

Holy Cross Catholic Church

Lector Duties & Guidelines

1. The Lector will review the lector notes (announcements), petitions (if Deacons are not present) and make sure the lectionary is properly marked for the readings. If there is a choice in the readings, then you must ask the presiding priest or Deacon which one they want you to use.
2. It's suggested that you arrive at least 10-15 minutes prior to Mass to learn if there is a Deacon, and introduce to a visiting Priest. Decide which Lector will do the announcements in advance. Before the processional song begins, be at the side-microphone at the right of the stairs (near choir) to begin the announcements, then return to your seat. Please pay proper respect to our Lord in the Tabernacle by genuflecting before you cross the centerline of the church, and bowing to the altar (not the tabernacle) before you go up the stairs to the lectern (also called *ambo*). This should be done each time you proceed and depart from the lectern to do the readings (or petitions).
3. The Lector will not process in or out any longer, nor will they sit in the sanctuary (unless it is between readings and they are doing the only reading, which should be rare) unless a Deacon is not present (but defer to Father on this). If Deacons are not present, then the lector will process in with the presiding priest and the lector will carry the Gospel Book and will place it on the altar, and take their seat (after bowing) preferably to the left-side or center-section of the church, as you face the Altar. Father Tustin has asked to NOT raise the lectionary when you say the words, "The Word of the Lord."
4. If a Deacon is not present, after the Homily and the Profession of Faith, the lector will proceed to the lectern and read the petitions. When this is completed he/she will return to their seat. The Gospel Book will not be carried out during the recessional.

Suggestions for Being a Superb Lector

Definitions:

- ✓ **Voice modulation: variations in voice tone**
 - ✓ **Pacing: variations in the speed of delivery**
 - ✓ **Phrasing: connection of words that express a thought**
 - ✓ **Pauses: rests or stops that aid understanding**
1. Practice, rehearse, practice – never come to the reading of Scripture "cold." Indeed, know your material so well, you feel that you own it. Prepare for the other of the two readings in case your co-Lector doesn't show up.
 2. Control "butterflies" via a few deep breaths, "pep talks" and focus on the parishioners. Eye-contact is a good thing (before reading, during reading, and before, "The Word of God") if they are 2-3 seconds, and not glancing eye-contact. Relax and your audience will relax.
 3. Project to parish audience the feeling about the reading that you want to emphasize (at least, one). Emphasize key words, phrases and ideas.
 4. Reference this site for biblical pronunciations:
<http://netministries.org/Bbasics/BBwords.htm> or purchase a Biblical Pronunciation Guide & use it frequently (see Our Sunday Visitor, Inc, "Lector's Guide to Biblical

Holy Cross Catholic Church

Pronunciations” by Joseph M. Staudacher), available at http://www.amazon.com/Lectors-Biblical-Pronunciations-Joseph-Staudacher/dp/0879739908/ref=pdf_t_cs_1

5. Don't imitate others; be yourself!
6. Option: Mark up the personal copy of reading (get from internet) to show where you purposely plan to pause, emphasize, read s-l-o-w-e-r (pace), or inflection given to word or series of words.
7. Play the piano and use all 84 keys on the piano – variation, inflection, pace.
8. Remember “how” you say something is more important than “what” is said (although nothing is more important than Holy Scripture), as you either add meaning, definition clarity or understanding, or distract from it (Phrasing). Practice: “I didn't say he stole the money” example....
9. Remember the focus is on the reading, not on you. You're the instrument for delivering the word of God, so a prayer before you start is helpful.
10. Slow down. Slow down. Please *slow down*. It's a common challenge for many lectors.

Resources:

- Audio pronunciations of tough Biblical words:
<http://netministries.org/bbasics/bbasics.html>
- <http://www.lectorprep.org/>
- <http://www.aquinasandmore.com/index.cfm/title/Lector%20s-Guide-To-Biblical-Pronunciation/FuseAction/store.ItemDetails/SKU/2657/>
- <http://www.ltp.org/p-1630-workbook-for-lectors-and-gospel-readers-2008-usa.aspx>

Look at the congregation as much as possible during the reading. It is perfectly acceptable to hold your finger on the text to keep place. Genuflect only when entering and leaving the sanctuary; in other words, when entering your seat and leaving your seat at the end of Mass.

Microphone technique:

- ⇒ Your voice is emitted from nose level downward, so place the microphone just below your mouth and 3-4 inches away is about right for being heard well.
- ⇒ A “mike” is not a human ear. You are not conversing with someone at the other end of an eight foot long kitchen table, where you would not raise your voice more than if he were right next to you. So, don't be afraid to RAISE your voice when reading/lector.
- ⇒ Train your ear to listen to your voice in the sanctuary. Listen for your own echo. Imagine 2 or 3 hard-of-hearing old ladies in the rear. Make sure they hear you.
- ⇒ Because it's important, let's say it again: Speak slowly --- VERY slowly. But not 'choppy'. Go to the first reading of April 13, 2008. It should take one and a half minutes, not including 'the word of the Lord'.
- ⇒ Reading vs. proclaiming: READING is when you sit comfortably taking in a Stephen King novel. Nothing moves but your eyeballs. PROCLAIMING is different ---, you not only read the text --- a sometimes difficult text --- and understand it, but project it to a crowd so that THEY hear and understand it.

Holy Cross Catholic Church

Note how words starting with “P” sound punchy in a microphone; if it not too much to think about, turn the head just slightly before you say a strong “P” word. Final suggestions:

- Quotations: You cannot say ‘quote’ and ‘unquote’ even though you see them on the page. What you do is raise your voice for the quotation. Then pause slightly at the end of the quote. If the quote goes on for, say, a whole paragraph, you cannot maintain the raised voice that long --- just be sure you pause at the end.
- Contrasting words: Be sure to accent the contrasting word. Imagine you are talking to someone and getting them to understand. Example: Ecclesiastes.
- Pause 4 seconds before “The word of the Lord”. We have seen recommendations of 20 seconds, 10 seconds and five second pauses. Four is about right. Count under your breath: one thousand one, one thousand two, one thousand three, one thousand four.
- Responsorial psalms. Check before Mass with the choir --- they might have it in mind to do the whole thing. Psalms are meant to be sung. What suffices is dragging out the vowel sounds.
- Take a missalette home to review your readings. Read & study the missalette to get the central theme of the reading, in order to emphasize it.

Note: At the 8:45 Mass, the 1st Lector should wait until the kids leave the sanctuary before starting (but not during the summer).

Note: If the month ends on a Saturday, the reader is for the past month --- Sunday the 1st starts the new month, and the new Lector.

NOTE: If you can’t make your assignment, call a substitute from the list. They won’t mind --- after all, they are going to Mass anyway. As a last-resort measure if you’ve called at least three people, call Bob Lundergan at 993-2948 or Charlie Breeding at 643.1115 or cell: 420.1030.

****Important: please email cbreeding@triad.rr.com and boblund@ix.netcom.net for your preferred Mass times if you haven’t completed the form provided at training. A Directory will follow in two weeks with everyone’s phone #'s and contact information. Please include the best phone number(s) to reach you on weekends. Lectors are often, though not always, contacted by phone before being scheduled for the upcoming month. A schedule of lectors will be produced at some point soon for 3-6 months into the future.**

Thanks for assisting us with this important part of stewardship to Holy Cross Catholic Church!

Bob Lundergan
Charlie Breeding

Reporting Ministry-Related Sexual Abuse of a Minor

All cases of alleged, known or suspected ministry related sexual abuse of a minor must be reported to the proper civil authority. Any person having actual knowledge of, or reasonable cause to suspect an incident of ministry related sexual abuse by any church personnel of the Diocese of Charlotte is to immediately report the incident to the Chancery, unless to do so would violate the Sacrament of Penance. The Chancery will then report the incident to the proper civil authority.

After notifying the proper civil authority, the Chancery will immediately notify the Assistance Coordinator, the Promoter of Justice, and the Review Board. Following this, the individual reporting the incident to the Chancery will be notified of the particulars regarding the filing of the incident with civil authority. This reporting requirement is not intended to supersede the right of a victim or witness to individually make a report to public authorities, but is to ensure proper, complete and timely reporting to the proper civil authority. At the time of reporting, the diocese will request to be kept informed as to the progress of that authority's investigation. Should an individual choose to make a report to civil authorities, the requirement to make a report to the Chancery is not removed.

You may make a report of sexual misconduct by calling the Chancery at 704-370-6299, or by writing to:

Chancellor
Diocese of Charlotte
P. O. Box 36776
Charlotte, NC 28236

At the time of reporting an incident of alleged sexual misconduct to the Chancery, the person making the report will be asked to complete the diocesan form, *Report of Suspected Ministry Related Sexual Misconduct by Church Personnel*.

CRITICISM OF PRIESTS

Our Lord's revelations to Mutter Vogel

“One should **NEVER** attack a priest, even when he's in error, rather one should pray and do penance that I'll grant him My grace again. He alone fully represents Me, even when he doesn't live after My example!” (page 29, Mutter Vogel's Worldwide Love, St. Griginion Publishing House, Altoting, South Germany 29.6. 1929)

When a Priest falls, we should extend him a helping hand “**THROUGH PRAYER AND NOT THROUGH ATTACKS!** I myself will be his judge, **NO ONE BUT I!**” “Whoever voices judgment over a priest has voiced it over Me; child, never let a Priest be attacked, take up his defense.” (Feast of Christ the King 1937) “Child, Never judge your confessor, rather pray much for him and offer every Thursday, through the hands of My blessed Mother, Holy Communion (for Him) (18.6. 1939). “Never again accept an out-of-the-way word about a Priest, and speak no unkind word (about them), **EVEN IF IT WERE TRUE!** Every Priest is My Vicar and My heart will be sickened and insulted because of it! If you hear a judgment (against a Priest) pray a Hail Mary.” (28.6.1939)

“If you see a Priest who celebrates the Holy Mass unworthily, then say nothing about him, rather tell it to Me alone! I stand beside Him on the altar!” “Oh pray much for my priests, that they'll love purity above all, that they'll celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass with pure hands and heart. Certainly the Holy Sacrifice is one and the same even when it's celebrated by an unworthy priest, but the graces called down upon the people is not the same!” (28.2 1938)

Mary, Queen of the Clergy, pray for them.

A PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

Keep them, I pray Thee, dearest Lord,
Keep them, for they are Thine –
Thy priests whose lives burn out before
Thy consecrated shrine.
Keep them, for they are in the world,
Though from the world apart:
When earthly pleasures tempt, allure, -
Shelter them in Thy heart.
Keep them, and comfort them in hours
Of loneliness and pain,
When all their life of sacrifice
For souls seems but in vain.
Keep them, and O remember, Lord,
They have no one but Thee,
Yet they have only human hearts,
With human frailty.
Keep them as spotless as the Host,
That daily they caress;
Their every thought and word and deed,
Deign, dearest Lord, to bless.