



The lector assists at Mass by proclaiming the first and second scripture readings, and the Responsorial Psalm when not sung. Reading from the Word of God is central to the Catholic Liturgy, whether it be during Sunday or weekday Mass, during weddings, funerals or other occasions.

By prayerful preparation, studying the scriptural readings beforehand, the Lector can effectively communicate God's grace and love to everyone in the church. Later in the Mass at the General Intercessions, the lector leads the congregation as together they present their needs and the needs of others to the Lord.

In the new General Instruction on the Roman Missal, we read:

The lector is instituted to proclaim the readings from Sacred Scripture, with the exception of the gospel reading. He may also announce the intentions for the *General Intercessions* and, in the absence of the psalmist, sing or read the psalm between the readings. In the celebration of the Eucharist, the lector has specific duties which he alone ought to perform, even though ordained ministers may be present (99).

In the absence of an instituted lector, other lay people may be designated to proclaim the

readings from the Sacred Scriptures. Such designated lectors must be truly qualified and carefully prepared for this office, so that the faithful will develop a warm and lively love for Sacred Scripture from listening to the reading from the sacred texts (101).

[Video - Lector Training - 22 Minutes](#) - Great review for experienced Lectors as well as for new ones.

[Video - 10 Commandments for Lectors](#) - Fr. Scott Garrett -

[USCCB &ndash; The Lector at Mass General Principles](#)

[USCCB &ndash; The Duties and Ministries in the Mass](#)

### **What qualifications do I need in order to serve as Lector?**

Be a Baptized, Confirmed Catholic.

Be a registered parishioner.

Have a strong desire to competently proclaim the Word.

Complete the Lector Training Course.

Undergo the Lector Mentoring Program.

Be recommended to and selected by the Lector Leadership.

Be commissioned by the Pastor to the Lector Ministry.

Be committed to serving for at least one year.

**Anyone having a desire to serve is encouraged to inquire with one of the lectors or priests after Mass, or, call the office at (860) 871-1970, M-F, 9 - 12 noon.**

## Resources

1. Brennan Purcell, Ph.D, professor of history.

[See Dr. Purcell as guest on The Journey Home program share his faith journey. Live caller Q&A, emails. \( Video, 60 min.\).](#)

2. [Personal Testimony &dash; Michael Cumbie on The Journey Home program &dash; June 7, 2010](#) .