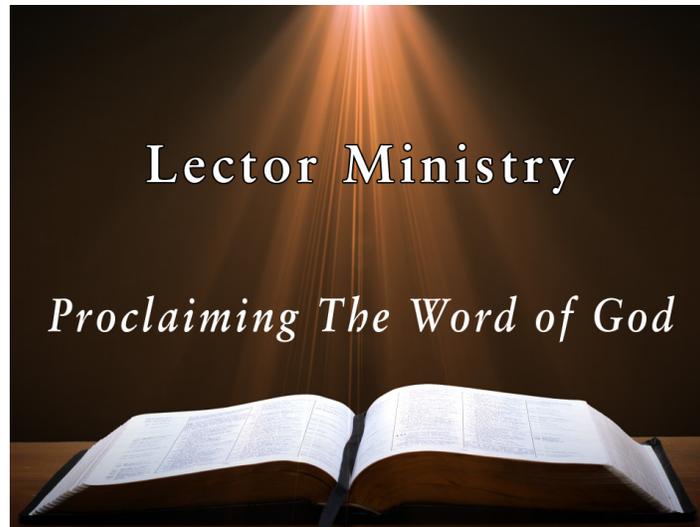


St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church

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Guidelines for Lectors



The Word of God as proclaimed in the sacred Scripture lies at the heart of our Christian life and is integral to all our liturgical celebrations.

(Book of Blessings, 1827)

The proclamation of the Word of God is truly a ministry in the Church. According to the ancient tradition and the teaching of the Church, the readings other than the Gospel are proclaimed by lay ministers called lectors. Lectors bring the living Word of God to the liturgical assembly. In and through them God speaks to the gathered faithful. The ministry of the Word, therefore, is treated seriously and with great dignity.

The Word of God is to be “**proclaimed,**” not merely “read.” For Lectors to properly proclaim Scripture, they must be prepared. The passages should be read, prayed with, and proclaimed aloud a number of times during the week before you are scheduled. If you don’t have a copy of the *Workbook for Lectors*, please pick one up in the sacristy. Become familiar with the hints given in the introduction of the workbook, and utilize the margin notes as well as the pronunciation aids given for each reading.

To assist new lectors and to encourage a uniform procedure among all lectors, we offer the following guidelines.

Before Mass:

- Arrive at least 15 minutes before Mass.
- Dress appropriately.
Men: Slacks, shirt and tie (jacket if possible).
Women: Modest dress, dress slacks/capris, skirts.
Prohibited: Jeans, overalls, shorts, culottes, sweat pants, leggings low cut blouses and t-shirts, sleeveless tops.
- Check in with the Sacristan on duty so he/she knows you're present.

The Procession:

- The lector leads the procession in front of the celebrant when given the cue from the Sacristan.
- Stop in front of the altar, bow reverently from the waist and proceed to the ambo. Adjust the microphone if necessary.
- Welcome the people, announce the mass intention followed by the page in the missalette where they can find the Entrance Antiphon. Pause for a few moments to give them time to get to the correct page, then recite clearly the Entrance Antiphon.
- Return to your seat.

Proclamation of the Word:

- Lector takes his/her place at the ambo.
- Look at the congregation and begin reading as it is written in the lectionary, "*A reading from...*" Do not add additional text, such as "*Our first reading is a reading from...*"
- Proclaim the reading loudly enough so that everyone can hear. Read slowly. Most of us read too fast, especially when we are nervous. Give yourself the chance to pronounce the words clearly so the congregation can understand each and every word.
- At the end of the reading, look at the people, pause slightly, and say, "*The Word of the Lord.*"
- Pause approximately 10 seconds before beginning the responsorial psalm. Begin by proclaiming the response without any introduction. For example, say, "*With the Lord there is mercy, and fullness of redemption.*" Not, "*The responsorial psalm is...*" or "*The response is...*"
- Raise your arm to cue the people to respond and join them in repeating the response. Then continue with the next verse. When the psalm is completed, pause, then return to your seat.

The Prayer of the Faithful:

- Read them as they are written. At the end of each intercession, look at the people and say: "*We pray to the Lord.*" After the people respond, "*Lord, hear our prayer.*" Read the next intercession.
- After the people respond to the last intercession, turn toward the priest and remain standing at the ambo while the priest concludes the prayer. After the "*Amen,*" return to your seat. Please do not leave the ambo until the prayer is concluded.