



Purpose of Ministry

The Lector serves the liturgical assembly by proclaiming the sacred scripture during the Liturgy of the Word. The worthy exercise of this role enables the Church to hear the Word of God more clearly and receive it with more open hearts. When we come together for liturgy, we encounter God in one another, in the sacramental actions and in the proclamation of the Word of God. The Lector has the task of making God present in the Liturgy of the Word for our parish community.

Qualities of the Lector

The faithful who are Lectors must be persons of Christian morality and virtue. They should strive to be worthy of this great service, foster their own devotion to the Word of God, and show an example to the rest of the faithful by their own devotion and reverence toward this most holy sacrament of the altar.

What are the “good qualities of Christian life”? Lectors bring their own unique qualities with them to this service to the Church. Some of these good qualities are pure gift, a matter of personality and temperament. Others have been developed through discipline, experience and struggle. When these good qualities are brought to the service of proclaiming the Word of God, both the qualities and ministry are enhanced.

Requirements/Expectations

- Those interested must be active, baptized Catholics. They must be parishioners at Mary Queen of Peace.
- A deep love and reverence for the Eucharist and the Word.
- Possess the natural and spiritual ability to speak the biblical Word intelligibly and comfortably in the midst of the assembly.
- Lectors attend training sessions when scheduled.
- Dress in neat, clean, modest clothing – shirt, blouse, sweater, slacks, skirt or dress. No t-shirts, shorts, jeans, or flip flops. Attire should not draw attention to yourself.

Schedule:

Karen Otto, our Volunteer Scheduler, will provide a schedule (up to 3 months), along with a roster with contact information for each liturgical ministry. Communication will be provided via email from VolunteerCoordinator@MQPCatholic.org, else via US Postal Service.

- Lectors are scheduled to serve approximately once per month and are asked to volunteer on Holy Days.
- When not scheduled, but attending Mass, Lectors are asked to check in before Mass to see if they are needed to serve.
- Please inform the volunteer coordinator via email if you need a sub, or have found a sub for your ministry. This information will be passed on to Father so he is aware of who will be serving.



Before the Liturgy

- **Prepare** ahead of time using the lector workbook. Lector workbooks will be available in the fall of each year for you to pick up for practice. Please use the readings from the Lector workbook to prepare for your reading rather than another source, as verbiage may be slightly different.
 - Read with comprehension at least three times.
 - Double check pronunciations. (included in Lector handbook)
 - Practice out loud.
- Include thoughtful prayer in preparation, asking the Holy Spirit to provide the assistance needed to proclaim the Word with reverence and understanding.
- **Arrive** at least 15 minutes before Mass and to introduce yourself to the Priest/Deacon as Lector for the Mass.
 - **Adjust** microphone to your best advantage; control the volume with your voice
 - Make sure the Lectionary is on the ambo opened to the days readings.
 - **Locate** the binder with the “**Prayers of the Faithful and Weekend Announcements**” in the sacristy and place by the Ambo.
 - The Gospel book is carried into church by the Deacon and placed on the altar as part of the Processional. If Deacon is not present, the Lector carries the Book of the Gospels in the processional, places on the altar and returns to the pew.

During the Liturgy

- As the congregation is being seated after the opening prayer, the Lector will come forward to the Ambo for the readings. Walk forward to the center of main aisle (below steps), bow facing the Tabernacle and walk to the ambo for the readings.
- Project demeanor of pleasantness and joy
- Speak clearly, loudly, slowly with conviction and spirit
- Maintain engagement with congregation using eye contact
- After the first reading, the Lector should be seated at the Ambo until the Psalm is sung.
*In the absence of a psalmist, the lector will proclaim the Responsorial Psalm.
- After the Psalm, the Lector will go to the Ambo for the second reading. After the second reading is finished, the Lector will close the Lectionary and will place it on the right side of the Ambo at St. Martin or on table on the right side of the Ambo at St. Walburga.
- Lector will then walk down to the steps to the center of the main aisle, bow toward the Tabernacle and return to his/her seat.
- After the Creed, the Deacon (if present) will read the Petitions. If Deacon is not present, the Lector will walk to the center of main aisle (below steps), bow toward the Tabernacle and walk to the Ambo to read the Petitions. Once Petitions are read, walk to the center of the aisle (below steps), bow to the Tabernacle and return to your pew.

End of Liturgy

Lector will read the **Weekend Announcements** prior to the end of Mass. Walk to the center of the aisle (below steps,) bow toward Tabernacle, walk to ambo and read weekend announcements. After mass you may walk to the sacristy with the Lectionary and binder while the Priest/Deacon and altar servers recess out.

- Do Not recess out with clergy and servers at the end of Mass.

After Liturgy

- Please return the Lectionary (opened to the days reading) to the stand so it is ready for the next Mass. Return the binder to the Sacristy. St. Walburga return the Lectionary & binder to Sacristy.