

## **DRESS CODE FOR LITURGICAL MINISTERS**

The focus of the members of our congregation should be on the Mass, not on the appearance of the Liturgical Minister. Ministers should dress respectfully and with decorum. Clothing that is too casual or too flamboyant will distract the congregation from the Holy Sacrifice of the Altar. Attire that is immodest may cause scandal amongst God's people. This applies to **all** positions: Ushers, Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.

### **For Women**

Dresses, skirt suits (no shorter than 1 inch above the knee)

Pant suits, dress pants

Sweaters & blouses

Shoes, the only sneakers permitted are black without color trims (not colored or white sneakers or flip-flops)

### **For Men**

Dress shirt with collars (tie is preferred, but optional)

Sport coats/Suits (optional during summer)

Slacks

Shoes, the only sneakers permitted are black without color trims (not colored or white sneakers or flip-flops)

## **The following dress is considered inappropriate**

### **For Women**

Jeans

Tube or strapless tops, spaghetti straps.

Sleeveless/low-cut blouse or dress.

Bare midriff, bare shoulders.

Form fitting clothes or blouses.

Short skirts, shorts.

Thong shoes, flip/flops or beach footwear, white or colored sneakers

Tights or leggings (unless worn under skirt or dress).

Tight or low-cut slacks

### **For Men**

Jeans

T-shirts (with or without writing)

Shorts (dress or otherwise)

Thong shoes, flip-flops or beach footwear

White or colored Sneakers

Clothing for both men and women should fit comfortably and not be formfitting or tight

**If you question whether or not your dress is appropriate, it probably is not;  
please err on the side of caution**

For daily liturgies, the minister's dress may be somewhat more casual, but should still adhere to the general principles described above. For example, men might choose to wear dress slacks and a polo shirt or sweater. However, jeans and shorts are never to be considered appropriate dress.

**Please be advised that the priest and/or Deacon reserve(s) the right to request any liturgical minister not to serve who, in his prudent judgment, does not meet the requirements of this Dress Code.**

According to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*: "Bodily demeanor (gestures, clothing, attitudes) ought to convey the respect, solemnity, and joy of this moment when Christ becomes our guest" (CCC #1387). Jesus Christ Himself, not a symbol, not a reminder, but the man Himself, becomes substantially present in the Eucharistic host. Each time we receive Communion, our hearts should be echoing the words of the Apostle John as he recognized the risen Christ on the seashore: "It is the Lord!" Truly it is the Lord who comes to dwell within us; how can that moment cause anything but an attitude of reverence and awe?

We anticipate that this Dress Code will assist our parish family in fostering a deeper respect and reverence at Mass. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Parish Office. May God continue to bless all of us as we worthily serve at the Altar of the Lord.