



WEST FORK CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
Immaculate Conception Catholic Church-Moville
St. Michael Catholic Church-Kingsley

READERS OF GOD'S WORD INSTRUCTIONS

1. The best Reader of God's Word is one who is prepared and knows well the reading that is to be proclaimed. A passage from scripture is not to be read but proclaimed! A passage from scripture is not a newspaper article you might read to someone. A passage from scripture is a special text that is to be proclaimed as if it is the first-time anyone has heard it and in such a way your proclamation says that **THIS IS THE WORD OF GOD!**

2. **Before Mass**
 - Find a substitute if you are unable to serve when you are scheduled.
 - Be rested.
 - Dress well.
 - Arrive 10 minutes before Mass (15-30 minutes before Funerals and other special Masses such as Holy Week).

3. **In the Sacristy**
 - Look over readings in the Lectionary and the Liturgy Plan sheet.
 - Receive any instructions from the priest.
 - Take the Lectionary and the Liturgy Plan sheet to the Ambo.

4. **During Mass**
 - The Adult Reader carries the Book of the Gospels in procession and places it on the center of the Altar.
 - After Opening Prayer, the first Reader of God's Word approaches the Ambo, bows to the Altar, steps up to the Ambo, pauses, and proclaims First Reading.
 - **MOST IMPORTANT:** proclaim your passage **SLOWLY**. There is no need to rush. Take your time. Let every word be spoken carefully thus not over-looking its importance. Pause at periods (.). Pause at the end. Wait a few seconds before announcing: "THE WORD OF THE LORD." There is no need to adjust the microphone (in most cases). By speaking slowly and clearly, everyone will be able to hear.
 - Wait a few seconds after the people have responded before leaving the Ambo or going into the next reading or psalm.
 - When departing the Ambo and Sanctuary, bow to the Altar.
 - The second Reader of God's Word approaches the Ambo, bows to the Altar, steps up to the Ambo, pauses, and proclaims the Responsorial Psalm unless the cantor(s) and/or choir may sing the refrain and/or the Psalm verses. There is no announcement "The Responsorial Psalm is..."
 - The second Reader of God's Word proclaims the Second Reading.
 - The second Reader of God's Word proclaims the Gospel Acclamation verse between the singing of the Alleluia, (never say "Alleluia"—if it is not sung, it is not to be recited) unless the cantor(s) and/or choir sings the verse.

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- Close the Lectionary and place it on the shelf under the top of the Ambo.
- Return to your seat and listen attentively to Gospel and the homily.
- As the Creed is concluding, approach the Ambo to proclaim the Universal Prayer [petitions/prayers of the faithful/general intercessions]). Remain at the Ambo until after the presider concludes the intercessions with a prayer and then return to your pew.

5. After Mass

- Return the Lectionary, The Book of the Gospels, and the Liturgy Plan sheet to the sacristy.
- Thank you for proclaiming God's Word!

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READERS OF GOD'S WORD:

PLEASE USE PAUSES/SILENCE, ESPECIALLY BETWEEN READINGS!

Pause at least 2-10 seconds [count to 2-10].

This allows people to hear the announcement of the beginning and end of the readings separated from the actual reading and to give them time to reflect on the Word just proclaimed. This is not a race to see who can get through the readings the fastest. Adult Readers of God's Word should wait until after the Youth Readers of God's Word has left the Ambo and returned to his/her seat before approaching the ambo for the psalm and second reading.

EXAMPLE:

A reading from the ...

[PAUSE-2]

Early in the morning ...and receive us as your own.”

[PAUSE-2]

The word of the Lord.

[PAUSE-10, before beginning psalm]

O God, let

[PAUSE-10, before beginning second reading]

A reading from the ...

[PAUSE-2]

Brothers and sisters ... have mercy up on all.

[PAUSE-2]

The word of the Lord.

[PAUSE-10, will take place here before the Gospel Acclamation is played/sung]

USING THE WORKBOOK FOR LECTORS AND GOSPEL READERS

1. This Workbook for Lectors and Gospel Readers is available for your preparation.
2. To use this book:
 - Find the Sunday for which you have been assigned.
 - Read the passage that is taken from Revised New American Bible (RNAB) that is the translation we use. The words in *italics* are words that are to be emphasized.
 - Read the notes on the bottom of the page. They are a commentary on what the reading is about.
 - Read the notes in the left column. They contain information about the proclamation of the text.
 - If there is a word or word(s) you are unfamiliar with how they are pronounced, check out the pronunciation guide in the left column (if there is one) or check with the presider before Mass.
 - The Psalms are not included in this book. You may review these in the missal or Lectionary and with the presider.
3. ALL Readers of God's Word (youth and adult) are to check in the sacristy 10-minutes before Mass to preview the Lectionary since one should not read from the missal but proclaim from the Lectionary.
4. MOST IMPORTANT: proclaim your passage SLOWLY. There is no need to rush. Take your time. Let every word be spoken carefully thus not over-looking its importance. Pause at periods (.). Pause at the end. Wait a few seconds before announcing: "THE WORD OF THE LORD." Wait a few seconds after the people have responded before leaving the ambo or going into the next reading or psalm.
5. Thank God for your voice that you are able to proclaim God's holy word!