

ALTAR SERVER DRESS

Dear Server,

What should I wear to serve Mass? Allow me to start with a story. *The people who settled in this part of North Carolina were cotton and tobacco farmers. Later their parents may have worked in a textile or lumber mill. These people were not wealthy in “things.” Children went barefoot all year long. They received a pair of shoes every other year and these shoes were usually “hand me downs.” They needed shoes if they were blessed to go to school in town and they needed shoes to attend the Sunday Services. They all knew that on Sunday they were going to the “House of God” and had to dress in their best. They took their weekly bath the night before and they stood in front of the mirror one by one to make sure their clothes were clean and mended, hair combed and hands and face washed. They were not fancy. They all wanted to please God.*

You and I go to church not only to be in God’s house but to be with the real Jesus in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. How much more are we blessed! So when we get dressed for church as a server or as a member of the parish, we need to remember two things:

1. That we are going to meet Jesus Christ, Lord and God.
2. To honor the memory of all the good people who came before us and worshiped God with great love and respect.

Every time you go to church be prepared to be a server. Look in the mirror and make sure you are as clean as can be; you are dressed in good clothes; your hair is combed and neat. Your shoes or sneakers should be clean. Your overall appearance will not distract the people we serve from worshipping God and feeling Jesus in their hearts. That’s the dress code.

Examples of distractions:

1. For safety, you should avoid flip-flops, CROCS and any high heels (ladies). They are dangerous on the steps. The flip-flops and CROCS make too much noise.
2. Young ladies should have their hair tied back if it is not short. We will use acolyte candles and a server whose hair is on fire certainly will distract people.
3. Do not wear clothes that advertise your favorite NASCAR driver, rock star, sport team and can be seen through your alb. This will distract some people who will try throughout Mass to read your shirt.
4. Knee length shorts are okay. We live in the South and the A/C sometimes quits. No short shorts!
5. Pierced faces and tattoos absolutely distract the people in the pews and besides they HURT! Please wait until you are in college.
6. Red, Green, Blue hair like Woody Woodpecker, the Incredible Hulk, or the Sea Witch will cause everyone to look at you and not Jesus. Again, wait until you go to college and let Mom and Dad enjoy your beautiful hair a few more years.

You can add many more examples yourself. The dress code is simple, **“your overall appearance will not distract the people we serve from worshipping God and feeling Jesus in their hearts.”** I know that you will be very responsible with it.

God Bless You for Your Service

Deacon John