

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.

From the **Book of Blessings** - "Order for the Blessing of Readers."

# Lector Trainin

## Pro

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

**The Lector Training and Formation Program has the following objectives:**

1. To provide the students with: -
  - a. An understanding of lectoring in the context of the liturgy
  - b. An appreciation of the literary forms used in Scripture
  - c. Principles to effectively communicate orally the diverse forms
  - d. A theology of oral reading of Scripture
2. A Practicum using videotape or supportive feedback to help students determine for themselves:
  - a. Their present competency in the oral reading of Scriptures
  - b. The areas that need to be improved
  - c. The practical validity of the principles proposed

Please bring a  
**New American Bible**  
for every session.

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# Lector Training and Formation Program

The Office of Liturgy is pleased to introduce a Lector Training and Formation Program for the Archdiocese of Denver which serves lectors (readers) and helps to develop skills necessary for effective ministry within the liturgical assembly. The program will benefit both those discerning a call to this ministry and those already serving as parish lectors who would like to enrich the skills they already possess.

A person's readiness for this ministry is to be finally determined by the Pastor of the local parish.

The lector proclaims the Word of God to the assembled faith community. Men and women who accept the call to this ministry are presumed to be people of faith and lovers of Scripture, eager to serve the Christian community and willing to engage in ongoing formation and education.

The Office of Liturgy is committed to the formation of lectors as emphasized in the "Introduction" to the **Lectionary for Mass** #55:

*It is necessary that those who exercise the ministry of reader ... be truly suited and carefully prepared, so that the faithful may develop a warm and living love for Sacred Scripture from listening to the sacred readings.*



## **Session II - October 9**

### **SACRED SCRIPTURE I**

The lector proclaims the Word of God to the assembled faith community. Men and women who accept the call to this ministry are presumed to be people of faith and lovers of Scripture, eager to serve the Christian community. The prophet Isaiah expresses this ministry well: *“The Lord God has given me a well-trained tongue, that I may know how to speak to the weary a word that will rouse them.”* Isaiah 50:4.

#### **Literary Forms In Biblical Literature**

Father Andreas Hoeck

The Bible is a canon of living documents borne out of an oral tradition that leads to living faith. To understand the meaning of a passage, the lector needs a basic familiarity with the various literary forms in Sacred Scripture and how the passage fits into the whole of revelation. Specifically, we will briefly examine why it is important to understand: 1) the style and focus of the passage, 2) the context of the passage and 3) the purpose of passage. This basic exegesis is necessary for the lector to understand why the passage is important for the spiritual lives of his listeners.

## **Session III - October 16**

### **SACRED SCRIPTURE II**

#### **Theology and Spirituality of the Word of God**

Father John Krenzke

In the Catholic Tradition it is the interplay between Sacred Scripture and Tradition which transmits the riches of the Word of God. St. Augustine said once: “I would not believe the Gospels unless the Church told me to believe them.” The Bible frequently notes that, when the Word of God is sent forth, people do not always “have ears to hear” or “hearts to receive.”

## **Session IV - October 23**

### **PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD**

#### **The Art of Proclamation**

Father David F. Wright, O.P.

Effective lectors practice the skill and art of communicating via the spoken word. Anyone who has done any kind of oral communication knows the importance of developing oral skills. Whether it be parenting, preaching, or teaching a graduate seminar, skill in the art of communication is essential. The lector must be aware of the importance of speaking well. The lector is not actor, but one who tells a story—a story of salvation, using the saving Words of God and making them exist for the believing community today.

#### **Spirituality of Lectoring**

Father David F. Wright, O.P.

Serving as a lector carries with it a unique responsibility; bringing Jesus to the congregation via the Holy Scriptures. Lectors do not only read words on a page, they proclaim Jesus present in his Word. This session will focus on the relationship between Jesus and the Scriptures and between the lector and the scriptures. Understanding those relationships are key to a dynamic and spirit-filled lector ministry.

## **Session V**

### **Pra**

This Practicum is a specially designed and/or supportive feedback in order to their oral reading technique so that the they proclaim when they read the wor be given well ahead of this laboratory

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## **Session V - October 28**

### **Practicum**

This Practicum is a specially designed half-day workshop using video taping and/or supportive feedback in order to give lectors an opportunity to sharpen their oral reading technique so that they can witness more effectively to the faith they proclaim when they read the word of God. Two passages of scripture will be given well ahead of this laboratory date for you to practice.

In the practicum the lector should be able:

- a. to be clearly understood;
- b. to project the feeling behind the meaning of the passage; and
- c. to use the appropriate principles of the diverse literary forms in order to share the complete meaning of the passage.

The Practicum will be held at several locations on Saturday morning, Oct. 28th, from 9am-Noon. Sign-up sheets for those who would like to read from theambo will be provided. Depending on the size of the class, however, it may be necessary to do a lottery to see who will actually be able to read on this date. Nevertheless, are invited and every accommodation will be made to assure an opportunity for proclaiming the Word. Locations for the Practicum will be announced as soon as possible after the beginning of the Program.

## **Program Faculty**

*Father Andreas Hoeck teaches Sacred Scripture at St. John Vianney Seminary. He has a Doctorate from the \_\_\_\_\_.*

*Father Krenzke has taught biblical studies in the Holy Land and has made over a dozen pilgrimages to the Holy Land. Although officially retired, Father Krenzke does retreats and workshops and is involved in several forms of biblical and liturgical ministry in the Archdiocese of Denver.*

*Sister Esther Mary Nickel, R.S.M., teaches Liturgy and Sacramental Theology at St. John Vianney Theological Seminary. She has a Doctorate in Sacred Liturgy from the Pontifical Institute for the Liturgy at San Anselmo, Rome.*

*Father David F. Wright, O.P., is a staff member of the Office of Liturgy of the Archdiocese of Denver. He has a Doctorate in Liturgical Studies from the University of Notre Dame*