

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD WITHIN THE MASS

In the Mass is spread the table both of God's Word and of the Body of Christ. The furniture is different. The Liturgy of the Word focuses on the **ambo**. The Liturgy of the Eucharist centers at the **altar**. These two furnishings draw the attention of the faithful throughout each part of the Mass.

In the **entrance procession**, the deacon - or in his absence a lector - may carry the Book of the Gospels to the sanctuary. The person carrying the book sets it on the altar, makes a reverence, and withdraws.

The **Book of the Gospels** represents Christ. The altar, where the Liturgy of the Eucharist will be celebrated, also represents Christ. At the beginning of Mass, these two symbols of Christ are brought together in a simple, yet meaningful gesture.

The Book of the Gospels, carried up to the sanctuary, is placed on the altar. The words of Jesus are set on the altar of Jesus. The Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist are joined as one.

Lectors are not to change the texts for the introduction and conclusion of the reading, nor of the reading itself. Just announce, "*A reading from...*"

The reading closes when the lector says, "*The word of the Lord.*"

## I WANT TO SERVE AS A LECTOR

If interested in becoming a  
Lector, fill out the following:

Name

.....

Tel. No.

.....

E-mail

.....

Are you registered as parishioner  
at Holy Family Parish?

Yes  or No

Are you willing to be trained and  
abide by the rules as a Lector?

Yes  or No

What Mass schedule do you  
prefer to serve?

First choice .....

Second choice .....

**"My soul proclaims  
the greatness  
of the Lord".**

## HOLY FAMILY PARISH Chimayo



## MINISTRY OF LECTORS

## WHAT IS A LECTOR?

This ministry may also be called **reader** or **proclaimer of the word**.

A lector is the person who proclaims the **first** or **second reading** at Mass.

This person also may lead the **Prayers of the Faithful** at Mass.

This ministry in the Church requires a person who is serious about the practice of his/her faith. The lector must believe that Sacred Scripture is the Word of God and have deep respect for God's presence in that Word.



## WHO CAN BE A LECTOR?

- A man, a woman, or a young person after being confirmed in their faith.
- A person in full communion with the Catholic Church.
- A person serious about the practice of their faith.
- A person who is willing to complete a parish formation process.

## WHAT IS PROPER DRESS FOR LECTORS?

Although a specific form of dress is not required of lectors, the dignity of the sacred Liturgy requires that those accepting the call to such ministry dress in a manner reflecting the profound nature of the call.

## HOW DO I PREPARE TO PROCLAIM THE WORD OF GOD?

- Use Sacred Scripture as a source of your private prayers and meditation outside of your assigned times.
- When you have been assigned to PROCLAIM the Word to the assembly, prepare, read aloud, and PRAY the readings during the preceding days.
- On your assigned day, arrive ahead of time you are scheduled so that you can enter into a spirit of prayer before the liturgy begins.
- Make certain well ahead of time that the Lectionary is correctly marked and that the microphone is adjusted properly. If you do not speak directly into the microphone you cannot be heard.
- After the liturgy, do a self-evaluation by asking: Did I PROCLAIM the meaning of the Scriptures, or merely read the words? What can I do to improve next time?

## THE HISTORY OF LECTORS

The proclamation of Scriptures at the Eucharist dates back at least as far as the time of Saint Justin. Writing about the year 150, he described a typical gathering of the prophets are read, as much as time permits. From this brief witness we recognize the customs of having regular readings and lector to proclaim them.

Before a man was ordained to priesthood, he passed through a series of rituals called minor orders. Originally, the minor orders appointed ministers to perform certain tasks, but in time they evolved into steps toward ordination to the priesthood.

The Second Vatican Council made some changes to the ministry of lector. Pope Paul VI abolished the minor order of lector but retained the title lector as an instituted lay ministry.

Men and women share this ministry in parishes equally as non-instituted, commissioned lectors.



*Lectors*