



St. Bede, patron saint of lectors

Bede was born near St. Peter and St. Paul monastery at Wearmouth-Jarrow, England. He was sent there when he was three and educated by Abbots Benedict Biscop and Ceolfrid. He became a monk at the monastery, was ordained when thirty, and except for a few brief visits elsewhere, spent all of his life in the monastery devoting himself to the study of Scripture and to teaching and writing. He is considered one of the most learned men of his time and a major influence on English literature. His writings are a veritable summary of the learning of his time and include commentaries on the Pentateuch and various other books of the Bible, theological and scientific treatises, historical works, and biographies. His best-known work is HISTORIA ECCLESIASTICA, a history of the English Church and people, which he completed in 731. It is an account of Christianity in England up to 729 and is a primary source of early English history. Called "the Venerable" to acknowledge his wisdom and learning, the title was formalized at the Council of Aachen in 853. He was a careful scholar and distinguished stylist, the "father" of English history, the first to date events anno domini (A.D.), and in 1899, was declared the only English doctor of the Church. He died in Wearmouth-Jarrow on May 25. His feast day is May 25th.

Blessing for Lectors

*Everlasting God,
when he read in the
synagogue at Nazareth,
your Son proclaimed
the good news of salvation
for which he would
give up his life.
Bless these readers.
As they proclaim
your words of life,
strengthen their faith
that they may read with
conviction and boldness,
and put into practice
what they read.
We ask this through
Christ our Lord. Amen.*

St. Cecilia Parish



The
Word
of God

Guidebook

*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because
he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the
poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to cap-
tives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let
the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year
acceptable to the Lord."*

-Luke 4:18-19

*“The Mass is made up, as it were, of two parts:
the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist.
These, however, are so closely interconnected
that they form but one single act of worship.
For in the Mass the table both of God’s word
and of Christ’s body is prepared,
from which the faithful may be instructed and refreshed.”*
General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM) #8

In the scriptures, God speaks to us.
At Mass, God speaks to a particular people
gathered at a particular time in a particular place.
The word will affect us in different ways.
Each person will hear the message uniquely,
as the Holy Spirit reaches into the hearts of us all,
to place within them the message that comes from God.
To work this miracle, God chooses instruments.
God uses **LECTORS**.

A lector integrates many values. Lectors are **people of faith who have nurtured a relationship with God and have formed their lives on the Gospel**. They are members of a community of family, friends, and strangers bound together by a desire to live near and for one another and to share opportunities for faith and worship. Lectors have come to value their local church and its mission. They understand the importance of making **Sunday worship the highlight of their week**, and they strive to make the reading of the scriptures a highlight of the Mass—because it is. Lectors have personally encountered the word of God, and through them, the people of God encounter the divine Word.

Scheduling

You are responsible for fulfilling your commitment at any Mass for which you are scheduled.

If you cannot fulfill your obligation, request a substitute via the online scheduling app.

St. Patrick’s Breastplate Prayer

*Christ with me,
Christ before me,
Christ behind me,
Christ in me,
Christ beneath me,
Christ above me,
Christ on my right,
Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down,
Christ when I sit down,
Christ when I arise,
Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me.*

~ ~ ~

Remember, Christ is present in the proclaimed Word!

Glossary

AMBO: A dignified & stationary place from which the readings, responsorial psalm, & Easter proclamation are to be proclaimed. It may also be used for proclaiming the Gospel, giving the homily and for announcing the intentions of the Prayer of the Faithful.

BOOK OF THE GOSPELS: The collection of Gospel passages that may occur on Sundays or other major occasions, including solemnities, feasts of the Lord, and ritual Masses.

DISCOURSE: A speech, lecture, or letter which makes an argument or explanation.

LECTIO DIVINA: A process of slow meditation on the word of God.

LECTIONARY: A four-volume series that contains the readings for Sundays, weekdays, and various needs and occasions.

LECTOR: Any lay minister who reads from the Lectionary at Mass (also called a reader).

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST: Begins with the Preparation of the Gifts and ends with the Prayer after Communion.

NARRATIVE: A story.

PROCLAMATION: The act of proclaiming, that is, the act of making known publicly. Within the context of the role of the lector, proclamation is the act of making known to the gathered assembly “the continuity of the work of salvation according to God’s wonderful plan.” GIRM #357

PROFOUND BOW: A gesture that “signifies reverence and honor shown to the persons themselves or to the signs that represent them.” GIRM #275 A profound bow is made from the waist.

