

St. Augustine Church
Liturgical Ministry Formation
2008 Guide for Lectors



St. Bede the Venerable

I. INTRODUCTION

Readings from scripture are the heart of the Liturgy of the Word. In the readings, God speaks to His people and nourishes their spirit; Christ is present through His Word. It is of primary importance that people hear God's message of love, digest it with the aid of psalms, songs, silence and the homily, and respond; thus involving themselves in the great covenant of love and redemption.

Therefore, it is of the utmost importance that the individuals serving in this ministry verbally share God's Word with **CONFIDENCE, INTELLIGENCE, and ENTHUSIASM**. The following Liturgical Norms reflect St. Augustine Parish's implementation of the required changes to the Liturgy. These are presented in an effort to enhance and strengthen your effectiveness when **PROCLAIMING** the Word of God.

II. BE PREPARED

Each Lector must review the "Introduction" section of the **WORKBOOK FOR LECTORS AND GOSPEL READERS**. Upon receipt of the monthly Liturgical Ministers Schedule, Lectors should **REVIEW, PRACTICE, and MEDITATE (RPM)** upon the scripture readings in advance for the Mass to which they are assigned.

II.A. Arriving Early to Mass

Lector #1 and Lector #2 should arrive thirty (30) minutes prior to the scheduled time for Mass.

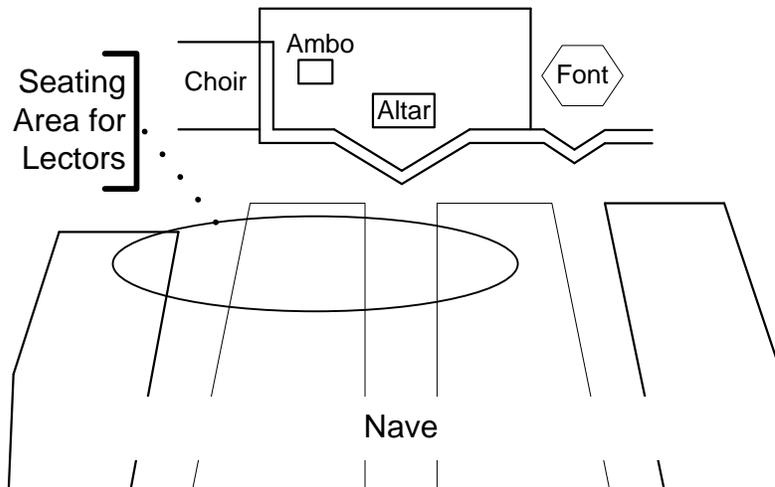
- Upon entering the church, you should go to the Holy Water bless yourself and make a profound bow to the altar.
 - Note that once you make this profound bow, you will **not** need to repeat this act of reverence to the altar again during mass.
 - Note you can wait to show your reverence prior to entering your pew.
- Check in with the designated Mass Coordinator.
- Review Lectionary for phrasing, pronunciation and pacing of your proclamation.
- Review both the Prayers of the Faithful (General Intercessions) and Announcements. (Note that Lector #1 reads the Prayers of the Faithful and Lector #2 reads the Announcements.)

- Confirm the specific procedural details of the Mass with the Deacon or Presider: to identify any changes to the standard procedures, ascertain if the Nicene Creed will be professed; will there be Children's Liturgy, and, if there is a Deacon for the Mass.

II.B. Preparing for the Proclamation

To be effective at Proclaiming the Word, it is important to take time for your spiritual self.

- Identify your seat near the front left of the Nave, refer to the illustration below.



- Take the time to sit/kneel, collect your thoughts and pray to St. Bede (the Patron Saint of Lectors) to assist you in your proclamation. And lastly, acknowledge the presence of Christ in your midst.

Note: In the absence of the Deacon, Lector #1 is accountable for processing in with the Book of the Gospels.

II.C. Lectionary to the Ambo

After both Lectors have reviewed the Prayers of the Faithful (General Intercessions) and Announcements, it is time to place the Lectionary on the Ambo.

- Lector #1 should place the Prayers of the Faithful and Announcements under the Lectionary and proceed to the Ambo.
- As you will have already revered the altar with a profound bow upon entering the sanctuary, another bow is no longer needed.
 - This can, however, be the time you choose to reverence the altar.
- Place the Lectionary on the Ambo and leave the book closed.

Note: The tassel should already be marking the first reading and will enable Lector #1 to find the reading quickly.

Lastly, Lectors should be appropriately attired (their "Sunday Best") when scheduled to participate in the Liturgy of the Word.

III. OPENING PROCEDURES

III.A. Introduction

III.A.1 With a Deacon

Approximately five minutes prior to the Mass, the Deacon carries the Book of the Gospels, and places the Book standing on the Altar.

The Deacon then welcomes the assembly gathered for worship. He then asks everyone to take a moment to acknowledge the presence of Christ in our midst.

The Deacon then kneels for a few moments after which he asks the congregation to stand for the opening hymn.

III.A.2 Without a Deacon

The Presider welcomes the congregation and asks that they stand for the opening hymn.

