

Suggested Dress Code for Altar Servers

The garment worn by Altar Servers is the Alb with Cincture or the Cassock and Surplice

The Alb. The long linen gown worn by Altar Servers is called the *alb*, meaning simply the white garment... It is a survival of the white Roman toga. Its white color denotes the necessity of purity, both of soul and body, in him who offers the Lamb of God to the Father.

The Cincture. This is the proper name for the girdle worn around the waist to bind the alb closely to the body. In some countries it is of the same color as the vestments used, but among us it is generally white. It is made of braided linen, or sometimes of wool... [Exod. 29:9 "and you shall gird [Aaron and his sons] tie headdresses on them; and the priesthood shall be theirs by a perpetual ordinance."]

The Cassock. A long, close-fitting garment worn, normally black in color, with buttons up the front worn by members of the clergy or others participating in church services.

The Surplice. A loose white piece of clothing, worn over the cassock or other clothes by priests, acolytes, altar servers and people who help during liturgical ceremonies.

The purpose of the alb and the cincture or cassock and surplice is to cover our daily clothing so that at the celebration of the Mass the servers are not a distraction to the people but are there to serve the Priest and the Deacon.

Since it covers our clothing, it should be of proper length, to the bottom of the ankle or top of the shoes.

For the males, shoes should be dress type, with socks dark preferred, no crocks, flip flops or sneakers. For the females, shoes should be dress type shoes, closed toe, dark color preferred, no sandals.

For the males, pants should be dress pants or kaki no jeans or shorts. For females, no shorts of any type, dresses or pants as appropriate.

On clothing, remember the Alb is white so be aware of shirts, dresses that are print, striped, patterned or colored as they will show through the white alb.

Hair should be well groomed and brushed. For females we should restrain from wearing bows, jewelry, bracelets or fingernail polish that are seen as a distraction.