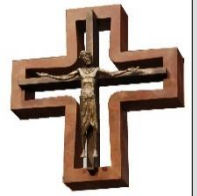


Prince of Peace Catholic Church & St. Mary of the Woods Chapel

1110 Dykstra Road
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Dear Fellow Lectors,

My name is Jane Atwood and I have been asked to train the Lectors at Prince of Peace Parish. Whereas, I have not had much practice training adults to be Lectors, I spent several years training children to be

Lectors. The principles are the same, so I should be able to handle this.

When proclaiming the Word of God, it is important to refresh our methods of delivery. We could have a meeting and I could give you all my “words of wisdom”, but we are all busy people, so I have chosen to send you an email.

Being a Lector carries with it a huge responsibility. Your delivery can make the difference between your fellow parishioners understanding the Word of God and feeling fulfilled, or leaving Mass frustrated.

Having said that, I am asking you to please thoughtfully read the attached document, and to put these points into practice.

Thank you for being a Lector, and if you have any thought, comments, or concerns, please feel free to email me at: jatwood71@gmail.com or call me at 231-740-2919.

SLOWLY – CLEARLY – LOUDLY

These three words are the basis of my training. It is important to realize that the microphone is not your friend. It will only accentuate your mistakes. It does not make your speaking voice any clearer or easier to understand. Just the opposite. The best way to use the microphone is to speak as if it is not there.

- Slowly – If you think you are reading slowly enough, you probably are not. Reading with a microphone is different than reading without one. It is much harder for the congregation to understand you if you read too rapidly while using a microphone. Your voice becomes distorted and words run together.
- Clearly – If you think you are reading clearly enough, you probably are not. Enunciation while using a microphone, is extremely important. Use the punctuation as it is written. Otherwise you will sound like you have a mouthful of marbles and your message will have no meaning. That is no way to proclaim the Word of God.
- Loudly – If you think you are reading loudly enough, you probably are not. Do not be afraid to use a strong voice, and do not drop your voice at the end of a sentence. Speak to the back row as if you were not using a microphone, and everybody will be able to hear your message.
- When you approach the podium to do your reading, it is proper to bow toward the Altar at the bottom of the steps. After you have left the podium, it is proper to bow toward the Altar at the bottom of the steps.
- When you begin your reading, look at the congregation and proclaim loudly and clearly, “A reading from.....”
- At the end of your reading, pause for a slow count of three, look at the congregation and proclaim loudly and clearly, “The Word of the Lord.”

Use the Lector Workbook and read over your reading; several times, until you are comfortable with it and understand the message. It is very obvious if you try to read without practice. You may think you are doing very well, but you are not, and the congregation will be able to tell.

Being a parish Lector is a very important Ministry. We are proclaiming the Word of God, proclaiming His message. It helps the priest/deacon/bishop/preacher share the homily more easily because the congregation has heard all the readings clearly, and is ready to hear the analysis of them. The way we proclaim His Word, could make the difference in somebody’s faith life.

THE MECHANICS OF LECTORING

- Arrive at church at least 15 minutes before Mass begins and check in with the Sacristan
- Check the readings.
- If you are the first lector, you will also do the Prayers of the Faithful. Read over the Prayers of the Faithful, and become comfortable with them.
- If you are the second lector, you will also do the announcements at the end of Mass. Read over the announcements and become comfortable with them.
- Before Mass, take the Lectionary and place it on the podium, open to the correct readings.
- The first lector will process in holding the Book of Gospels, unless Deacon Jim is participating. In that instance, he will process in.
- When finished reading, the first Lector leaves the Lectionary on the podium and returns to their seat.
- When the second Lector is finished, close the Lectionary and place it on the small table to your right, and return to your seat.
- Father Peter has requested that there be two lectors at each Mass.
- Therefore, if you are unable to lector when you are scheduled, it is your responsibility to find a replacement. As soon as you have found your replacement, please notify Marilyn Gannon so that she can notify Teresa Seward, the Parish Secretary.
- If you serve in two ministries, such as Lector and the choir or as a Eucharistic Minister, please make sure that you are only doing one ministry at a time. For instance, please do not lector and sing in the choir on the same Sunday, etc.
- At the end of Mass, one or the other of that Sunday's lectors should assist the Sacristan by taking the Lectionary and the Book of Gospels back to the Sacristy and place them on the counter, NOT in the cupboard.