soul. May your Spirit live in me and fill the holy words that I proclaim. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen

PREPARATION

Ahead of time:

- When you have been assigned to PROCLAIM the Word to the assembly, prepare, read aloud, and PRAY the readings during the preceding week.
- There are copies of Lector workbooks on the bottom shelf of the left-hand usher's closet. Feel free to take a copy the weekend before you read, but please return it for the next person.

On your assigned day:

- Arrive 15 minutes ahead of time on the day you are scheduled so that you can enter into a spirit of prayer before the liturgy begins.
- Make certain the Lectionary is correctly marked and that the microphone is adjusted properly.
- Review other material you may be reading (Mass Introduction, Petitions, Announcements).
- Be prepared to Proclaim all readings should the other assigned Lector not be able to attend.
- The 2nd lector should process in with the Book of Gospels, right after the Altar Servers and in front of the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. Once you approach the Sanctuary, proceed up the steps and walk behind the Altar (you do not need to bow before going up the stairs). Place the Book of Gospels flat and in the middle of the Altar, about 8"- 10" away from the back edge. Then proceed to your seat.
- If a 2nd lector is not present, then the Gospel book may be placed on the Altar before Mass begins.

DRESS AND MOVEMENT

While there is no “dress code” for serving as a lector, we ask that you dress neatly, in a way consonant with the dignity of your role. Good taste and common sense are the best guides in this area. What you wear sends signals to the assembly about how seriously you take your ministry. Dress how you proclaim – with dignity and respect.

Body Language

Walk with good posture, if physically able to do so, and walk with hands folded or kept naturally at your side. Walk at a reverent pace, slower than usual.

Approaching the Sanctuary

You should bow towards the Altar at the position where you encounter the steps of the sanctuary (e.g., in the center aisle in front of the altar, or near the ambo depending on where you sit.) **Use the steps to the left of the ambo to enter and exit the sanctuary.** Upon returning to your seat, stop when you reach the bottom of the steps of the sanctuary, bow to the Altar and return to your seat.

- Begin the introduction when you receive the signal from the celebrant in the back. After the introduction, return to your pew.
- For the 1st reading, approach the sanctuary once everyone is seated, after the Opening Prayer.
- For the 2nd reading, approach the sanctuary **after** the cantor or choir has completed the Responsorial Psalm.

Announcing the Reading

The announcement line tells the listeners from whom or from where the reading comes, (e.g., A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah). Proclaim the announcement line loudly and clearly. You will get the assembly’s attention if you start out in a positive, dignified, and determined manner. If you rush the announcement line, you are likely to rush the rest of the reading.

Pause for two to three seconds after the announcement line is read. This will give the assembly a chance to place the prophet, era, or Biblical location in their minds and ready them to actively listen to the passage.

Pronunciation

There are basic pronunciation guides available that phonetically spell out the pronunciations of the Bibles names of people and places. The USCCB website, <https://www.usccb.org/>, has the readings as well as offers a recording for pronunciations.

Rate

The two common areas of concern for Proclamation are rate and volume – readings are either read too fast or too slow or can barely be heard.

The best rate for a particular passage depends on the content of the reading, but as a general rule, lectors should proclaim at one-half their normal speaking voice.

Slowing down accomplishes several things. First, people do not listen as fast as you may speak. They need time to digest what you are saying to them. Second, slowing down helps achieve clearer pronunciation and enunciation.

Volume

Be sure you are close enough to the microphone to be heard. Speak clearly and directly into the microphone.

Closing Line

“The Word of the Lord” is actually the most important line in every reading because it reminds us that God is speaking directly to us. Take care with this line. Speak it loudly and clearly. As with the announcement line, separate it from the body of the reading with a strong, healthy pause, two to three seconds. Look the assembly in the eye when you proclaim the ending; **do not rush away. Let them make their response, “Thanks be to God”, then return to your seat.**

[THE INTRODUCTION TO THE MASS & WELCOME](#)

You can find these on the first page in the liturgical binder.

[PROCLAIMING THE WORD](#)

Readings can be found online at <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/071917.cfm>.

[PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL](#)

The Prayers of the Faithful can be found in the liturgical binder. This is the only time in which you should expeditiously come to the ambo. Ideally, the petitions should flow quickly after they are introduced by the presider (which generally occurs at the end of the recitation of the Creed, *except when there is a Baptism. Then, the petitions will be right after the homily*).