

# CHRIST THE KING

## GUIDELINES FOR PROCLAIMERS

Liturgy fuels us to become disciples. As a liturgical minister, you are exercising what you have been trained for so that you and others can be nourished by our eucharistic feast. Thus, what you do enables others to become disciples of Jesus Christ

### Preparation before Mass:

To prepare for proclaiming your scripture readings:

- You can find the readings, both written and oral, at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website: <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/> – click on “Today’s Readings,” on left of page, then click your date on the calendar, or find it in the *Workbook for Lectors*.
- You may also have the option to purchase a Lector Workbook, which some find helpful in preparing for the readings.
- If there are two options for your reading, read the first of the options. Unless directed otherwise by clergy.
- Pray and meditate upon the readings as you prepare.
- Practice reading the text out loud several times so it’s familiar to you
  - For difficult Biblical names, there are pronunciation guides in the front of the *Lectionary* and in the *Workbook for Lectors*.
- Prepare both readings in case you have to read both.
- **Read with passion –And read s-l-o-w-l-y.**
- First Lector: double check the reading on the Ambo to ensure it’s the same one you prepared.

### When at Mass Proclaimers:

Proclaimers and their families will typically sit on front bench on the Ambo side aisle. You will notice signage on the pew indicating as such.

- Wear Sunday appropriate attire
- Please come 10 minutes ahead of the scheduled Mass time and let the Sacristan in the Narthex know you are here and highlight your name on the sign-in sheet.
- Five minutes before Mass, gather in the Narthex for a prayer with Fr. Carl and other ministers.
- If you haven’t arrived by that time, chances are that the Sacristan will have selected someone else to cover for you.
- If you are unable to Proclaim at your scheduled service, find a substitute (you will have a list of Proclaimers and phone numbers and e-mail addresses for your chosen Mass) and also notify the Sacristan for the Mass of who will substitute for you.

## First Reading

- Go to the ambo when the priest sits down after the Opening Prayer.
- If the lector is entering the sanctuary, he/she makes a profound bow to the altar (Ceremonial of Bishops, 72).
- Adjust the microphone, making sure it is pointing to your lower lip.
- Wait a couple seconds after announcing the reading (“**A reading from ...**”).
- Take care to proclaim the text slowly, making occasional eye contact.
- At the end of the reading, pause briefly, make eye contact with the Assembly and say: “The Word of the Lord.”
- If needed, turn the page for the second Lector.
- After the assembly responds, pause about 15 seconds, then return to your pew after bowing toward the altar at the bottom of the stairs.
- If there’s no Cantor, you will proclaim the Responsorial Psalm. You will be informed of this before Mass, should you need to do this.

## Second Reading

- Go to the ambo when the music for the Responsorial Psalm ends.
- If the lector is entering the sanctuary, he/she makes a profound bow to the altar (Ceremonial of Bishops, 72).
- Adjust the microphone so it is pointing to your lower lip.
- Wait a couple seconds after announcing the reading (“**A reading from...**”).
- Take care to proclaim the text slowly, making occasional eye contact.
- At the end of the reading, pause briefly, make eye contact with the Assembly and say: “The Word of the Lord.”
- Pause about 15 seconds, place the book of readings under the ambo to prepare for deacon to bring book of Gospel, and return to your pew after bowing toward the altar at the bottom of the steps. (If no deacon, then leave book of readings on the top of the ambo).

## Some further notes:

**If there is no deacon:** The first proclaimer will read the Universal Prayers/Prayers of the Faithful. Approach the altar during the last part of the Creed. At the end of the Creed go to the ambo and face the Priest. Take the green binder from the table and open to the green tab (last page in the book). After reading the intentions turn and face the priest for the concluding prayer. Place the green book back on the table and return to your seat.

**If a Proclaimer makes a mistake** while reading, don’t say “excuse me” or “I’m sorry”.

Either back up and correct the mispronounced word or continue proclaiming.

*Updated November 2023*