

Purpose of the Lector Ministry

The Church calls lectors to proclaim the **living Word of God** with reverence, clarity, and prayerful authority. At Holy Cross, lectors help the assembly encounter Christ through attentive listening, thoughtful proclamation, and a spirit of humble service.

“The Liturgy of the Word is to be celebrated in such a way as to promote meditation.”

— *General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM 55)*

Formation and Training

Members serving as lectors are expected to receive training in:

- Understanding the theology of the Word and the structure of the Liturgy of the Word
- Proper proclamation techniques (pace, tone, and posture)
- Familiarity with the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM)*
- Use of the Lectionary and liturgical books
- Role boundaries — understanding what is permitted and what is not during Mass

Role Boundaries and Responsibilities

Lectors ARE entrusted to:

- ✓ Proclaim the First and Second Readings (and the Responsorial Psalm when assigned)
- ✓ Lead the Universal Prayer when designated
- ✓ Prepare prayerfully and review assigned readings in advance
- ✓ Maintain a reverent and prayerful presence at the ambo

Lectors are NOT permitted to:

- ✗ Proclaim the Gospel (reserved to the Deacon or Priest)
- ✗ Enter the sanctuary unnecessarily during the Eucharistic Prayer

Reverence and Presence

- Dress modestly and appropriately for ministry
- Stand upright and still at the ambo
- Avoid unnecessary gestures or movement

Ongoing Formation

Lectors are encouraged to study and review:

- *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* (GIRM 55–71, 194–198)
- *Lectionary for Mass: Introduction*
- *Fulfilled in Your Hearing* (USCCB)
- Diocese of Raleigh lector training resources

Prayer for Lectors

Lord God,

As I proclaim Your Word, open my heart to its truth.

May my voice be an instrument of Your grace,
so that all who hear may grow in faith and love.

Amen.