

April 20, 2011

Church of St. Helen's
12060 Kinsman Rd.
Newbury, OH 44024

Dear Liturgical Ministers,

St. Helen's Parish Council has created a dress code policy for any member (man or woman) ministering at the Mass. This policy is being given to all musicians/choir members, altar servers, ushers, extraordinary ministers, and lectors. Please read the dress code policy and sign below indicating that you understand and agree with the dress code. Please return this form with your signature to the parish office by May 31st. Also, please follow this policy even when you are not scheduled to be a liturgical minister as you may be called upon to assist in the mass as a backup.

As always, we sincerely thank you for giving of your time and talent to St. Helen's parish. You are all truly a blessing to our Eucharistic celebration. May God continue to bless you and your family!

Signature:

Name Date

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

One of our recent parish council objectives was to document a policy on the appropriate clothing attire for any member (man or woman) ministering at the Mass. For example, these policies would pertain to choir members, altar servers, ushers, extraordinary ministers, and lectors.

We believe that this is such an important aspect of the Mass because it is at Mass that we honor and show reverence to our Lord and King. Modesty should be foremost.

Catechism Section 1387:

To prepare for worthy reception of this sacrament, the faithful should observe the fast required in their Church. Bodily demeanor (gestures, **clothing**) ought to convey the respect, solemnity, and joy of this moment when Christ becomes our guest.

Please remember that we should be modest and wear tasteful clothing in the presence of the Lord and as to not cause distraction or set a bad example in front of the congregation. Below is the dress code listing the attire for both men and women involved in any part of the Mass

I. Women

A. General

- Undergarments should never become outer garments. Bra straps should not be exposed.
- No tennis shoes should be worn (unless medically prescribed) and no shorts.
- No jogging outfits.
- Please note that standing on the altar has the appearance of making your dresses/skirts look shorter than they really are.
- We do not want to draw attention to ourselves. Even flashy modest clothes can be distracting and draw attention away from the altar.
- Please use modest jewelry and exclude face jewelry of any kind.

B. Shirts

- The neckline should not be lower than four fingers below the collarbone.
- The material should not be sheer, very thin, or spandex.
- Shirts should not be tight across the bust.
- The backs should be modest. For example, no strappy backs, halter, or backless garments.
- No sleeveless shirts unless worn with a sweater
- No bare midriff

C. Pants

- Should not be too tight, especially in the seat or thigh area.
- Should fit well, but not be skin-tight. One should be able to pull them away from the leg.
- Should not be able to see through the outer garments (Be aware that many white garments can be seen through)
- No jeans or stretch pants

D. Skirts / Dresses

- Should not be very tight fitting.
- Should not be constructed of a material that is too thin. If necessary, wear a slip.
- Should be no more than three inches above the knee.
- Dresses should follow the shirt guidelines.
- No sleeveless, strapless, or spaghetti (or other thin strapped) dresses, unless back and shoulders are covered.

II. Men

A. General

- Men if possible should cover any tattoos.
- No Jogging Outfit
- Only modest jewelry should be worn - no facial jewelry.
- We do not want to draw attention to ourselves. Even flashy modest clothes can be distracting and draw attention away from the altar.
- Properly groomed hair
- No tennis shoes (unless medically prescribed)

B. Shirts

- Ushers are required to wear blazers or suit coat.
- Shirts with collars should be worn

C. Pants

- Pants/slacks should be worn. Therefore no shorts, cutoffs, or jeans.
- Pants/Slacks should be worn around the waist; no underwear should be shown
- Pants should not be too tight

Thank you all for your time and talent you have given to St. Helen. We sincerely appreciate all that you do to make our "church" a spiritual and reverent place to worship our Lord Jesus Christ.

God Bless,

Parish Council