

Holy Cross Ministry: LECTORS

The overall goal of the lectors is to proclaim the Word of God and to serve as a bridge between the Scriptures and the congregation. This is a sacred privilege which requires preparation and delivery with reverence.

Specific Duties

- Obtain a copy of the ***Workbook for Lectors, Gospel Readers, and Proclaimers of the Word***. (Holy Cross Church provides these workbooks for all lectors.)
- Start preparing your reading a week ahead.
- Pay particular attention to your assigned reading, but read all four scripture readings (the two readings, the responsorial psalm and the Gospel) as there is often a theme among the readings which may help your understanding.
- You may also want to read your passage directly from your Bible and also what comes before and after the passage for further understanding.
- Read the workbook commentaries on your reading to provide context and insights.
- Practice reading your passage aloud several times, in front of a mirror, noting the workbook's marginal suggestions for pronunciation, tone, pace, and emphasis.
- Proclaim the Word in a clear voice and do not rush the reading. Make sure you talk into the microphone to make sure that all in the church can hear you.
- Pause 3 seconds after you announce the reading, e.g., *A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Galatians*.
- Pause 3 seconds at the end of the reading before you say, *the Word of the Lord*.
- If you will not be able to deliver your reading on the assigned date, make arrangements for another lector to read for you. Make that arrangement in time for your substitute to adequately prepare.
- Before Mass, check in to see if your fellow lector is present. Lectors process to the altar together and join the cantor for a unison bow.
- If there is no Deacon present, decide who will read the intercessions.
- Review the intercessions before Mass, especially for pronunciation of the names of the sick and dead.