

# Ministry of the Word

## (Proclaimers)

### Before the Liturgy

#### Preparation:

- Preparation is ongoing for proclaimers. Practice with your “Workbook for Lectors and Gospel Readers” throughout the week as you pray and prepare for weekend Eucharist. We ask all Proclaimers to prepare each week as though you would minister. The consistency of this preparation will help you to become a better listener in worship and stronger leader in your community.
- Take time before you come to liturgy to prepare yourself for ministry in thought and prayer. [You will want to give consideration for the dignity of this ministry as you select your attire for the day.]
- **Please arrive 15 minutes ahead of scheduled liturgy time.** Place a check by your name on the schedule in the Sacristy and check to see if you are the first or second reader. Be sure the Sacristan knows you are there. **Put on a lector pendant to identify you as the proclaimer for that liturgy.**
- Read the scriptures you will be proclaiming to make sure they are the ones you practiced and that the text has not been changed.
- If you are to read the prayers of the faithful, they are in a separate binder. After you have practiced the prayers, please place the binder on your chair in the assembly. (Pronunciations of names may be typed out phonetically, but it doesn’t hurt to double check names for accuracy.)

### The Liturgy Begins

#### Procession:

- The first reader will carry the book of the gospels in procession following the servers; if there is no Deacon.
- When you arrive at the base of the sanctuary, bow; go forward and place the book of the gospels on the Altar.

#### First Reading:

- After the opening prayer come forward for the first reading.
- Proceed to the ambo- bowing before you enter the sanctuary.
- Read as loudly and as clearly as you can.
- At the end of the reading, pause and look up and the say “The Word of the Lord”
- Leave the lectionary on the ambo and return to your seat.

#### Second Reading:

- When the cantor is finished with the psalm response, come forward for the second reading.
- Continue as you did for the first reading.
- Leave the lectionary on the ambo and return to your seat.

#### General Intercessions: [Prayers of the Faithful]

- After the homily and creed are the General Intercessions or Prayers of the Faithful.
- Close to the end of the creed, walk up to the ambo and open the binder to the intercessions.
- The Presider says the opening paragraph and the closing prayer.
- You announce the petition while the assembly responds.
- After the last petition remain at the ambo for the Presider’s closing prayer, then be seated.

## **For Your Information File:**

The Lectionary is the book that contains the text of the biblical reading and chants for the Liturgy of the Word in the celebration of Eucharist. The Second Vatican in the document entitled “Constitution of the Sacred Liturgy”.... Article #51 says:

**“The treasures of the bible are to be opened up more lavishly so that a richer fare might be provided for the faithful at the table of God’s word and a more representative portion of sacred scripture be read to the people over a set cycle of years.”**

In response to those directives, the Cons Ilium for the implementation of the Constitution of the Sacred Liturgy prepared a Lectionary for Eucharist and it was approved in 1969 and came into the use Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> 1969.

The Lectionary was assembled in this manner:

The Gospels were selected **first**; then broken into a three year cycle with one year each for (A) Matthew, (B) Mark and (C) Luke. Readings from John were inserted in all the cycles. (The supposition underlying the project, was that the four gospels give us in rough sequence a public life of Jesus culminating in his death and resurrection.) \*\*\*The church’s calendar year begins with Advent not the January 1.

The **second** step was to search the Hebrew scriptures, including those in Greek that are canonical for the Roman church, for texts thought to foreshadow the deeds and words of Jesus. (The reading for the Hebrew Scriptures were then chosen to correspond to the Gospels.)

The **third** step was to select readings from the New Testament (non gospel books). The principle was to call on all 23 books at least once during the three years. (The New Testament does not always correspond with the Old Testament and the Gospel readings in content.)

\*When a major feast is on a Sunday and in Advent and Lent, the principle of selection was different. Then, all three readings relate somehow to the feast or season.

\*The weekday readings have a two year cycle (remember Sundays have a three year cycle). The first reading alternates every other year, but the gospel remains constant every year.

There are Lectionaries that are for one particular cycle (A, B, C) with all the readings for the weekends and holy days and Lectionaries that contain all three Sunday cycles, plus the two weekday cycles and special events readings [weddings, funerals, confirmation, etc... ]

\*\*\*The term proclaiming is used on purpose. We could use other words: reading, telling, announcing, relating, retelling, but none of these seems as appropriate as “proclaiming”. A proclamation is a text of special importance that deserves special treatment and attention.

The constitution of the Sacred Liturgy #7 says “Christ is present in his word since it is he himself who speaks when the holy scriptures are read in the church.” Those can be frightening words!

1. The proclaimers function is genuinely liturgical. You are more than “Father’s helper.” You serve the assembly, the people of God. You determine, in large part, whether or not the liturgy builds up faith among the people of God.
2. You have more than a duty and even more than a privilege. The people of God rightly expect the proclaimer to serve with sincere piety and decorum.
3. Training and formation are necessary for those who proclaim the scriptures at the liturgy. Proclaiming God’s work requires a very special kind of expertise, different in many ways from what is required for other kinds of public speaking. Even those who are effective public communicators in other areas need training and formation to absorb the spirit of the liturgy and to be able to express that spirit well.
4. Christ himself speaks when the holy scriptures are proclaimed to the assembly. This bold assertion is more than a pretty thought, and it requires of us nothing less than conversion. To be Christ at the ambo is to proclaim the word with universal appeal. A difficult challenge but not more noble!

For your own practice and edification you should receive a copy of "Workbook for Lectors and Gospel Readers". This book is to help you prepare for your proclaiming.

### **SCHEDULING INFORMATION:**

Proclaimers are scheduled by the month. The monthly schedule appears in your parish newsletter which is mailed to every home in the parish. The Sunday bulletin contains the upcoming week's schedule.

Ministers are scheduled at the liturgy that they marked as their preference on the Stewardship form. How often you proclaim will be determined by the number of ministers that volunteered at your specified time.

If you have requests about when you wish to be scheduled [ex. at the same time as your child sings in the choir or when your family is greeting] please let us know. We can make some modifications if we know what to look for. Bianca Wiederrich, Liturgist, does the ministry scheduling. Specific requests can be made to the Liturgy Office [282-7217 or [bwiederrich@ideaone.net](mailto:bwiederrich@ideaone.net)].

The schedules are compiled a month before the calendar is published. [The December calendar is put together between November 1-7, therefore all schedule requests must be submitted to Bianca before the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month .... this allows for printing and mailing time.]

**\*\*\*A contact list of other people proclaiming at the same Mass time as you will be provided to you. If you are unable to be a proclaimer when you are scheduled, please find a replacement yourself and then let us know of the change. If you are in need of a new list, please contact Bianca in the office.**

**\*\*\* If you cannot find a replacement, please let us know so that we can make appropriate arrangements.**