



Guidelines and Instructions for Lectors

“The Lord has given me a well-trained tongue; that I may speak to the weary a word that will rouse them”.

Isaiah 50:4

“The Word of the Lord.” These five words tell us a lot about the ministry of the lector. Whether you are thinking about becoming a lector, or have been serving in this ministry for a long time, think for a moment about the words, “The Word of the Lord.” When the **Proclaimer** at the ambo finishes the reading, looks up at the assembly and says, “The Word of the Lord”, something wonderful has happened. The mystery of God’s interaction with us has been recalled, revived and renewed. That is, we have once again heard God reveal the divine intention to love, redeem and reclaim us. The promise, the covenant, that God has made with us has been written on our hearts again ... the unfathomable love God has for us, the love that God is for us, has been made flesh again.

We are taught that when the Scriptures are read in the church, it is Christ himself who speaks. The proclamation of God’s Word is far more than a telling, a relating, or a recounting; it is God’s Word becoming flesh in our midst in order to achieve the purpose for which it was sent – to redeem us in love. Can there be any more compelling reason to proclaim the Word effectively?

Lector Guidelines

Preparation

Please try your best to *prepare your readings ahead of time*. Refer to the Lector Workbook, or find the Daily Mass Readings online at, <http://uscceb.org/bible>. Simply click on the date on the calendar displayed on the website. Read your reading over and over again. Seek to understand the Word! Find the meaning and let the Word come into your heart! *Practice out loud*. You should have read it enough so that by the time you are ready to read at Mass you will almost have it memorized. When the assembly hears a lector read well their faith is built up. They can be encouraged, comforted, challenged or moved in some way by what they hear. In the same manner a poor reading can detract from the liturgy.

The way in which you **proclaim** the Word affects the liturgy every bit as much as a riveting homily or stirring music. YOU interpret the Word for us! Please touch our hearts with the Word of God!

Scheduling

Two Lectors are scheduled for each Mass on Sunday – one for each reading. The order in which the names are listed determines who will do the first reading and who will do the second. But, you can prepare both readings ahead of time, and at Mass, with the other lector who is scheduled, decide who is doing what reading.

NO ONE MAY READ BOTH READINGS ON SUNDAY! So please secure a replacement if you cannot be there. A roster is available on the parish website. If you cannot find a sub, please call your Sacristan (list on back pages). If you cannot reach your Sacristan, contact Deacon Grant. Schedule changes are to be made through Linda Dimattia at the parish office.

How do I find a replacement?

The list of all Lectors who will read at your Mass are listed on our church website, www.olomchurch.com. To access this password protected list, please follow these simple steps:

- Go to the website, www.olomchurch.com
- Click on Ministers' Mass Schedule
- Click on Weekend & Weekday Preferences Login
- The User Name is "*schedule*"; the Password is "*olom*"
- Click Login

Dress appropriately

What we wear to church is extremely important. We especially ask that all Ministers model proper and “holy attire” that expresses the dignity of our celebration. If possible, the men should wear a coat and tie. All clothing should be neat, clean, modest, and appropriate signifying the honor of the ministry you perform. Dress should be conservative, including skirt length and general style. Remember – you are attending a sacred celebration! Whether you are scheduled in your ministry or not, each Sunday we would hope that your dress would reflect your appreciation of this holy gathering.

Before Mass

Please arrive 15 minutes prior to Mass. Sign in and check in with the Mass Sacristan. Check the Lectionary to make sure the correct readings are marked with the ribbon, and familiarize yourself with their layout on the page. Place the ribbon at the first reading.

If you have not talked to the other lector earlier in the week you will need to decide who is reading which reading. One of the lectors will take the Lectionary to the ambo. If you are going to be doing the first reading adjust the microphone.

NOTE about adjusting the microphone. Do not adjust the microphone at the BASE. Please notice that the microphone has a “flexible” section just a few inches from where you speak into it. Adjust the microphone by flexing that section – NOT the section that attaches to the ambo. Any questions on this, please ask.

All lectors will join the other Mass ministers in prayer at the “5-minute bells”. The lectors will process in with the servers and clergy and follow behind the Book of the Gospels. **You are an important part of the entrance procession!** If a deacon is not present, one of the lectors will carry the Book of the Gospels in procession and place at the front edge of the altar. If you are asked to carry the book hold it up a bit so that everyone can see it.

Lectors are asked to sit in Mary’s Chapel during Mass.

Lectors will process in but will NOT process out.

First Reading

After the opening prayer, and after the priest is seated, it is time for you to read. Walk straight to the Sanctuary. **NO BOWING IS NECESSARY**, if coming from Mary's Chapel.

When you arrive at the ambo, **LOOK** at the community gathered. Make sure that they are ready to listen. You have something very important to tell them!

Maintain eye contact. Say, "A reading from the book of _____." (Do not say, "Our first reading is _____.") Read **slowly** and **clearly** ... and **PROJECT!** Read with enthusiasm and interpret the reading for the listeners. Don't be afraid to read with all the meaning the Word of God deserves. Minimal hand movement is best.

