

TEN THINGS YOU DIDN'T HEAR IN THE HOMILY ON THE LITURGY OF THE WORD –

1. The Liturgy of the Word is the first major part of the Mass. The second is the Liturgy of the Eucharist.
2. The Sunday readings are arranged on a three-year cycle, based on the Gospels. Year A concentrates on the Gospel of Matthew, Year B on Mark, Year C on Luke. What happens to the Gospel of John? It is divided up to be read over all three years, especially during Easter season.
3. The First Reading on Sunday is from the Old Testament except during the Easter season, when it is taken from the Acts of the Apostles. During Ordinary Time, the first reading is chosen because it somehow relates to the Gospel of the day.
4. The Responsorial Psalm is appointed as a means of offering further reflection or as an affirmation of the First Reading. Because it is taken from the Bible, it is to be a faithful translation of the biblical text, not simply a paraphrase. The refrain gives us a sense of its connection to the reading.
5. The second reading is taken from the Epistles. During Ordinary Time it is read in “semi-course,” which means that a number of chapters of one Epistle will be read in sequence.
6. A homily is different from a sermon. A sermon is preaching on any theological topic; a homily is preaching on the readings of the day or feast, or on the liturgical texts/actions taking place, bringing forth their meaning and show how they apply to the life of the community. According to the General Instruction on the Roman Missal, a homily, not a sermon, is to be preached at Mass.
7. We stand for the proclamation of the Gospel because it is the heart of the story of God's redemptive action for us in the Incarnation and Paschal Mystery of Christ. We also honor the Gospel by having it proclaimed by an ordained minister, namely deacon. In the absence of deacon, the priest reads the Gospel. We also honor the Gospel by a special book used on Sundays and feasts, the Gospel Book (AKA *evangelary*), and by the use of incense.
8. The Nicene Creed may be replaced by the Apostles Creed at the discretion of the priest. The proclamation of the Creed can help us place the readings we have heard in the wider context of our faith.
9. The General Intercessions are intended to reflect the needs of the universal and local Church and the world, and may also contain prayers for the local community. The petitions are intended to embrace a great number of people, thus the title **General** Intercessions.
10. The General Intercessions are one of the ways all in attendance exercise their baptismal priesthood, interceding for the world in union with Christ our High Priest.

What's Happening with our Future Mission Implementation Committees? The committees which were designated at the parish convocation are beginning to meet. At these initial meetings, each committee is laying out their work and determining how to proceed. We will be having regular reports once everyone is up and running. Let's keep praying for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in these groups. — *Fr. Jeff*