

STS. PETER AND PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH
FRELSBURG, TEXAS

EMHC/LECTOR DRESS GUIDELINES

Appropriate dress of both Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion ⁽¹⁾ and Lectors ⁽²⁾ is essential to maintain the standard of reverence proper to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

Appropriate dress for ministers at Holy Mass is formal. It does not include blue jeans, T shirts, tank tops, shorts, flip-flops, or low-cut necklines. Shirts must not have wording, graphics, photos, or anything else on them as they can be a great distraction from the Word of God.

Ideally men will wear suit jackets and/or ties with a dress shirt, and ladies will wear dresses or appropriate dress clothes. Please remember that you are not running errands or going to Walmart! **You are a minister of the sacred mysteries of our redemption!**

When in the sanctuary, you are standing on *holy ground*:

“The sacrificial nature of the Mass, solemnly defended by the Council of Trent, because it accords with the universal tradition of the Church, was, once more stated by the Second Vatican Council, which pronounced these clear words about the Mass: ‘At the Last Supper, Our Savior instituted the Eucharistic Sacrifice of his Body and Blood, by which the Sacrifice of his Cross is perpetuated until he comes again: and till then he entrusts the memorial of his Death and Resurrection to his beloved spouse, the Church’” (*The General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, 2011, n. 2).

Lectors: The communion rail is not a bookshelf or an arm rest. Do not put hymnals (or anything else) on the communion rail. When seated in the sanctuary during the Responsorial Psalm, both feet should be flat on the floor (do not cross your legs) and the palms of your hands, if not holding the hymnal, should rest on your upper thighs. Also, your visual attention should be directed to the liturgical action in the sanctuary. Do not “gaze” at the assembly or look to see what is going on in the choir loft.

Please remember that the ambo microphone is not an amplifier. It simply distributes sound better throughout the church. If you whisper into the microphone, nothing more than a whisper comes out of the speakers. When at the ambo, you must seek to project your voice to the back of the church and into the choir loft. You must speak as though there is no sound system in the church and you want those in the back and/or choir loft to hear you as well as those in the first pews. Also, please be sure that the ambo microphone is positioned at the level of your mouth (especially when looking down) and not your forehead and/or the top of your head (where it is useless)!

⁽²⁾ Lector dress for weekday Masses may be “less formal” than dress for our weekend Masses; however, please keep in mind that weekday Masses are a “continuation” of the weekend Masses and bear the very same dignity of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. While “formal” dress is not required for weekday Masses, please bear in mind that both the priest celebrate and any altar servers dress “formally” as they would for a weekend Mass and your dress should convey a sense of understanding what the Mass truly is. Even weekday Masses are a participation in the mysteries of our redemption and not an outing to Walmart!

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Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: When distributing Holy Communion in the choir loft and/or back of church, please return the ciborium to the altar as soon as possible using a side aisle and one of the communion rail gates. When placing the ciborium on the altar, do not put it on the corporal; simply place it to the side of the corporal.

⁽¹⁾ Dwain Dungen will be instituted as an Acolyte by Bishop Cahill on April 20 as one more step in his formation and ordination as a Deacon. As an instituted Acolyte, Dwain becomes an “ordinary” minister of Holy Communion. As such, when he is at the altar after April 20, there will be no need for an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion to assist the priest celebrant with the distribution of Holy Communion at the altar since Dwain will be doing so as an “ordinary” minister of Holy Communion. There will only be one Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion needed for the choir loft and/or the back of church.