

The Church of the Immaculate Conception
26 John Street
Stony Point NY 109890

October 4, 2019

Dear Lector,

On behalf of Deacon Marino and myself, we thank you for your ministry! Because of the recent change in the Sanctuary, with the Blessed Sacrament moved to the center of the church, we began with moving the Ministers of Holy Communion to the same pew as the Lector. For some time now I have been looking to follow more closely the Guideline of Ministers of Holy Communion and Lectors according to the practice of the Archdiocese of New York. We will start with these changes on December 1, 2019, the First Sunday of Advent.

This packet included after this letter is the 'norms' of this ministry provided by the Office of Liturgy of the Archdiocese of New York. Whatever is highlighted in **YELLOW** are minor changes for Lectors. Listed below is a summary of those changes;

LECTORS:

- A simple reminder that only ONE ministry can be performed by a minister at each mass.
- The Lector will now lead the procession, carrying the Book of the Gospels. When there is a Deacon, the Deacon will process with the Book of the Gospels as in normally done now. Without bowing, the Lector will proceed to place the book on the altar laying down and then proceed to their place in the first pew.
- The Lector begins each reading with "A reading from..." Please no longer announce "The First Reading" or "The Second Reading" if this is something you have been doing. Also, if the Lector is reading the Responsorial Psalm, please begin with the proclaiming the Psalm and not with "The Responsorial Psalm is..."
- The Lector will continue to read the Prayer of the Faithful in the absence of a Deacon. The Lector will make their way to the Ambo before the Profession of Faith is finished being said by the congregation.
- Lectors will approach the altar AFTER the celebrant has received Holy Communion.
- The Lector will no longer read the announcements. The main celebrant will do this after the Final Prayer of the mass from his place at the Presider's Chair.
- At the Recessional, the Lector or Deacon will not carry out the Book of the Gospels.

Thank you again for your ministry to Immaculate,



Fr. Herbert T. DeGaris

Pastor

The Role of the Lector at Mass

Archdiocese of New York
Office of Liturgy

Preparation

Lectors should thoroughly prepare themselves to proclaim the Word of God through study, prayer, and practice. Familiarity with the text, its role within the context of the whole of sacred scripture, and its relationship to the other readings for the day should be carefully considered. The lector should set aside a time for prayer with the text to be proclaimed. As well, the proclamation of the readings should be practiced aloud prior to the celebration of Mass, and special attention should be paid to the pronunciation of difficult words or phrases. Prior to start of the Mass, the Lectionary should be placed on the ambo opened to the readings to be used.

Introductory Rites

Lectors may take part in the procession at the beginning of Mass and walk before the priest-celebrant. Upon reaching the altar, the lector makes a profound bow. If the Blessed Sacrament is in the sanctuary, the lector genuflects when approaching the altar (GIRM, 274). Then, the lector may take a place in the sanctuary with the other ministers or be seated in a convenient place with the assembly.

In the absence of a deacon, a lector may carry the Book of the Gospels (but not the Lectionary) during the entrance procession in a slightly elevated manner (GIRM, 194). If a lector carries a Book of the Gospels, he/she should place the Book of the Gospels directly on the altar without bowing or genuflecting when entering the sanctuary (GIRM 195, cf. 173).

If there is no singing at the entrance or at Communion and the antiphons in the Missal are not recited by the faithful, the lector may read these texts at the appropriate time (GIRM, 198).

Proclamation of the Readings

The readings at Mass should be proclaimed from the ambo (GIRM, 196). When the lector is already in the sanctuary, he or she proceeds directly to the ambo. If the lector is entering the sanctuary, he/she makes a profound bow to the altar (Ceremonial of Bishops, 72).

Readings should always be introduced with the text provided in the Lectionary, "A reading from...". As well, readings should be concluded with the phrase, "The Word of the Lord". Readings must be read integrally and without any additions, omissions, or changes to the text as given in the Lectionary. In order to foster meditation on God's Word, the readings may be followed by a brief period of silence (GIRM, 45, 56; Introduction to the Lectionary, 28).

The Psalm

It is preferable that the responsorial psalm be sung (GIRM, 61). However, if there is no psalmist, the lector may proclaim the responsorial psalm after the first reading (GIRM, 99). In this case, the lector should follow the first reading with a short pause. The response to the psalm should then be recited, without any introductory words (e.g., "The response is..."). The psalm itself should be recited in a manner that is conducive to meditation on the Word of God (GIRM, 61).

The Universal Prayer

When no deacon is present, a lector may announce the intentions of the universal prayer from the ambo (GIRM, 197). When announcing the intentions, the lector should consider that these texts are the prayers of the entire gathered community. Hence, a lector should not add his/her own personal intentions into the universal prayer.

Announcements

Announcements prior to the conclusion of the Mass should not be made by the lector, but by the deacon, unless the priest-celebrant prefers to do so (GIRM, 184). Announcements should not be made at the ambo, but from another suitable place.

Concluding Rites

At the conclusion of Mass, the lector may join the procession. In this case, a lector precedes the celebrant to an appropriate location at the foot of the altar, where the ministers bow or genuflect, together with the celebrant, and process out before him (GIRM, 169). The Book of the Gospels is not carried during the recessional.

Special Circumstances

Additional questions may arise regarding the best way to approach particular circumstances that can arise in the life of a parish. These may be referred to the office of liturgy.

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