

MINISTER of the WORD INSTRUCTIONS

The role of the Minister of the Word is to serve the Assembly by bringing the Word of God to life. Since the Assembly does not have the readings, it is all the more important that the minister is well prepared and lively in her/his proclamation.

There are three Ministers of the Word:

1 – does the First Reading

2 – does the Second Reading.

3 – does the Introduction (from the Cantor's Stand) and the Intercessions (from the Ambo)

Since true proclamation of the Word also involves leading intercessions and making announcements, along with the proclamation of scripture, *it is important that there be a regular rotation of readings among the lectors of each team.*

It is preferable to have three Ministers of the Word at each Liturgy. If there are only two lectors present and it is not possible to recruit a third: One will do the First Reading and the Prayer Intercessions (from the Ambo) and the other will do the Introduction (from the Cantor's Stand) and the Second Reading (from the Ambo).

Before the Liturgy begins:

Arrive 20 – 30 minutes before the start of Liturgy: The Lectionary, Introduction and General Intercessions will be on the counter in the Vesting Sacristy.

- Look over the Readings as they are situated in the book, read over the Introduction and General Intercessions. Note any special instructions.
- Whoever is doing the first reading should place the **Lectionary (Opened)** on the **Ambo** to the First Reading. Whoever is doing the **Introduction and Prayer Intercessions** should place the **Introduction** on the **Cantor's Stand** and the **Prayer Intercessions** in the shelf of the **Ambo**.
- Make sure you sit in the section near the musicians **CLOSE TO THE FRONT**.

A FEW MINUTES BEFORE THE LITURGY BEGINS, Lectors 1 and 2 go to their seats. Lector 3 (or whoever does the Introduction) watches for the lights to change (brighter) and the presider's signal to move to the **Cantor Stand** and begin the introduction. After you finish the Introduction, return to your seat.

At the beginning of the OPENING PRAYER:

- At the end of the opening prayer, Lector 1 proceeds to the Ambo (via the steps) for the first reading. After the reading, step back and pause a few seconds. Return to your seat. The Cantor then goes to the Ambo to sing the Responsorial Psalm.
- When the Psalm is completed, the Cantor will leave and Lector 2 proceeds up the steps to the Ambo for the second reading.
- After Lector 2 completes the second reading, step back and wait. When the Gospel Acclamation (Alleluia) **starts**, go back to your chair.

Before the CREED ends:

- Lector 3 (or whoever is reading the Prayer Intercessions) proceeds to the Ambo near the end of the Creed **when we say "... one Holy, Catholic, Apostolic Church..."**. Take the intercessions from the shelf and after the presider's introduction, begin the Intercessions.
- After the presider's concluding prayer, move back to your chair.

PLEASE NOTE: If there are Baptisms during the Liturgy, the General Intercessions are led **IMMEDIATELY** after the **HOMILY!** If something is to be done differently by the Lectors at a Liturgy you will be informed beforehand.

At the end of the Liturgy:

Please make sure the Lectionary, General Intercessions and Introduction are replaced on the counter in the vesting room for the next Liturgy or to be stored away.