

**INSPIRED BY THE WORD OF GOD**

**The highlight of the first part of every Divine Liturgy (the teaching portion), comes with the chanting of Sacred Scripture. Two lessons are provided: the first is the EPISTLE consisting of a portion of the Acts of the Apostles or the letters of St. Paul: the Second a portion of one of the 4 GOSPELS (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John).**

**These lessons are from the WORD OF GOD, the inspired Scriptures, the Holy Bible. Thus they form the main source of Christian teaching and truth, the light which dispels the darkness of ignorance and unbelief. No wonder we are called upon to “be attentive” at this portion of the divine service.**

**The chanting is usually done by a lector, reader, cantor or server. Of course, the Gospel lesson is chanted by the Priest standing at the “ambo” before the icon screen, while the faithful stand in attention.**

**We should take a moment to acknowledge the time and commitment our your servers contribute to the Church. Some parishes call them “altar boys” who faithfully minister to the Priest, Sunday upon Sunday, assisting in the sanctuary. Theirs is a holy and worthwhile task, one to be undertaken in all seriousness. It is not unusual to find vocations to the Priesthood, and other positions in the church, fostered among these servers. Those who serve today are following the long tradition in the Christian community, and they deserve our respect and support. Please commend them for their work in your Congregations!**