



Christ the King  
Parish  
Reading, MA

## Lector

06/26/25

### MINISTRY PURPOSE:

- The Lector prepares and proclaims God's Word at the celebration of Mass and assigned liturgies

### ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Proclaim the first or second reading at Mass; lead the Psalm (in the absence of the Cantor) and the Prayers of the Faithful (in the absence of the Deacon)
- Prepare for this role by rehearsing, praying over and coming to understand the biblical text assigned to her/him for a particular liturgical celebration
- Proclaim the biblical text with clarity, conviction, dignity and understanding
- Express reverence and decorum in carrying out this and other aspects of her/his role according to the general liturgical norms (procession, handling the book, etc.)
- Faithful to the schedule of assignments, finding a replacement, if unable to fulfill the scheduled time
- Attend and participate in lector training opportunities. Continuously improve speaking and presentation skills.
- Ministers should only serve one ministry position per mass unless there is no one else available to serve one or other essential positions.

### QUALIFICATIONS:

- Prior to serving - In our ongoing efforts to provide a Safe Environment for all and to comply with Archdiocesan requirements, all volunteers must complete an annual CORI (Criminal Offender Record Information) form. In addition, all those in Liturgical ministries, must complete a one-time "Protecting God's Children (PGC) Training.
- Believe that Sacred Scripture is the Word of God
- Deep respect for God's presence in that Word
- Participate fully in the liturgy
- Desire to share this Word with others as well as a willingness to grow in understanding the scriptures
- Ability to speak the biblical Word intelligibly and comfortably to the assembly
- Enthusiastic, expressive, and good public speaking skills
- Strong collaborative skills
- Willingness to develop and improve skill and technique
- Accepts constructive feedback
- Confirmed Catholic, registered member of the parish, and at least 16 years old



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#### PHYSICAL PERFORMANCE ELEMENTS:

#### MINISTRY OF PROCLAIMING THE WORD Guidelines for Lectors

Welcome to the liturgical Ministry of the Word! The Eucharist constitutes the very life of the Church. Scripture says, "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*" (John 1:1) When we share the Word, especially within the Eucharistic celebration, we are sharing God. "*And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.*" (John 1:14)

This handout is designed to assist you in your participation in the Liturgical Ministry of the Word (more commonly known as Lector) at Christ the King Parish. Your willingness to serve as a Lector reflects not only your response to your Baptismal call to serve the people of God, but a commitment to Christ. You offer the Word of the Lord, recognize the Body of Christ in those to whom you offer the Good News, and ultimately you act as the Body of Christ by fully participating in the life of the parish and the wider community. Your willingness to commit to a schedule and to prepare properly for your service further reflects that commitment. **God bless your efforts!**

#### Preparation:

- PREPARE and PRACTICE to proclaim. Practice speaking the "reading" at least five times throughout the week before your assigned liturgy
- Proclaim the difficult words with confidence. Learn the pronunciation of them by utilizing the Workbook for Lectors that is provided to you by the church.
- Engage in formational activities and events. It is important for lectors to remain open to new methods and new resources that will allow their ministry to deepen and grow. Experienced lectors find methods of preparation that suit them best.

#### MINISTRY OF PROCLAIMING THE WORD

On the day you are assigned to serve as Lector, please develop the habit of taking time to prepare for your service with quiet prayer and a reflective reading of all the scriptures of that day. Allow God to speak to you, before you speak to His people on His behalf.

#### Responsibilities before Mass

- Check in the sacristy AT LEAST 10 MINUTES BEFORE MASS. You will be replaced by the sacristan 10 minutes before mass begins if your name is not checked off.
- Familiarize yourself with your reading in the Lectionary and note the page (or know what Sunday it is and what cycle) so that if by some chance the marker is moved you will know what you are looking for
- When the deacon is not present, if you are the second reader, you should familiarize yourself with the intercessions, and personally place them where you can easily access them. Be sure to look at the intention for that mass so that you know how to say their name.
- Become knowledgeable of the microphone and how it works in case there is a problem
- If reading at St. Agnes, remain in the sacristy to pray with the priest and the other ministers before mass begins
  - If you are the first reader, familiarize yourself with the announcements so that you can read them clearly to the congregation

- You should be ready to read the announcements 2-3 minutes before Mass is to start

### **Functional Responsibilities during mass**

- When a Deacon is not present, the second reader processes with the Gospel book and places it on the altar at the start of mass. Pause and bow before the altar. Walk straight through the middle, set the book on the altar (in the plastic book holder); walk to your seat.
  - Think of Liturgical movements as a formal dance – move so that you do not interrupt another's movement, but rather, in coordination with the priest/deacon/servers
- When it is time for your reading, do not rush. Walk reverently and confidently towards the ambo.
  - Proclaim the reading, remembering that for many of them, this is the first time they have heard it. Proclaim the Word that will rouse them
  - At the end of the reading, proclaim only "the Word of the Lord". DO NOT lift the book or do anything extra. Give the people time to digest the readings.
- The second reader approaches the ambo after the Psalm. Do not rush but give time for the people to take in the psalm.
  - When you are finished, please place the Lectionary (at St. Agnes on the shelf to your right and at St. Athanasius in the lower shelves in the ambo).
- If the second reader reads the intercessions, he or she should come forward and be at the ambo and ready after the Creed is finished.
- After reading the last intercession, step back from the ambo and wait to return to your seat until Father has finished the concluding prayer.

