

St. Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Church

Liturgical Ministers

Dress Code

Serving in liturgical ministry is a privilege which requires not only catechetical and logistical training but also requires attire that shows respect for the ministry and for Our Lord ever present in the Blessed Sacrament. St. Gabriel's does have a dress code that has been issued for individual ministries. What follows is a dress code addressing all liturgical ministries. It is suggested that liturgical ministers follow this dress code when serving in ministry. However, St. Gabriel's would appreciate it if you would also follow this dress code when attending Mass as you may be asked to serve in your ministry at the last minute.

Why is a dress code necessary? Liturgical ministers are looked upon as leaders of our worshipping community. As such they are ambassadors of the parish, the diocese and the church.

- To serve in their ministry it is necessary for **captains, EM's, lectors and servers** to enter the sanctuary during the celebration of Mass. The sanctuary is given a place of prominence for a reason—it is the center, the focal point, for the tabernacle and the altar. And it is upon the altar that our Eucharistic feast is prepared. Therefore, those serving in these ministries must show reverence in their actions, their participation, their attire, etc.
- The **ushers** are the first ministers people see when they arrive to attend Mass. They are the goodwill ambassadors of the liturgical team. They pass the collection baskets and manage the flow of the communion lines. Their attire shows respect for Our Lord and pride in our parish and in their ministry.
- The **music ministry** contributes greatly to the celebration of Mass as they lead the congregation in songs of praise and glory of God. Again, proper church attire shows respect and reverence.
- The **catechists and aides serving in CLOW** are charged with the responsibility of conveying the gospel message to the children participating in the CLOW dismissal at the 8:30 Mass. These ministers maintain modesty in their attire not only because proper church attire shows respect and reverence for our Lord but also because they are serving the very young members of our congregation.
- The **gift card seller ministry** is not a liturgical ministry but those serving as card sellers have direct contact with fellow worshippers so they, too, represent the parish and are leaders of our community. As such they are invited to observe the same dress code as the liturgical ministers.

To summarize - Some liturgical ministers enter the sanctuary to serve in their ministry, others greet people as they arrive, some devote their time to teaching the young children, and still others lead the congregation in song. Those serving in any of these ministries are leaders in our community and therefore it is necessary that their attire complements their ministry which ultimately reflects the reverence proper attire affords.

Our church is God's house. Our Lord is present in the tabernacle. Remembering this should help in the choice of proper attire to wear when attending Mass, especially when serving in a liturgical ministry.

What follows is our Dress Code:

St. Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Church
Liturgical Ministers
Dress Code

All Liturgical Ministers

Ladies/Girls

- No low cut tops--no cleavage showing
- No bare shoulders
- No sleeveless tops
- No exposed mid drifts
- No shorts
- No short skirts or dresses (length should be no shorter than 3 inches above the knee).
 Long skirts and dresses are permitted.
- No skin tight slacks skirts or dresses
- No jeans of any color or style
- No flip flops
- No heavy perfumes
- No large hair bows, clips, etc.
- No large, gaudy jewelry.

Gentlemen/Boys

- No T-shirts--shirts need to have a collar (golf shirt)
- Button shirts must be buttoned up to second button from the top
- Slacks must be worn with the waist band positioned on the waist
- Trousers designed for a belt must be worn with a belt.
- No shorts
- No jeans of any color or style
- No flip flops
- No heavily scented shaving lotions, etc.
- No gaudy jewelry

Altar Servers

Not only does the server alb cover a server's street clothes but they are made of polyester and that, coupled with the heat from the spot lights shining on the altar, necessitates the need for a slightly different dress code for altar servers.

The above dress code does apply for servers except that a server is allowed to wear shorts simply **no short shorts, skirts or dresses.**

Additionally, altar servers. . .

- No brightly colored clothes – these colors show right through the server's alb
- No glitzy, brightly colored or lighted shoes.
- No clothes containing writing and designs
- Long hair cannot be flowing onto the shoulders – it must be tied behind or on top of a server's head. This is a safety factor – servers carry lighted candles.

St. Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Church
Liturgical Ministers
Dress Code

Daily Mass Ministers

Daily Mass is more casual so jeans, T-shirts and flip flops are acceptable but the remainder of the dress code applies.

Funerals and Weddings (All Ministers)

In addition to the above all liturgical ministers serving at either weddings or funerals need to “dress for the occasion”. When serving for a funeral a minister’s attire should be appropriate for attending a funeral. When serving for a wedding a minister’s attire should be appropriate for attending a wedding.

Special Masses (Christmas, Easter, First Communion/Confirmation—All Ministers)

These Masses celebrate formal occasions; therefore, when serving in a ministry for our special Masses liturgical ministers are requested to dress up a bit more than usual. In addition to the respect, reverence and solemnity the occasion dictates, liturgical ministers could well be in some of the pictures being taken to memorialize the occasion.

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Liturgical Ministers
Dress Code

Revisions and Updates: