

June 2019

# Christ the Redeemer Catholic Church



*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,  
and the Word was God.*

*John 1:1*

## Ministry of Lectors

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# Guidance and Instruction Manual

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## Mission

When the Sacred Scriptures are read in the Church, God himself speaks to his people, and Christ, present in his word, proclaims the Gospel. Therefore, the readings from the Word of God are to be listened to reverently by everyone, for they are an element of the greatest importance in the Liturgy. (General Instruction of the Roman Missal [GIRM], no. 29)

As liturgy is an encounter with the presence of Jesus in the form of Body and Blood, God's Word, the Presider and assembled believers, our ministry strives to deliver exceptional Liturgy of the Word through prayer, preparation, and the grace of the Holy Spirit.

Our ultimate goal is to proclaim the Living Word of God reverently and effectively as to encompass the full celebration and prayer that is the Mass.

Called to *Serve*  
*Lectors*

# General Information and Contacts

## 1. Contact List:

**Director of Liturgy** – Ofelia Carrasco  
[ofelia.carrasco@ctrcc.com](mailto:ofelia.carrasco@ctrcc.com) or 281-469-5533 x6543.

**Liturgy Assistant** – Deanna Negrete  
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281-469-5533 x5402.

**Lector Ministry Coordinator** – Gretchen Towe  
gretchen.a.towe@gmail.com  
914-309-6058

The Ministry Coordinator sends weekly reminders as a courtesy to those assigned to read at Mass each weekend. Lectors are also occasionally sent communications via Flocknote: (<https://app.flocknote.com/ctrcc/Lectors>)

Please keep your Ministry Coordinator informed of any changes to your contact information.

## 2. Lector Schedule:

Schedules are created four months at a time by the Liturgy Department. Copies are placed on the usher table in the parlor and are available online at: <https://ctrcc.com/liturgical-ministers-schedule>. If you are unable to serve as assigned, we ask that you do your best to find another lector to substitute. Also, please REPLY to your weekly email and let the Ministry Coordinator know who will be your substitute or if you need assistance in finding a substitute.

Special Liturgy schedules are created by the Liturgy Department. In the weeks leading up to the special liturgy, the Ministry Coordinator will send an email request for lectors. Special liturgies include Christmas, Easter, Confirmation Masses, etc.



# Guidelines

## 1. Preparation:

Preparation of your reading is crucial. Let us remember, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God," therefore, let us begin our preparation with a prayer invoking the Holy Spirit. May the grace of the Holy Spirit help us grasp the content of the Word, empower us to proclaim God's Word with reverence, and allow us to bring His Word into the hearts of all listening.

In the unexpected event that you are the only lector present, we ask that you always prepare both the first and second readings regardless of which reading you are assigned.

We have been blessed with many resources. A workbook for lectors is available at the parish office at a cost of \$12.00. Also, the United States Congress of Catholic Bishops, USCCB.org, is another wonderful resource that provides audio and the written word for the daily readings, at no cost. Video resources may be found on the CTR Website in our "Videos for Lectors" series: <https://ctrcc.com/lectors>. These videos provide tips on how to prepare, how to confidently lector, and how to avoid common mistakes.

## 2. Arrival and Attire:

Arrive no later than 20 minutes before Mass and sign in at the parlor.

Lectors have assigned seating in Section 5, pew 1. Upon arrival, lectors are encouraged to check the lectionary at the Ambo to ensure the correct reading is displayed.

Attire: Regarding appropriate dress: Cardinal DiNardo stated, "None of us should ever become casual with the Eucharist or allow the Eucharist to become commonplace. This includes the way one dresses." Proper attire demonstrates respect for God, the Mass, and the Church Body.

Men: A suit and tie, whereas a loud tie or loud sports jacket covered with lapel pins etcetera is NOT permitted.

Ladies: A dress, skirt with dressy top, dressy pants outfit/suit. Dress or skirt length/hemline should be no shorter than 3 inches above the knee. If you wear a dress or top without sleeves, remember to bring a sweater or jacket to cover your shoulders before you approach the ambo to read.

The following are NOT permitted: Jeans, shorts, t-shirts, plunging necklines or backs, shoulder-less dresses, spaghetti straps, very short dresses/skirts, Capri pants, tennis shoes, sneakers or flip-flops.

