



HOLY CROSS CHURCH

READER / LECTOR

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name O Most High, to proclaim your steadfast love in the morning and your faithfulness by night.

(Ps. 92:1-2)

Welcome! This ministry includes proclaiming the First and Second Readings, reading the Prayers of Intercession, and Introduction/Announcements. The roles are designated as follows:

Reader: Reads the Introduction and the Announcements
Reads the Prayers of Intercession (and Psalm in the absence of Music Ministry)

Lector 1: Carries in the Lectionary and proclaims the First Reading

Lector 2: Proclaims the Second Reading

It is desirable for the Music Ministry to sing the Psalm or come to the ambo to proclaim it if it is not being sung. In the absence of Music Ministry, it is the duty of the Reader or alternate to proclaim the Psalm. It should not be the same person as Lector 1 or 2.

Preparation:

1. Prepare yourself at home in advance if you are proclaiming the Word. Never read publicly what you have not first read privately. There are Lector Workbooks in the sacristy which you may borrow for this purpose. Take a book home the Sunday before you are scheduled to proclaim the Word of God, and be sure to bring it back the Sunday you read so that it is available for next week's Lectors. It can be used as a pronunciation reference. An additional Aid to preparation is at <http://holycrossregina.ca/content/LiturgyPrep.html>
2. Arrive at least 15 minutes before Mass time. Record your name in the Sign in book and put on a cross. Review any difficult passages or pronunciations in the readings or read through the Introduction, Announcements and General Intercessions. A common prayer is recited with Father, Altar Servers, Lectors and ExtraOrdinary Ministers in the Sacristy before Mass begins.
3. The Team coordinator will check with the music ministers to see if the Psalm will be sung. If not, appropriate arrangements must be made.

****If you are unable to fulfill your ministry talk to your Team Coordinator to see what procedure he/she prefers that you follow; either find your own replacement or let them know in reasonable time for them to find a replacement for you.**

Procedure:

1. The **Reader** welcomes the parishioners and follows the **INTRODUCTORY PROCEDURE** as outlined in the reader's binder.
2. **Lector 1**
 - **CARRIES THE LECTIONARY** in procession with the priest and altar servers directly behind the candle bearers, walking reverently, carrying the book above their head
 - Proceeds to the Ambo without bowing at the Altar
 - Places the Lectionary on the Ambo without opening it.
 - Together with the Reader, go before the Altar and bow; then return to your place.
3. After "Amen" of the opening prayer and while the congregation is being seated, both Lectors come forward, proceed to the Altar and bow.
Lector 1 goes to the ambo and **Lector 2** goes to the server's bench. Lector 1 opens the Lectionary reverently and proclaims the **FIRST READING** pausing for 3 seconds before saying "The Word of the Lord" and remains at the ambo for a moment of reverence before being seated on the server's bench.

After the Psalm is sung or proclaimed, a brief pause is also needed. Then **Lector 2** will proclaim the **SECOND READING** again pausing for 3 seconds before saying "The Word of the Lord" and remaining at the ambo for a moment of reverence. Both Lectors will then leave the Sanctuary together **without bowing**.

4. Following the "Amen" of the Creed*, the **Reader** will leave their seat and walk to the ambo to read the **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** from the reader's binder. (*There should be no movement during prayer.)
5. After receiving communion, the **Reader** should proceed to the Server's bench in the Sanctuary. After the "Amen" of the Prayer after Communion proceed to the Ambo and read the Announcements, and return to the bench following the final blessing.

The Lectionary is not carried out in the closing procession. The Word of God goes out alive in the assembly. When the closing procession leaves the Sanctuary, the Reader can exit to the Gerein Centre through the Sanctuary door.

Additional Notes:

A Lector is a person of faith and commitment to the teachings of the church and regularly attends Sunday Eucharist. A Lector must have 4 things:

1. Love and knowledge of the scriptures. Lectors must become familiar as possible with the passage they are to read. From what biblical book is it drawn? What is the greater context from which it has been excerpted? What is the assigned passage about? What is its literary sort? Who is speaking and to whom?
2. Imagination and feeling. Proclaim with conviction. Imagination allows the Lector to hear the voice of the text.
3. Skills for public speaking are valuable; a good voice, clear diction, proper breathing, sufficient eye contact, proper pronunciation of words.
4. Prayer before and after preparatory practice.

Active ribbons are on the side of the Lectionary. Ribbons straight down are not used in the celebration. For Sunday Liturgy of the Word there are three Cycles using the Red Lectionary.

- Year A is the Gospel of Matthew
- Year B is the Gospel of Mark
- Year C is the Gospel of Luke
- The Gospel of John is used during the Season of Lent and Easter.
- Each new Liturgical Year begins with Advent.
- Weekday Liturgy of the Word is proclaimed from the Green Lectionary and follows Year I for odd years and Year II for even years.
- A reference book called the ORDO is available in the Sacristy to help find Readings in the Lectionary. The schedule on the back of each bulletin will list the Readings for the week leading up to and including Sunday.

Helpful Hints:

1. Sit near the front of the church.
2. Adjust the microphone 4 or 5 inches from mouth. (not closer than 3 inches)
3. When the Word of God is proclaimed, use a strong voice. Each line is a complete thought.
4. Proclaim only what is printed in black. Do not read what is printed in Red. Therefore do not say „First Reading“ or any of the rubrics. .
5. The Lector may wish to use their index finger to keep their place while making eye contact with the listeners..

A minister may be commissioned as a Lector and as an Extraordinary Minister of the Communion but may fulfill only one role at any particular mass. The commissioning is for a 3 year period which is renewable.