

## **DRESS CODE AND MODESTY GUIDELINES**

### **For First Communion and Confirmation**

Per Bishop Thomas: First Communicants (First Communion) or candidates and their sponsors (Confirmation) should wear “Sunday best” attire appropriate for the Church and for a sacred ceremony. Contemporary society does not provide much guidance as to what is truly appropriate, so some specific direction needs to be given at the level of the local parish. The U.S. Bishops state that “as Christians we should dress in a modest manner, wearing clothes that reflect our reverence for God and that manifest our respect for the dignity of the liturgy and for one another” (Happy Are Those Who Are Called to His Supper, p. 15. 1996). The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds all those preparing to receive worthily Holy Communion that “bodily demeanor (gestures, clothing) ought to convey the respect, solemnity, and joy of this moment when Christ becomes our guest” (no. 1387).

**It is preferable for boys to wear: • collared shirt and tie • dress slacks • dress shoes**

**It is preferable for girls to wear: • a dress or a skirt and blouse • dress slacks and blouse • dress shoes**

**Jeans, shorts, tennis shoes/sneakers, spiked-heeled shoes, and “flip-flops” are not appropriate.**

**Girls shoulders should be covered. If girls wear sleeveless, strapless, or “spaghetti strap” dresses then they are to wear a sweater or shawl as well. • Skirt length should be modest.**

### **ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES**

- Clothing should be clean and neat (no rips, holes, or stains).
- Hair should be a “natural” hair color and styled appropriately.
- Ladies should wear one pair of earrings only. Please remove any additional, visible, piercings so as not to distract.
- Gentlemen should not have visible piercings.
- Wear shoes you can comfortably stand and walk in. For Confirmation, ladies’ heels should not exceed two inches.

### **LADIES**

- Dress/skirt should not be more than 2 inches above the knee. If dress is shorter, LEGGINGS (not tights/hose), MUST be worn under the dress/skirt.
- Dress slacks are permitted.
- Top/dress/shirt should not be sheer unless it is over something that is opaque.
- Evening gown/semi-formal attire is not acceptable; no hoop skirts or wide dresses that won’t fit in the pew

### **GENTLEMEN**

- Shirts must be tucked in.
- Dress pants required and should be worn with a belt. No shorts, jeans, or cargo pants.
- Tuxedos are not acceptable.