### **3. Mass in the Main Church**

As the Liturgy of the Word begins, lectors join the cantor at the front steps of the sanctuary. Be mindful not to cross the altar when lined up. Lector 1 will line up with the edge of the altar closest to Section 5, followed by the lector 2, and the cantor. Once the lectors and cantors are in position, they will bow and then move towards the ambo. The cantor will lead, followed by lector 2 and lector 1. Lector 2 will line up in front of the black line on the sanctuary floor (on the choir side) and lector 1 will proceed directly to the Ambo.

Reverence should be demonstrated when standing in the sanctuary (avoid shuffling). This includes holding hands together in the posture of prayer hands when approaching, leaving, or standing in the sanctuary.

Lector 1 will then proclaim the Word of God. Once finished, lector 1 will turn the lectionary page to the second reading and move towards the cantor and lector 2. After a few moments, the cantor will proceed to the ambo.

Full participation during the Mass is a must, which includes singing the Responsorial Psalm with the congregation.

After the cantor proclaims the Responsorial Psalm, lector 2 will pause a moment (about the length of a Hail Mary) and then move towards the ambo. Once finished, lector 2 will remove the lectionary from the top of the ambo and place underneath

the ambo, unless otherwise instructed. Lector 2 will then lead lector 1 and cantor down the sanctuary steps.

Lectors should continue with full participation in the Mass and always remain in church until the end of the final hymn.

### **3. Daily Mass in the Chapel**

The lector for daily Mass signs up in the chapel narthex before Mass begins. A binder with sign-up sheets can be found on the top shelf by the east doors of the chapel. The lector sits in the second pew on the ambo side of the chapel.

Once the Liturgy of the Word begins, the lector will proceed to the ambo, bow to the altar, and then proclaim the first reading. The lector will also lead the congregation in proclaiming the Responsorial Psalm (Psalm is recited, not sung). The lector then returns to their pew. Please remember to have hands in a posture of prayer when moving.

During the Liturgy of the Eucharist when the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHCs) approach the altar, the lector will lead the congregation in proclaiming the Communion antiphon of the day, found on pages 801-893 of the missal.

Note: The Mass sacristan can assist lectors **before Mass** begins if they have any questions.

## **Additional Resources**

- 1. Catechism of the Catholic Church**  
[http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/\\_INDEX.HTM](http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/_INDEX.HTM)
- 2. General Instruction of the Roman Missal**  
<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/the-mass/general-instruction-of-the-roman-missal/>
- 3. United States Conference of Catholic Bishops – Readings**  
<http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings>

# Liturgical Colors



White, the color of joy and victory, is a festive color and is used for the seasons of Easter and Christmas. It is also used for the feasts of Our Lord, Mary, All Saints, Chair of Peter, Conversion of Paul, the Nativity of John the Baptist, St. John the Evangelist, the angels, and for saints who are not martyrs. It is also a reminder of the resurrection and can therefore be used at funerals.



Red (the color of fire and blood) is used on the days when we celebrate the passion of Jesus, Passion (Palm) Sunday and Good Friday. It is also used for the birth feasts of the apostles and evangelists and for the celebrations of martyrs. Red (the color of fire) recalls the Holy Spirit and is used on Pentecost and for the sacrament of Confirmation.



Green, seen everywhere in plants and trees, symbolizes life, anticipation, and hope and is used during Ordinary Time. Ordinary does not mean ordinary in the sense of routine or basic. Ordinary means the weeks/months between the special seasons (i.e.: Christmas, Lent, Advent and Easter).



The colors violet or purple in Advent help us to remember that we are preparing for the coming of Christ. Lent, the season of penance, repentance, and renewal, also uses the colors violet or purple.



Rose is an optional color and may be used on the Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday, and on the Fourth Sunday of Lent, Laetare Sunday. It expresses the joy of anticipation for Christmas and Easter.

## Prayer for Lectors

Lord, thank you for this opportunity to gather together in your name.

We give thanks for the gifts you have given us through the Holy Spirit. We have accepted your call to proclaim your word and ask your continued help and guidance in our endeavors.

Help us to recognize the importance of your call to be a lector. May we be prepared within ourselves, in order to present your Living Word in a meaningful and understanding manner.

Through the gifts of the Holy Spirit, give us the confidence and ability to follow your call.

Amen

