

LECTOR MINSITRY

By Don Rakoski

The lector is a sacred and serious commitment that requires introspection, dedication and – because it involves public speaking – courage. If called by the Holy Spirit to this ministry, the lector participates in the liturgy by reciting selected biblical texts, although never the gospel which is reserved for the priest or deacon. The lector reads from the pulpit and may perform secondary duties such as carrying the Book of Gospels in procession to the altar.

The role of the lector is to be teacher and leader. As such, it requires some preparation. To help with this, lectors receive a workbook each year with all the readings for every weekend and Holy Day. The workbook provides pronunciation assistance, guidance regarding passages to emphasize verbally and visually, and a historical perspective to help the leader understand the context.

Whenever I prepare, I pray for grace. As I cross in front of the tabernacle, I pray once more as I reverence our Lord; on the way back to my seat, I offer a prayer of thanks. It is only by the grace of the Holy Spirit that I am able to participate in this ministry.

Sharing the word of the prophets, disciples and other biblical leaders is, in itself, an honor. If successfully presented, sharing those readings could change someone's heart and assist them on their spiritual journey.

