

Liturgical Ministry Guidelines and Procedures

St. Mary's Catholic Church

MINISTRY OF READER

I Background Information from documents of the Catholic Church

Ministers of the word proclaim the scriptures in the midst of the assembly. "They exercise a true liturgical function. They ought, therefore, to discharge their office with the sincere piety and decorum demanded by so exalted a ministry and rightly expected of them by God's people. Consequently they must all be imbued with the spirit of the liturgy...and they must be trained to perform their functions in a correct and orderly manner."
(Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, 29)

The Sacred Scriptures, above all in their liturgical proclamation, are the source of life and strength...Love of the Scriptures is therefore a force reinvigorating and renewing the entire people of God. (Introduction to the Lectionary #7)

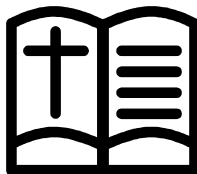
When the Scriptures are read in the Church, God himself speaks to His people, and Christ, present in His own Word, proclaims the Gospel. Therefore, all must listen with reverence to the readings from God's word, for they make up an element of greatest importance in the Liturgy. (General Instruction of the Roman Missal #29)

II What is the Reader at Mass?

The reader may carry the Book of the Gospels in the entrance procession (in the absence of a deacon); a reader proclaims the assigned reading(s) and, in the absence of a deacon/or with permission, the General Intercessions. If the responsorial psalm is not sung, the reader may also be asked to lead it.

III Readers should:

- + be in good standing with the Church, practicing the faith and fully initiated through the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and Eucharist.



IV Practical Considerations

A. Check-in (coming soon...)

All liturgical ministers are to sign in at the Liturgical Ministry area at the back of church 10 minutes before mass begins.

B. Prayer before Mass

All liturgical ministers will gather at the back of church 10 minutes before mass begins with the presider, servers, and parish director or pastoral associate to pray together.

C. Preparation/Procedures

- + You will be given a Workbook that contains all the Sunday readings for the current liturgical year. A pronunciation guide will also be provided to assist in your preparation. If you are unfamiliar with a term or name...PLEASE ASK!
- + You will need to spend time reading and reflecting on the scriptures the week before you are to proclaim the readings at mass. Make sure you practice your readings so you are familiar with the flow of the passage and are able to articulate its message clearly.
- + Upon arriving at Church, please double check the lectionary and general intercessions. **The Lectionary and General Intercessions will be on Ambo.**

Entrance Procession

In the absence of a deacon, the Reader will carry the Book of the Gospels in procession following the servers. The Book of the Gospels is elevated in procession. When you reach the sanctuary, go up the steps and place the book in the stand on the altar. Return and bow with the Presider and servers. Take your seat in the assembly.

Proclamation of Readings

Lectors should be seated in the assembly.

When you approach the altar to read, please stop in front of the altar, bow, and move to the ambo.

After the 1st reading please wait for the assembly to respond "Thanks be to God" before being seated in the chair behind the Ambo. After the cantor has finished the responsorial psalm, please allow them to be seated **before** you move to the Ambo for the second reading.

When you are finished with the second reading, wait for the assembly to respond "Thanks be to God" before closing the lectionary and putting it on the shelf in the Ambo. When you return to your pew you do not need to bow to the altar.

General Intercessions

Immediately following the Presider's invitation for the general intercessions, move directly to the Ambo. When you approach the altar to read, please stop center in front of the altar, bow, and move to the ambo. Remain standing at the Ambo until the Presider has finished the concluding prayer and all have responded "Amen". **You do not need to bow to the altar when going back to your pew.**

Sending Forth

+ The reader does not exit in the Closing Procession.

V Substitutes

It is important for the Community that you minister on the dates that you are scheduled. If you cannot minister when you are scheduled, you are responsible for finding a substitute. A list of Readers is included with your schedule.