### **Other Notes**

- Schedules are created about 3 times each year as indicated below:
  - October to January – End of August notification deadline
  - February to May – End of December notification deadline
  - June to September – End of April notification deadline
- Ministers should notify Jackie Steele (the ministry scheduler) by the prep schedule if they will be out of town for a period, or if they will be unable to serve at a particular liturgy each week
- Be sure to mark the dates and times on your personal calendar as soon as you receive the schedule, and, if necessary, on the family calendar. Schedules will also be available in Ministry Scheduler Pro accessed through their website or app.
- If you know right away that you cannot serve for one or more times that you are scheduled, find your substitute immediately. You are responsible for finding your own substitute. The best way to find a sub is to "request a sub" through Ministry Scheduler Pro.

**APPENDIX**  
**Additional Information from the USCCB:**

**The Lector at Mass**

**GENERAL PRINCIPLES**

**Reading and Explaining the Word of God**

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. Although in the readings from Sacred Scripture the Word of God is addressed to all people of whatever era and is understandable to them, a fuller understanding and a greater efficaciousness of the word is nevertheless fostered by a living commentary on the word, that is, by the Homily, as part of the liturgical action. (General Instruction of the Roman Missal [GIRM], no. 29)

**Vocal Expression of the Different Texts**

In texts that are to be pronounced in a loud and clear voice, whether by the Priest or the Deacon, or by a reader, or by everyone, the voice should correspond to the genre of the text itself, that is, depending upon whether it is a reading, a prayer, an explanatory comment, an acclamation, or a sung text; it should also be suited to the form of celebration and to the solemnity of the gathering. Consideration should also be given to the characteristics of different languages and of the culture of different peoples. (GIRM, no.38)

**Silence**

The Liturgy of the Word is to be celebrated in such a way as to favor meditation, and so any kind of haste such as hinders recollection is clearly to be avoided. During it, brief periods of silence are also appropriate, accommodated to the assembled congregation; by means of these, under the action of the Holy Spirit, the Word of God may be grasped by the heart and a response through prayer may be prepared. It may be appropriate to observe such periods of silence, for example, before the Liturgy of the Word itself begins, after the First and Second Reading, and lastly at the conclusion of the Homily. (GIRM, no. 56)

**Scripture Readings**

In the readings, the table of God's Word is spread before the faithful, and the treasures of the Bible are opened to them. Hence, it is preferable that the arrangement of the biblical readings be maintained, for by them the unity of both Testaments and of salvation history is brought out. Nor is it lawful to replace the readings and Responsorial Psalm, which contain the Word of God, with other, non-biblical texts.

In the celebration of the Mass with the people, the readings are always read from the ambo. The function of proclaiming the readings is by tradition not presidential but ministerial. Therefore, the readings are to be read by a reader, but the Gospel by the Deacon or, in his absence, by another Priest. If, however, a Deacon or another Priest is not present, the Priest Celebrant himself should read the Gospel, and moreover, if no other suitable reader is present, the Priest Celebrant should also proclaim the other readings as well. After each reading, whoever reads it pronounces the acclamation, and by means of the reply the assembled people give honor to the Word of God that they have received in faith and with gratitude. (GIRM, nos. 57-59)

The lector is instituted to proclaim the readings from Sacred Scripture, except for the Gospel. S/He may also announce the intentions for the Universal Prayer and, in the absence of a psalmist, recite the Psalm between the readings. In the celebration of the Eucharist, the lector has her/his own proper function (cf. nos. 194-198), which he himself must carry out. (GIRM, no. 99) In the absence of an instituted lector, other lay people may be deputed to proclaim the readings from Sacred Scripture, people who are truly suited to carrying out this function and carefully

prepared, so that by hearing the readings from the sacred texts the faithful may conceive in their hearts a sweet and living affection for Sacred Scripture. (GIRM, no. 101)

### **The Liturgy of the Word**

After the Collect, all sit. The Priest may, very briefly, introduce the faithful to the Liturgy of the Word. Then the reader goes to the ambo and, from the Lectionary already placed there before Mass, proclaims the First Reading, to which all listen. At the end, the reader pronounces the acclamation The word of the Lord, and all reply, "Thanks be to God". Then a few moments of silence may be observed, if appropriate, so that all may meditate on what they have heard. Then the psalmist or the reader proclaims the verses of the Psalm, and the people make the response as usual. If there is to be a Second Reading before the Gospel, the reader proclaims it from the ambo. All listen and at the end reply to the acclamation, as noted above (no. 128). Then, if appropriate, a few moments of silence may be observed. (GIRM, nos. 128-130)

## **FUNCTIONS OF THE LECTOR**

### **The Introductory Rites'**

In the procession to the altar, in the absence of a Deacon, the reader, wearing approved attire [see GIRM, no. 339], may carry the Book of the Gospels, slightly elevated. In that case, the reader walks in front of the Priest but otherwise walks along with the other ministers. Upon reaching the altar, the reader makes a profound bow with the others [see also GIRM, no. 274]. If s/he is carrying the Book of the Gospels, s/he approaches the altar and places the Book of the Gospels upon it. Then the reader takes his own place in the sanctuary with the other ministers. (GIRM, nos. 194-195)

### **The Liturgy of the Word**

The reader reads from the ambo the readings that precede the Gospel. In the absence of a psalmist, the reader may also proclaim the Responsorial Psalm after the First Reading. In the absence of a Deacon, the reader, after the introduction by the Priest, may announce the intentions of the Universal Prayer from the ambo. If there is no singing at the Entrance or at Communion and the antiphons given in the Missal are not recited by the faithful, the reader may read them at an appropriate time (cf. nos. 48, 87). (GIRM, nos. 196-198)

### **The Concluding Rites**

At the conclusion of the Mass, the lector does not process with the Book of the Gospels. The Lectionary is never carried out in procession. The lector may join in the procession at the end of Mass in the same order as in the procession to the altar.

*The duties and requirements described above are representative of those encountered during the performance of the essential functions of this ministry. Reasonable accommodation may be made to enable qualified individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.*