Lector #1 carries in the Book of the Gospels.

- The Book of the Gospels should be carried high.
- Lector #1 lays the Book of the Gospels on the Altar somewhat in the middle of the Altar.
- Lector #1 exits the Altar from the Baptismal Font side and proceeds to their seat as the Presider ascends the steps to the Altar.

III.B The First Reading

Upon conclusion of the Opening Prayer and the dismissal of the children for their special Liturgy of the Word, when applicable, Lector #1 approaches the Ambo with energy and dignity.

Note: As a Lector, the focus must be on the **WORD**. Therefore, please be considerate of the congregation and locate yourself in the area identified earlier in section II.B.

- Remember to be considerate to the congregation and retain your reverence for the altar at all times.
 - As you would have already revered the altar with a profound bow, no additional bow is required.

Note: While on the Altar, the Lector should exhibit good posture and restrained movement, e.g., shoulders back, head up and limit the bouncing or rocking back and forth from heel to toe. Lastly, there is no need to lean on the Ambo towards the microphone.

- Maintain eye contact with the Presider as there are times when either the Presider or Deacon will introduce the reading. Once they have completed this introduction or have given you the queue to proceed, turn and face the congregation.

Note: To ensure that everyone is given an opportunity to fully concentrate on the **WORD**, wait for the children to leave the Naïve and for arriving parishioners to be seated.

This may seem very awkward; however, it is important for your ministry to have everyone's attention.

- Your Proclamation
 - Remember that actions speak louder than words, DO NOT RUSH.
 - Be attentive, and adjust the position of the Lectionary on the ambo to best suit your stature and line of vision while ensuring that the microphone is free from obstruction.
 - The Lector must read the scriptures with a great deal of **CONFIDENCE** and **ENERGY**.
 - It is important that the congregation hear your proclamation. Therefore, you must PROJECT your words to the back wall as if the microphone did not exist.
 - Note that using a normal speaking voice will not be sufficient.
 - Also note, that if you tend to trail off your tone and volume at the end of sentences, these words will not be heard.

Note: To be effective, the Lector must speak with good DICTION, PACE, CADENCE, and MEANING. The Lector should always distinguish between narrative text, dialogue, or poetry.

An effective means of maintaining an effective pace and cadence is to effectively pause between changes in the narratives and personalities being proclaimed. At the pause, make eye contact with the congregation.

Do not be afraid to BE ENTHUSIASTIC or to become PERSONALLY INVOLVED in what you are reading!

IV. RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Upon conclusion of the first proclamation, and after a brief pause, Lector #1 states, THE WORD OF THE LORD (NOT "This is the Word of the Lord"), and returns to his/her seat in the congregation to join in the singing of the Responsorial Psalm.

Note: It is not appropriate for the Lector to reverence the altar after descending the steps to return to your seat.

The Cantor will lead the Responsorial Psalm from the ambo and the Choir will stand but remain in the Choir area.

IV.A The Second Reading

IV.A.1 With A Cantor

The Cantor leaving the Ambo marks the conclusion of the Psalm. Lector #2 approaches the Ambo with energy and dignity.

Note: As a Lector, the focus must be on the WORD. Therefore, please be considerate of the congregation and locate yourself in the area identified earlier in section II.B.

- As you would have already revered the altar with a profound bow, no additional bow is required.

Note: While on the Altar, the Lector should exhibit good posture and restrained movement, e.g., shoulders back, head up and limit the bouncing or rocking back and forth from heel to toe. Lastly, there is no need to lean on the Ambo towards the microphone.

- Maintain eye contact with the Presider as there are times when either the Presider or Deacon will introduce the reading. Once they have completed this introduction or have given you the queue to proceed, turn to face the congregation.
- Your Proclamation
 - Remember that actions speak louder than words, do not rush.
 - Be attentive, and adjust the position of the Lectionary on the ambo to best suit your stature and line of vision while ensuring that the microphone is free from obstruction.
 - The Lector must read the scriptures with a great deal of **CONFIDENCE** and **ENERGY**.
 - It is important that the congregation hear your proclamation. Therefore, you must PROJECT your words to the back wall as if the microphone did not exist.
 - Note that using a normal speaking voice will not be sufficient.
 - Also note, that if you tend to trail off your tone and volume at the end of sentences, these words will not be heard.

Note: To be effective, the Lector must speak with good DICTION, PACE, CADENCE, and MEANING. The Lector should always distinguish between narrative text, dialogue, or poetry.

An effective means of maintaining an effective pace and cadence is to effectively pause between changes in the narratives and personalities being proclaimed. At the pause, make eye contact with the congregation.

Do not be afraid to BE ENTHUSIASTIC or to become PERSONALLY INVOLVED in what you are reading!

Upon conclusion of the second proclamation, and after a brief pause, Lector #2 states, THE WORD OF THE LORD (NOT "This is the Word of the Lord"), and returns to his/her seat in the congregation to join in the singing of the Gospel Acclamation.

Note: It is not appropriate for the Lector to reverence the altar after descending the steps to return to your seat.

V. PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

The Liturgy of the Word comes to a close with the Prayers of the Faithful (General Intercessions), the prayers for all the world. There are many events that may immediately precede the Prayers of the Faithful, e.g., the Nicene Creed. (You should check with the Presider for details for this portion of the Liturgy prior to the Mass.)

Note: If the Creed is recited, proceed to the Ambo during the last paragraph, "One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church..." There should be no pause between the end of the Creed or dismissal and the commencement of the Prayers.

Also, when other Liturgical events require, there may be additional prayers or blessings that are said prior to the Prayers of the Faithful. Be mindful of the timing and ensure that you are at the Ambo upon completion of the event. This is another question of clarification Lector #1 can make of the Presider.

- As you would have already revered the altar with a profound bow, no additional bow is required.

Note: While on the Altar, the Lector should exhibit good posture and restrained movement, e.g., shoulders back, head up and limit the bouncing or rocking back and forth from heels to toes. Lastly, there is no need to lean on the Ambo towards the microphone.

- Your Proclamation
 - Remember that actions speak louder than words, do not rush.
 - Be attentive, and adjust the position of the Lectionary on the ambo to best suit your stature and line of vision while ensuring that the microphone is free from obstruction.
 - Maintain your posture and stance expressed during your proclamation of the First Reading.
 - It is important that the congregation hear our prayers. Therefore, you must PROJECT your words to the back wall as if the microphone did not exist.
 - Maintain a good pace through the Prayers when you get to the personal intentions, provide ample time (minimum of 10

seconds) for the people to speak out (or in silence), and requested the appropriate response.

- Lector #1 should then turn and face the Presider for the conclusion of the Prayer of the Faithful.
- Once this prayer is completed, Lector #1 extinguishes the Ambo candle marking the end of the Liturgy of the Word.
- Once extinguished, Lector #1 will return to his/her seat.

Note: It is not appropriate for the Lector to reverence the altar after descending the steps to return to your seat.

This concludes the Liturgy of the Word.

VI. SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

After the last Eucharistic Minister leaves the altar and as the Presider or Deacon purifies the vessels, Lector #2 should approach the Ambo.

- As you would have already revered the altar with a profound bow, no additional bow is required.
- Lector #2 should stand to the side of the Ambo, facing the Altar and keeping an eye on the Presider.
- Following the Closing Eucharistic Prayer, Lector #2 turns and faces the congregation to deliver the Announcements with enthusiasm.
- Lector #2 may now return to his/her seat. (The Book of the Gospels is to remain on display as it remains as one of the four ways Christ is truly present during Mass.)

Note: It is not appropriate for the Lector to reverence the altar after descending the steps to return to your seat.

VII. CONCLUSION OF MASS

The Lectors should assume the leadership roles for the community, and NOT leave until the conclusion of the Recessional Song. They are encouraged to greet parishioners and guests prior to Mass, and to participate in the fellowship and hospitality after Mass in the Commons area.

After Mass, Lector #2 should ensure that the Lectionary, Prayers of the Faithful and Announcements Script are returned to the Sacristy for the next Liturgy.

VIII. ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS

- ✓ Each Lector should consult the Deacon or Presider regarding special instruction for Lent, Advent, Easter, Christmas, Holy Day Liturgical Celebrations, Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation.
- ✓ It is definitely recommended that each Lector record a practice session with a regular tape recorder and objectively listen to his/her method of presentation. If this does not assist you in improving your presentation skills, please call on other Lectors to assist you with a constructive critique.

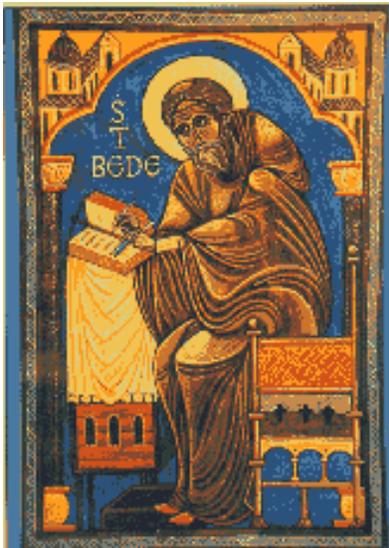
- ✓ Remember that diction, pace, volume, breathing, and the Holy Spirit are your friends. Rely upon them for effective proclamation.
- ✓ It is recommended that the following prayer be recited prior to proclaiming the readings.

“Prayer of Preparation for a Reader of the Word”

Lord, invest me with your power as I prepare to proclaim the Marvel of Your Message. I have prepared my readings, I have tried to take within me the Meaning of what I am about to read; help me, I ask, to read not just with my lips but with my whole heart and soul. Lord, make me a hollow reed so that Your Voice will be heard by all who will hear me. Free me of excessive concern over my performance, over the impression I create in this Sacred Action. Convert my feelings of nervousness into an energy for proclaiming Your Word with power and authority.

May Your Spirit fill me as it fills the Holy Word I am to proclaim.

Amen.



Note: If you have any questions or need assistance, please call Sandy Corrigan at 530-8687)