



Saint Mark the Evangelist Parish

Saint Kilian Church | Holy Sepulcher Church

Dress Code

Each year our staff are asked “What’s the dress code for Confirmation?” Here are our thoughts and firm guidelines for Candidates *and* their Sponsors.

Candidates: When you are confirmed by the bishop, you need to remember that not only are you going to be standing, face to face with him, but also that you will standing in front of the entire congregation – all the people in attendance, which could total near 1000 or more! Here are a few basic guidelines to keep in mind, followed by some gender-specific recommendations.

- ✘ This is a special event – a milestone in your life! God is present for this event (along with your family, your sponsor, your deacon, priest, and bishop), so you should dress accordingly. Confirmation is not a time for shorts, sneakers, t-shirts, hats, hoodies, or torn jeans. Candidates and sponsors should, at a minimum, be wearing “Sunday Best”. You should be “dressed up” and neat in appearance.
- ✘ Think “*Modest*”. Confirmation is also a time when we present ourselves with self-respect and respect for others. Our clothing shouldn’t be questionable in any way.
- ✘ Think “*Safe*”. Depending on the preference of the bishop, in addition to where you’ll gather before you are seated in the church, keep in mind that you may need to go up and down stairs. Wear shoes and clothing that won’t risk slipping, tripping, or falling.
- ✘ Candidates, your hair will need to be off the forehead! If your hair hangs over the forehead, remember that you’ll need to use your hand to lift it away when the bishop confirms you.

Recommendations for Men:

Slacks, button down shirt, tie, dress shoes, dress socks, belt. A jacket or suitcoat is not required but is welcome. Please try to avoid loud, distracting patterns or prints.

Recommendations for Women:

Dress pants or skirt and blouse, or a dress. You should be able to sit, stand, go up and down stairs, and even bend over (in the past, we have had a bishop who had to sit while confirming our candidates, necessitating their bending toward him so that he could reach their forehead) *without any concern that your clothing won’t accommodate such movement*. Dresses or skirts should not be super-short. Use the three-finger rule above the knee as a rule of thumb (no pun intended). Cleavage should never be exposed, even if bent over. Strapless dresses should be avoided! If your dress is strapless or has minimal straps, consider wearing a dressy cardigan on top or a shawl. We should never, ever, be able to see your undergarments (this includes bra straps).

Sponsors: All the above guidelines apply to you, for the same reasons.