



**Diocese of Salt Lake City
Office of Worship**

Minister of the Word

The Minister of the Word, also known as a Lector, is one who proclaims God's Word to the assembly. Accordingly, they read the lessons from sacred Scripture, except the Gospel, in the Mass and in other sacred celebrations; in the absence of a cantor, recite the psalm between the readings, and may read the intentions for general intercessions when needed.

A Lector must be fully initiated Catholic who, if married, are in a proper canonical marriage. They should be men and women who represent a cross-section of age and ethnic differences and are recognized for lives of mature faith, personal stability, devotion, and moral integrity. They should exhibit evidence of both love and respect for the Holy Scripture and a desire to serve Christ in ministry to others. It is important that they be willing to give the time needed to prepare for and exercise their ministry.

Requirements

- A deep love and devotion to Scripture
- A voice that is clear, understandable, and audible
- A blending of self-confidence, maturity, poise, and humility
- A willingness to engage in ongoing preparation and formation

Once training is completed, the minister is commissioned by the pastor (for a certain period of time) during a Sunday liturgy.

Each parish is to provide appropriate training for the Ministers of the Word. In meeting this requirement, each pastor/director of sacramental ministry is encouraged to take advantage of the workshops and resources made available through the Diocesan Office of Worship.