

## Dress Code for Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers

In carrying out our duties as Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers, 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 actually 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. Because of recent observations of the manner of dress of our ministers, it becomes essential now that St. Cecilia's establish a dress code for our Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers and clearly define what is and is not acceptable.

The essential principle of this dress code is the following: **The sanctuary is not a place for self expression** in either how one dresses and 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. Therefore, 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 a 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
- short skirts (defined as above the knee), 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

Ministers' dress should be more modest and conservative, for example, dress slacks, sport coats, blazers or suits, ties and dress shoes for men and dresses of modest length and modest lines, dress slacks with modest tops, dress shoes and/or dress sandals for women. Under no circumstances should shirts or tops be low cut or such that any portion of midriff is showing.

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 Eucharistic Ministers.