

Respectful Dress

July 22, 2016 By Fr. Korte, Pastor

The Eucharist is central to the worship of the Church. As ministers at the Eucharist we have to show this centrality and importance in how we dress. Therefore, I would like to have you consider the following guidelines when you come to minister as a Lector, Greeter, Usher, Eucharistic Minister, Music Minister. A server guideline will be published separately.

Implementation: This is rolling kind of implementation. We'd like you to consider this as you buy clothes this coming year so that a year from now these guidelines could become the general norm.

In publishing these guides I recognize that volunteers who step up to fill in a slot because of a no-show might not be ready, this is always an exception. In addition, I never say anything about dress – I put this forth and just feel that with everyone doing their best....we will honor the Lord more.

- 1) You should dress properly for the Banquet of the Lord. It is not a laid-back affair like a picnic. No matter what the weather is, your dress should speak of your respect for what you are doing in the presence of the Lord and the People of God. Casual is not what is called for at mass. I recognize issues with summer attire..but the church is air conditioned. In addition, when it comes to younger children helping at mass, like ushering and greeting, their dress is something where parents can seek their own sense of appropriateness...but having the little ones dress well for the Lord is something that can be instilled early on.**
- 2) Unfortunately in order to convey the seriousness of this issue I have to give a number of caveats (don't do this) and some recommendations. We should not aim at casual as our baseline but rather modest, neat and dressy.**
 - a) Shorts for men or women, dress-like or not, are not to be worn. Jeans are not to be worn. The upper external article of clothing must not be a T-shirt.**

- b) Length of dresses is an issue. They must be at the knee, at least. No low cut dresses and no sleeveless outfits. You can add a light sweater/jacket to cover sleeveless dresses and remove it when mass is over. Be aware that tight fitting outfits can bring unnecessary attention to you and should be avoided. The midriff is to be clothed and should not show if you raise your arms. Clothing neckline for women should be modest.**
- c) Men are encouraged and asked to wear ties when they minister at the Liturgy. Although this is not mandatory, what is mandatory is a buttoned collared type shirt. Polo's are suitable. T-Shirts, colored or not, with writing or not, are not allowed. Wouldn't it be nice to see the men looking as good as a tie makes them look. It tells us this (the Eucharist) is important. When it is hot open collared shirts are fine, when it is cool/cold a tie is recommended.**
- d) In the winter-time—I encourage men to wear a sport coat or suit coat or nice sweater.**
- e) Sandals for men are not allowed. Sandals for women are discouraged and it suggested that the heel part be fastened to the foot, no flip-flops or similar. Another way to approach this...if the sandal makes a clicking/slapping sound as you walk....it is not a good choice.**
- f) Wash your hands before you come to church. Make sure they are clean. Extra purifying is asked of those who give communion right before distribution.**

RESPECTFUL DRESS AT SATURDAY/SUNDAY MASSES

ALTAR SERVERS

July 22, 2016 BY Fr. Korte

The Eucharist is central to the worship of the Church. As ministers at the Eucharist we have to show this centrality and importance in how we dress. Therefore, I would like to have you consider the following guidelines when you come to minister as an altar server.

- 1) You should dress properly for the Banquet of the Lord. It is not a laid-back affair like a picnic. No matter what the weather is, your dress should speak of your respect for what you are doing in the presence of the Lord and the People of God. Casual is not what is called for at mass.**
- 2) Because you wear albs then come wearing light (not heavy) clothing.**
- 3) Your shirt is to be plain colored....no printing on the shirts. Since the Albs fit tightly around the neck it is best to have a shirt without a collar. Polo's are still a good choice.**
- 4) It does not look good to have your legs showing from under the alb when you walk. Therefore, if you are a boy, you are to wear long dress pants. Girls are allowed to wear dresses or skirts.**
- 5) Shoes: It is preferred that you wear darker colored dress shoes. But if you wear tennis shoes they are to be clean and good looking—not your old grubby ones. Boys are not to wear sandals; girls can but the heel part has to be fastened—in other words not flip-flops or similar. Another way to approach this...if the sandal makes a clicking/slapping sound as you walk....it is not a good choice.**

ARRIVAL TIME

Taking responsibility for your serving assignment is clearly something that I as the priest depend on. I am depending on you. Coming at your assigned time and ON TIME allows for a calm beginning to the mass...not a hurried and scrambled time.

You are to be dressed and ready to go 10 minutes before mass begins. This gives you time to get the alb on—which is more involved than the old ones-- and time to light the candles. Arrival time allows Father to get other servers because if you are not in the sacristy 10 minutes before mass time...we will begin looking for other servers.