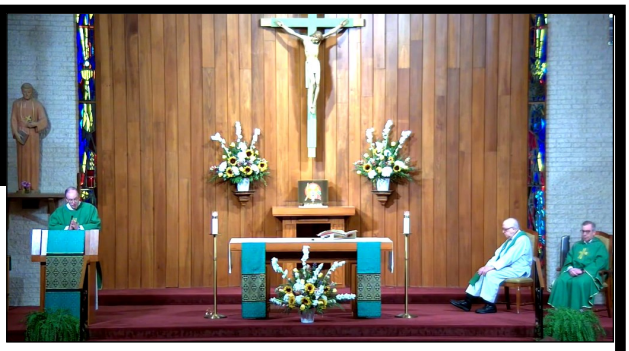
The Lector



The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM) offers insight on role of the lector at Mass.

The function of proclaiming the readings is by tradition not presidential but ministerial. The lector is instituted to proclaim the readings from Sacred Scripture, with the exception of the Gospel. He may also announce the intentions for the Universal Prayer and, in the absence of a psalmist, recite the Psalm between the readings. In the celebration of the Mass with the people, the readings are always read from the ambo.



When the Sacred Scriptures are read in the Church, God himself speaks to his people, and Christ, present in his word, proclaims the Gospel. Therefore, the readings from the Word of God are to be listened to reverently by everyone, for they are an element of the greatest importance in the Liturgy. In the readings from Sacred Scripture, the Word of God is addressed to all people of whatever era and is understandable to them.

Lectors should be people who are well suited to carrying out this function and to be carefully prepared, so that the faithful, hearing the readings from the sacred texts, may conceive in their hearts a sweet and living affection for Sacred Scripture.



The readings are to be read by a reader, but the Gospel by the Deacon or, in his absence, by another Priest. If, however, a Deacon or another Priest is not present, the Priest Celebrant himself should read the Gospel, and moreover, if no other suitable reader is present, the Priest Celebrant should also proclaim the other readings as well.

After each reading, whoever reads it pronounces the acclamation, and by means of the reply the assembled people give honor to the Word of God that they have received in faith and with gratitude.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.