

Proclamation of The Word of God

The Mass includes two major parts: the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

We are nourished by BOTH Sacred Scripture and the Eucharist.

The proclamation of the Word of God is truly a service to the Church. Lectors bring the living Word of God to the liturgical assembly. (This is a HUGE responsibility!)

The ministry of the Word should, therefore, be treated seriously and with great dignity.
(GIRM 55)

PREPARATION

To make the service of the Word effective, all lectors are expected to be prepared for their ministry.

Preparation should be spiritual, scriptural, and practical.

Spiritual preparation involves prayer over the text and reflection on its message.

Scriptural preparation involves understanding the text.

Practical preparation involves mastering difficult words, learning the right pronunciations and practicing the delivery of the text aloud.

A few more reminders:

Please take your time when proclaiming the Word. Do not rush or give the appearance of haste.

Enunciate clearly and confidently.

Be careful not to fall into a sing-song rhythm, but instead, pace your words so that the meaning is made more evident.

It is also important not to be overly dramatic or to add anything or change anything in the Word to be read.

The Word of God is not merely read during the liturgy. It is proclaimed, yet not with theatrical show.

Effective proclamation involves the delivery of the message with clarity, conviction and appropriate pace.

It demands the ability to evoke faith in others by demonstrating one's own faith.

DRESS CODE

It is true that God is more interested in the attitude of our hearts, rather than how we look when we come to church.

However, the way we dress manifests the importance of the action in which we are engaging.

Many of us are required to dress up for work. We automatically think of dressing up for weddings, and other special occasions.

Is not our worship of God more important?

The Eucharist, or the Sacrifice of the Mass, is described by the Catholic Church as the "source and summit" of the Christian life.

With this idea in mind, we must take care to prepare ourselves spiritually and externally for the most important part of our week.

Our external appearance speaks to the value we place on sacred liturgy.

Other things to consider:

Appropriate dress for liturgy does not call attention to itself (oneself).

A clean, neat, well-groomed appearance fosters a sense of reverence.

Men: A collared or knit shirt, appropriate pants (no jeans), and clean shoes.

Women: Dresses, skirts, or dress slacks, with blouses or sweaters.

For safety reasons, simple shoes should be worn.

Refrain from jeans, sweat or warm-up pants, shorts, leggings, sports jerseys, sweatshirts, t-shirts, beach apparel, and extremely tight-fitting clothing.

Dresses or skirts should be no shorter than 2 inches above the knees.

The shoulders and midriffs are to be covered.

Let us dress accordingly to show our respect, honor, and reverence for the Real Presence of Our Lord during mass.

LECTOR GUIDELINES

1. Arrive 15 minutes before mass and check in with the sacristan.
2. Make sure the Lectionary is at the Ambo, and is on the correct reading.
3. Make sure the microphone switch is turned on at the Ambo
4. Make sure the other lector is present (there are two lectors for each mass.)
5. Lector 1 – proclaims the first reading and leads the spiritual communion prayer
For the spiritual communion prayer, approach the Ambo AFTER the prayer “Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof...”
Don’t forget to bow in reverence in front of the altar, and bow together with the choir member after your reading.
6. Lector 2 - proclaims the second reading and reads the prayers of the faithful if there is no Deacon present.
Don’t forget to bow in reverence in front of the altar, together with choir member before your reading.
For the prayers of the faithful: Approach the ambo when your ‘PROCEEDS’ during the Creed. **“I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son..” Practice the names, and Read the names confidently.**
After the reading, please put the lectionary book in the lower shelf of the Ambo.
7. Lectors MUST sit in the first few pews, directly facing the Ambo. (Not from the sides of the Church)
8. If you are scheduled to serve as lector, please be prepared to proclaim BOTH readings. If your partner lector does not show up due to an unforeseen situation, you will be responsible for BOTH readings. Note: Sacristans will no longer need to find a “replacement lector” as long as one scheduled lector is present.

LECTOR PRAYER

Lord God,

You are the source of everything good, beautiful and true.

We are here to answer Your call - to serve as lectors in our parish community.

Please fill us with Your Holy Spirit.

Help us to proclaim Your Word,

so that it touches the hearts of your people.

Amen.