**Ministry of Lector**

**Additional Resources**

**Catholic Bibles**

*The following are approved translations by the Catholic Church:*

* *New American Bible Revised Edition*—with the most recent revision to the Old Testament in 2010, this edition is the standard American Catholic Bible, and the readings that we hear at Mass are taken from this translation.
* *New Jerusalem Bible*—published in 1985, this Bible is the most widely-used Catholic Bible outside of the United States. The text is poetic and lends itself to prayer. This version also includes extensive footnotes and background information on the texts.

*The following are other popular versions of the Bible that have special Catholic editions:*

* *Revised Standard Version*—based on a revision of the standard King James Version, it remains faithful to the original text but includes some antiquated expressions in English.
* *New Revised Standard Version*—this is a wholly redone translation of the Revised Standard Version but with inclusive language when referring to people and traditional language for God.
* *Good News translation*—published by the American Bible Society, this version is sensitive to the hearers of God’s Word and uses contemporary English that is more colloquial in nature, so it might appeal to young people.

**Primary Church Documents**

* *Catechism of the Catholic Church, Second Edition*, USCC, Inc.-- the full, complete exposition of Catholic doctrine
* *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (Sacrosanctum Concilium),* Second Vatican Council—one of the constitutions of the Second Vatican Council whose principle aim was emphasizing the need for greater participation of the lay faithful in the liturgy.
* *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* (Third Typical Edition) 2002—detailed directives on how the Mass is to be celebrated
* *Lectionary for Mass: Introduction*—the introduction to the *Lectionary for Mass* is the liturgical law governing the Liturgy of the Word. It provides an overview of its role in the life and mission of the Church, and offers a detailed explanation of its contents and organization.
* *Introduction to the Order of Mass, A Pastoral Resource of the Bishop’s Committee on the Liturgy,* United States Conference of Catholic Bishops--This pastoral introduction provides scriptural and historical context for the acts, objects, materials, symbols, rites, and prayers of the Mass-and in so doing helps all reach fuller and more active participation.
* *Book of Blessings--*this liturgical book includes blessings pertaining to persons, to objects, and to various occasions, as well as blessings and services connected with official parish events
* *Wounded and Loved, Regathering the Scattered*—Bishop Bambera’s pastoral vision for the Church of Scranton that focuses on the faithful’s role as servant leaders

**Annual Resources**

* *Workbook for Lectors and Gospel Readers*. Liturgy Training Publications—an annual resource that provides the ongoing instruction and advice that readers need. Not only does it assist them in preparing their assigned reading on a specific occasion, but when ministers of the Word read this resource every week as a way of reflecting on and learning about the Scriptures, it strengthens their proclamation skills and deepens their spiritual lives so that they can touch the hearts of the assembly with their reading. Also available in a Spanish edition, *Manual para proclamadores de la palabra*.
* *Handbook for Proclaimers of the Word--* A valuable introduction by well-known author Rev. Jude Winkler, OFM Conv. traces the historical tradition of Ministers of the Word, affirms the modern lector within that context, and provides practical tips. The Handbook also contains a commentary to help the lector or proclaimer of the Word to understand the reading being proclaimed, along with Pastoral Reflections.

**Books and DVDs:**

* Meagher, Virginia and Paul Turner, *Guide for Lectors.* Liturgy Training Publications, Chicago 2007—provides a basic theological and historical overview of this ministry, resources for formation and the deepening of ministerial spirituality, questions for discussion and reflection, and much more.
* Rosser, OSB, Aelred, *A Well-Trained Tongue: Formation in the Ministry of Reader*. Liturgy Training Publications, 1996-- This is an essential rallying guide for both beginning and veteran lectors. For group formation, one-on-one or individual study. Filled with practical exercises to help the reader develop the skills needed for the more challenging passages in the Lectionary.
* Sommers, Audrey, *Lector and Gospel Reader Workshop: A Resource for Bringing God’s Word to Life*. Liturgy Training Publications, 2006-- an interactive video workshop on DVD that combines the liturgical and spiritual aspects of being an effective lector with public speaking techniques.
* Wallace, James A., *The Ministry of Lectors.* Liturgical Press, Collegeville 2004-- Emphasizing both spiritual and speaking preparation, this book will help experienced and beginning lectors in the ministry of proclaiming the word of God.
* Foley, Edward, *From Age to Age.* Liturgical Press, Collegeville 2008—A historical survey that traces the development of Christian Eucharist from its Jewish roots to our own time. In addition to exploring the architecture, music, books, and vessels that contributed to each period's liturgical expressions, this edition introduces readers to the theology of each age as well as the historical and cultural contexts that shaped the Eucharist.

**Web Sites:**

* Daily Readings can be found on the home page calendar of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website at [www.uscccb.org](http://www.uscccb.org). You also can access the New American Bible, Revised Edition at [www.usccb.org/bible](http://www.usccb.org/bible).

**Resources for Spiritual Development:** Lectors are encouraged to develop a habit of personal prayer and spiritual reading. Some suggestions are periodicals about liturgy or prayer, books about the Eucharist or the lives of the saints. Below are some other suggestions for personal prayer:

* The Liturgy of the Hours: the official prayer of the Church marking the different parts of the day, usually prayed by all clergy and religious communities throughout the world. Available in a 4 volume set or an abridged version called *Christian Prayer* or an even more abridged version called *Shorter Christian Prayer*.
  + USCCB article providing a brief overview of the Liturgy of the Hours can be found at <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgy-of-the-hours/>
  + For an explanation on the Liturgy of the Hours and Mundelein Psalter, visit <http://www.adoremus.org/0307LiturgyofHours.html>
* Annual/Monthly Resources for Reflections on the Sunday Readings: consider reading and reflecting on the Scripture passages for the upcoming Sunday Mass. You can use your bible or find the prescribed scripture readings for any Sunday or weekday at [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org). These are resources that will help you “break open” the Scripture readings more:
  + *At Home with the Word*—published by Liturgy Training Publications ([www.ltp.org](http://www.ltp.org))
  + *Exploring the Sunday Readings*—by Alice Camille, published by Twenty-Third Publications ([www.exploringthesundayreadins.com](http://www.exploringthesundayreadins.com))
  + *Living Liturgy*—published Liturgical Press ([www.litpress.org](http://www.litpress.org))