



Dress Code for Liturgical Ministers

Mass, the celebration of the Eucharist, is the highpoint of our Catholic faith. As Catholics we know that Christ is truly present in the Tabernacle. As Liturgical Ministers, we must show and be an example of utmost reverence when entering the Sanctuary and performing our Liturgical duties.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states: "The Mass is at the same time, and inseparably, the sacrificial memorial in which the sacrifice of the cross is perpetuated and the sacred banquet of communion with the Lord's body and blood is made present," (CCC #1382). The Catechism also highlights the need to show outwardly what we understand inwardly, about exactly what is happening at Mass. "Bodily demeanor (gestures, clothing, attitudes) ought to convey the respect, solemnity, and joy of this moment when Christ becomes our guest" (CCC #1387).

Ministers should dress conservatively and modestly. Clothing that is too casual or flamboyant can distract the congregation from where their focus should be, on the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. With this in mind, all Liturgical Ministers either serving in the church or outside of the church (eg. Minister to the Sick) are respectfully requested to follow the dress code below:

For men: a suit or conservative sports jacket and dress slacks. A tie is appropriate and encouraged. Jeans, shorts, cargo pants, open shirts, sports jerseys, sneakers and other very casual attire are inappropriate.

For women: dresses, dress slacks, skirts and blouses or sweaters or a suit. Hemlines should be modest (to the knee). Necklines should also be modest. Covered backs and shoulders. Jeans, short skirts or dresses, revealing blouses (low cut, sleeveless or see-through), or shorts of any length should not be worn. Please do not wear tank-tops or spaghetti straps - choose to wear these items with a shrug or jacket over them instead.

Clothing for both men and women should fit comfortably and not be form-fitting or tight. Dress shoes should be worn.

For weekday liturgies, a more casual dress code is acceptable but should still stick to the general guidelines above.

To summarize those norms of modesty: "In church, please cover your shoulders and knees."

Inappropriate for church:

- shorts (for both men and women)
- miniskirts
- swimsuits
- bikinis
- tank tops (for both men and women)
- dresses or skirts above the knees
- bare shoulders
- bare arms
- low-cut dresses
- sleeveless shirts and dresses that bare the arms
- very tight fitting clothing
- bare midriffs
- exposed bellies
- exposed backs
- transparent dresses
- clothes that expose the bellies, backs, cleavage etc. while bending down
- blouses and tops that are too tight, revealing and provocative
- tight-fitting clothing that shows the outline of the underwear/underclothes
- tight-fitting spandex clothes
- vulgar tee shirts, vulgar/offensive inscriptions

Necessary for church:

- pants, skirts, dresses should come down to the knees or below
- shirts and dresses should cover the shoulders and back and have some sort of a sleeve