

## Dress to Serve

For all Lectors, Cantors, Eucharistic Ministers, Musicians

**For all ministers when serving-** (*EM's, lectors, ushers, musicians, Cantors and others speaking from the cantor stand*).

These ministries serve the liturgy AND the congregation and places us “front and center”, so it most important for all of us to dress modestly and appropriately. As Leaders, Ushers, Greeters, Extraordinary Ministers, Musicians, Cantors, as well as anyone speaking from the ambo or the cantor stand, we are role models, and others look to us as examples of what is appropriate.

**When working with people regarding the dress code, our goal is never to be "liturgy police" our goal should be one of service, gently helping to facilitate more reverence during Mass** and-- when we see a person obviously not following the dress guidelines-- we should simply ask the person (in a pastoral way) if they have read the dress code guidelines and if not the explain to them our concern and that before they serve the next time they need to review the dress code.

The following is a list of SPECIFIC GUIDELINES for appropriate dress for ALL St. Mark's liturgical ministers. Since the term “appropriate” can mean different things to different people we are listing some examples:

- First preference is no blue jeans. Docker-style pants...capris... are a good choice. We will however permit jeans to be worn IF they are clean and in good condition, that is, no holes, tears or fringed edges, neither overly tight or too baggy below the hips.
- Cantors may NOT wear jeans when serving as cantor OR psalmist.
- Tee-Shirts of any kind are not permitted. What is required are button shirts or polo shirts with collars, or blouses for women. NOTE the exception for T-Shirts is when the entire group of attendees wears them for a specific event or reason.
- NO Shorts, sweats, tank tops, tube tops or flip flops.
- Sandals or athletic shoes that are clean and in good shape are acceptable. Nothing too flashy or in neon colors.
- Women, girls should not wear overly tight fitting blouses or low cut blouses or miniskirts or show bare midriffs on the Altar.
- Noisy jewelry, glittery nail polish, novelty ties, and anything else that could draw undo attention to you is not acceptable.
- Observe good habits of personal hygiene including neatly trimmed and clean fingernails and hair.

**A final thought:** Clothes say something about what we think, what we value. They also influence how we behave and feel. That our culture has become so casual about everything says something about us. I cannot exactly articulate it but it seems to say, “*nothing is really all that important.*” But that is not true. Going to God's house IS important. Being ministered to by the King of Kings and Lord of Lords is astounding.