

Attire Policy for Liturgical Ministers

HOLY FACE OF JESUS PARISH



Introduction

In March 2025, Fr. Leo Patalinghug visited our parish for a mission. He preached at all Sunday Masses and gave three powerful talks in the evening. He energized the parish and offered a powerful witness to the faith. During conversation, Fr. Sean asked him, "What advice do you have for me or for our parish?" Fr. Leo didn't miss a beat; he said that our Sunday Mass experience would be much better if our liturgical ministers dressed more reverently. He specifically mentioned the shoes of altar servers.

Overview

The purpose of this policy is to provide clear guidelines for attire for all volunteers serving at Catholic Mass, promoting respect, reverence, and unity in service. The Mass is the Source and Summit of our faith and the most important event of our week. The dress of those in leadership roles emphasizes the importance of the Mass.

This policy applies to all Ushers, Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Cantors, and Altar Servers assisting within the four churches of the parish. The policy is for Saturday Vigil Masses, Sunday Masses, and Holy Days of Obligation.

General Expectations

- All volunteers should ensure their attire is neat, clean, and modest.
- Clothing should not distract from the sacredness of the Mass or draw undue attention to the individual.
- Volunteers are encouraged to err on the side of formality when uncertain about an item of clothing.

Weekday Mass

Attire for daily Mass is normally more casual, although ministers are asked to dress in a neat and presentable way.

Attire Guidelines for Weekend Mass & Holy Days of Obligation

Ushers

- Ushers are asked to dress in business casual attire.
- Acceptable clothing includes collared shirts, blouses, dress pants, and skirts or dresses at or below the knee.
- Jeans, shorts, athletic wear, t-shirts with logos or slogans, and casual footwear (e.g. sneakers, flip-flops) are not permitted.

Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, & Cantors

- These ministers are asked to dress in business formal attire to reflect the dignity of their ministry.
- **For men:** a shirt and tie. A coat or jacket is optional but encouraged.
- **For women:** A nice blouse or dress shirt with a skirt or dress slacks, or a modest dress. Shoulders should be covered. No low necklines. Skirts and dresses should be at or below the knees.
- Jeans, shorts, athletic wear, t-shirts with logos or slogans, and casual footwear (e.g. sneakers, flip-flops) are not permitted.

Altar Servers

- Although altar servers are in a noticeable part of the church, they shouldn't be the center of attention. Subtlety is key for altar servers (and priests and deacons). It is best not to be noticed.
- Altar servers are asked to wear dark (solid color) shoes and dark pants as part of their attire.
- **For men:** dress pants (preferably black) and closed-toe dress shoes (preferably black). You may wear a t-shirt if it is plain in color with minimal wording. (No shorts, no sandals, and no bright colors as they show through under the white alb.)
- **For women:** dress or skirt at or below the knees or dress pants. For footwear, closed-toe dark-colored dress shoes. You may wear a t-shirt if it is plain in color with minimal wording. (No shorts, no sandals, no high heels, and no bright colors as they show through under the white alb.) Please limit earrings to stud earrings.

Last Minute Substitute

Occasionally, you may be asked to fulfill a liturgical role at Mass when you weren't on the schedule. In this case, it is better for you to volunteer, even though you may not be properly dressed. You could err on the side of safety and always dress for a liturgical role, even if you aren't on the schedule.

Questions

For questions or clarifications regarding this policy, please contact one of the parish priests.