

Per the Guidelines for Ministers of the Word in the Diocese of Venice:

- A lector is a fully initiated Catholic who has received the sacraments of initiation - Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.
- Lectors have a deep love of Scripture and prepare for proclamation with prayerful reflection.
- Lectors are instruments of God, for when Scripture is proclaimed at Mass, God himself is speaking to his people.
- The sacred texts are to be delivered in a loud and clear voice with a tone corresponding to the genre of the text, suitable to the form of celebration and the solemnity of the gathering.
- The Liturgy of the Word must be celebrated in a way to promote meditation:
 - Any kind of haste that impedes recollection must be clearly avoided.
 - Brief moments of silence are appropriate during the liturgy.
 - Silence and meditation are to be observed after the scripture readings and at the conclusion of the homily.
- Ideally, separate lectors should be appointed for each of the sacred texts proclaimed at the liturgy.
- Lectors always proclaim from the ambo, reading from the Lectionary, not reading from a booklet, paper or missalette.
- Lectors process to the altar ahead of the clergy and bow or genuflect with the procession before taking a seat.
- Lectors prayerfully announce the intercessions following the introduction from the priest, in the absence of a deacon.
- Lectors process after dismissal in the same order as the procession to the altar, in front of the clergy.
- Lectors are to dress with decorum befitting the celebration and solemnity of the Eucharist.
- Lectors are to be formally commissioned, ideally at a Sunday Mass.



SAINT JOHN *the* **EVANGELIST**
CATHOLIC CHURCH