You have been called to a very important and special ministry.
You will be entrusted with the word of God
— a tool sharper than any two-edged sword.

As any skilled craftsman does, you will want to know your
tools in order to execute well your art.

Excerpted and adapted from “Guide for Lectors”

Qualities of an effective proclaimer of God’s Word:

- * **Believes in what he/she is proclaiming.**
- * Makes the word of God come **ALIVE** for those hearing.
- * Is a spirit-filled storyteller who is well prepared and speaks with enthusiasm.
- * Uses a clear, articulated voice.
- * Is microphone—friendly with a voice that **projects** and uses variable intensity. **You must be heard and understood.**
- * Uses appropriate rate of speech and pauses skillfully.
- * Does not look at any particular person but looks out to the assembly in **all** directions.
- * Pronounces words correctly (use Lector book in entry if needed).
- * Has a relaxed, erect posture.
- * Respectfully handles the Lectionary.
- * Strives to live the message that they proclaim.

*“Lectors should receive careful preparation,
so that the faithful,
by listening to the readings from the sacred texts,
may develop in their hearts
a warm & living love for Sacred Scripture.”*

GIRM #101

Lector Guidelines at St. Cecilia Parish

In the days prior to serving in your ministry ...

- ◆ **Reflect...**Pray and then take the time to read all the scriptures for the weekend. Familiarize yourself with the context in which it was written. What happened just before and just after this passage? Who was this passage addressed to? What message was being conveyed? Use lector workbook in preparation. Your preparation will be evident by the way the reading sounds.
- ◆ **Research...**Be sure to research the pronunciation of the names and places in the scripture. The USCCB website has audio recordings of the scripture readings. If you will be reading the Prayer of the Faithful (Petitions), research the pronunciation of the parishioners' names that you will be reading even if you have to ask when you arrive at church.
- ◆ **Rehearse...**Take time to rehearse both readings at home paying attention to speed, inflection, tone of voice, etc. If the other reader does not attend, you must do all the readings for the Mass.

The day you are serving in your ministry ...

- ◆ **Pray...**Before leaving home, PRAY. The time before Mass is spent preparing your mind and heart for what you will soon do. Your spiritual preparation is as important as your technical preparation.
- ◆ **Dress...**Dress appropriately. This is a sacred space, and you are engaged in a sacred action. You are going to see the King, and you will be His voice for His people! Dress with simplicity, modesty, and dignity.
- ◆ **Arrive...**Arrive at least 20 minutes prior to Mass so you have time to calm and ready yourself for the awesome responsibility with which you have been entrusted.

- ◆ **Sign in...**Place a check next to your name on the volunteer list to indicate you are present and will be reading.
- ◆ **Confirm...**If the other reader does not come to Mass, you are responsible for reading their selections as well as your own.
- ◆ **Verify...**Check that the correct Lectionary page and petitions are on the ambo and the correct announcements are on the podium. Adjust the microphone and make sure it is on.
- ◆ **Announcements...**The 1st Reader reads the Announcements (from the podium). Begin when you see the pastor at the back of the church assembling for the procession.
- ◆ **1st Reading...**After the Opening Prayer, as long as the priest doesn't have something else to say first, proceed to the ambo, doing a profound bow of reverence to the altar (not to the tabernacle).
- ◆ **2nd Reading...**After the psalm is complete, rise and proceed to the ambo, doing a profound bow of reverence to the altar. Turn the page, if necessary, to get to your reading. After reading, place the lectionary in the shelf of the ambo.
- ◆ **Petitions...**Near the end of the creed, rise and proceed to the ambo, doing a profound bow of reverence to the altar.

Tips for proclaiming ...

- ◆ **Pause...**Pause a moment before beginning to ensure people are settled and listening.
- ◆ **Begin...** (i.e. Book of Genesis, Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans) Proclaim in a clear, firm voice, looking at the assembly. Enunciate...Slow Down!
- ◆ **End...** After pausing briefly at the end of the reading, clearly and loudly proclaim "The Word of the Lord." Please do not rush these closing words – they need to be projected as firmly as the Scripture. Wait for the assembly to respond. Then return to your seat (remembering to bow to the altar first).