At the end of the reading PAUSE 3 – 4 seconds before you say, "The Word of the Lord" ... and say it with meaning and making eye contact. The pause is very important as it distinguishes the reading and adds to our meditation time. You may turn the page to the next reading if you wish. Let the other lector know your intentions.

Responsorial Psalm

At 7:00 am Sunday Mass (and other select liturgies), the first lector will read the psalm. After the first reading, wait about 5-10 seconds or so; then proceed with the antiphon (first line) of the psalm. When the psalm is read, **DO NOT SAY** ... "Our Responsorial Psalm is _____."

Second Reading

Wait for the cantor (or first lector) to finish the psalm. Do not rush up to the Sanctuary before he or she has finished. Adjust the microphone if necessary and proceed (see the previous notes from **First Reading**). After your reading place the Lectionary on the shelf.

**** Again, DO NOT BOW, when entering or exiting the Sanctuary ****

Yes, God is present to us in the Holy Eucharist, but God is also truly present in the Word. We will get to the Eucharist, but please do not overlook the Word by bowing to the tabernacle or some other place.

Just a few last thoughts ...

Since you will be praying with the ministers before Mass and processing in with Entrance Procession, please have your friends or family members "hold" your seat in Mary's Chapel. When you process in, stop at the front steps, give a gentle bow together with the other lector, turn left and proceed to your pew.

Most of our Lectors do not proclaim the word strongly enough! Even though you have a microphone you need to speak a little more loudly – as if you are talking to the person in the back of the church. Our church is big and there's a lot of noise even when people are trying to listen. You don't have to shout. Just speak strongly and clearly!

Please ask someone who will be attending Mass to give you some feedback on how you sound. Or call to see if the church is available and come up and practice – I would be happy to meet with you for a few minutes.

Throughout all of this, please remember this:

**Good Liturgy Builds Faith;
Bad Liturgy Destroys Faith!**

Thank you so very much for serving the Lord in this very important ministry!



OUR LADY *of* MERCY

Sacristan List

Head Sacristan – Jo Ellen Frederick, 266-2863 (cell); 273-4410 (home)

joellen.frederick@olomchurch.com; jjofred@cox.net

Scheduling – Linda Dimattia, 928-6210, linda.dimattia@olomchurch.com

Questions or Concerns – Deacon Richard Grant, 937-6837 (cell); 928-6325 (office),

richard.grant@olomchurch.com

Weekdays

8:00 am Monday – Saturday – Adrienne Von Bodungen, 931–1786 (cell),
926-3953 (home)

George Von Bodungen, 931-8183, gavonb02@Bellsouth.net

12:00 noon, Monday – Carolyn Guidry, 773-4146,

carolyn.guidry@olomchurch.com

Michele Decoteau, 324-5509, michele.decoteau@olomchurch.com

12:00 noon, Tuesday – Barbara Williams, 926-7437, no email

Jim Williams, 603-6871, jewill1@yahoo.com

6:00 pm, Tuesday – Fred Gwin, 572-6385, debbiegw@cox.net

Charles Schutte, 936-5480, cschutte@gmstl.com

12:00 noon, Wednesday – Pat Shingleton, 603-7364, pats@wbrz.com;

pat@futurebound.com

Jim Hebert, (337) 849-7601, jimjanehebert@aol.com

12:00 noon, Thursday – Ed Bourgeois, 405-5104, ebourgeois@sfbcc.com

Deacon Richard Grant, 937-6837, richard.grant@olomchurch.com

12:00 noon, Friday – Deanie Smith, 620-8024,

deanie.smith@olomchurch.com

Carolyn Guidry, 773-4146, carolyn.guidry@olomchurch.com

Weekends

4:00 pm – Deanie Smith, 620-8024, deanie.smith@olomchurch.com
Maria Arias, (504) 982-0071, ariasmd3@aol.com

6:00 pm – Fred Gwin, 572-6385, debbiegw@cox.net
Jim Blouin, 405-1981, joblouin@cox.net
Rose Brian, 937-5643, rose@saia.net
Tena Roemer, 287-0580, tenaroemer@hotmail.com

7:00 am – Greg Samrow, 603-7717, rvrat1@cox.net
Puddin' Samrow, 223-9828, rnpuddin@cox.net
Al St. Pierre, 287-8905, ajstpierre@gmail.com
Sheletta Dimatto, 928-5194, sheletta.donatto@pbrc.edu
Adrian Wilson, 939-3406, adrianwilson@gmail.com
Ethlyn White, 803-3391, robertwhite4@cox.net

9:00 am – John Vukovics, 439-9677, jmvukovics@gmail.com
Mark Hermann, 236-2446, mark_hermann1@hotmail.com
(underscore between first and last name)
Tena Roemer, 287-0580, tenaroemer@hotmail.com

10:30 am – Kathleen Balden, No Phone!, kbalden@gofranklingo.com
Barbara Williams, 926-7437, no email

12:00 noon – Jeff Jarreau, 620-5380, jjarreau1@cox.net
Tony Patin, 413-4650, tony@patincg.com

6:00 pm – Gary Bertrand, 931-2520, gary.bertrand@att.net
Dan Smith, 938-9163, djsisis@bellsouth.net
Charles Schutte, 936-5480, cschutte@gmstl.com