

Dress Code for Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

In carrying out our duties as lectors and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion (EMs), it is imperative that we keep in mind where we are and what we are doing when we perform these duties. We are in the sanctuary, the most holy place in Church. The Lord is present in the sanctuary in a most real sense, and as ministers of His Word and of His Holy Body and Precious Blood, we have a duty to show the greatest respect and reverence for His presence.

Our manner of dress is an expression of the respect and reverence we show the Lord while we are in the sanctuary performing our ministerial duties. The essential principle of the dress code for lectors and EMs is as follows: **The sanctuary is not a place for self expression** in either how one dresses or how one acts. Our dress and mannerisms should not attract attention to ourselves but instead demonstrate the reverence we show for the presence of the Holy Eucharist.

Ministers' dress should be modest and conservative. Acceptable dress includes the following:

For men: dress slacks, sport coats, blazers or suits, dress shirts, ties, dress shoes

For women: dresses/skirts/skortis of modest lines and length (remember, you are elevated in the sanctuary versus the congregation, so attire will look shorter from the pews than it does in the mirror), dress slacks, modest tops, dress shoes, dress sandals

The following items of clothing are not acceptable dress for performing our obligations to read Holy Scripture and to distribute the Blessed Sacrament:

For men:

- jeans, cargo pants, jogging pants and other extremely casual slacks
- casual shirts, such as polo shirts, tee shirts and other shirts that do not accommodate the wearing of a tie
- Bermuda shorts, jogging shorts or other short pants of any kind
- sneakers, flip-flops, pool sandals, shower sandals, slippers

For women:

- tank tops, tee shirts, form-fitting or spandex slacks and tops, low-cut tops (no visible cleavage), high-cut tops (no visible midriff)
- short skirts/skortis, jeans, denim skirts, cargo pants, jogging pants and other extremely casual slacks
- Bermuda shorts, jogging shorts or other short pants of any kind
- sneakers, flip-flops, pool sandals, shower sandals, slippers

It is the intent of this policy that it be accepted in the manner in which it is presented, that is, in a sense of reverence for our Lord's real presence in the sanctuary and for the duties that are performed as lectors and EMs.