

# St. Raphael Catholic Church

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May 1, 2008

Dear Liturgical and Music Ministers:

As you will recall, the Liturgical Life Commission discerned that promulgating a dress code for ministers was not necessary, since members of St. Raphael can surely determine appropriate dress for Mass and for serving on the altar. They believe that you, our ministers, should be able to determine appropriate dress for service. However, with the diversity of the people in our community there are many different ideas as to what is or is not appropriate dress for formal services in God's house.

Since the warm weather is returning, I am reminding you, our liturgical ministers, to be thoughtful of how you dress. This raises the question as to what specifically is not appropriate.

## **Clothing that is not appropriate for liturgical or music ministers:**

- outfits with the bare midriff or hips showing,
- halter tops or spaghetti strap blouses,
- body clinging tops, pants and skirts,
- tops or dresses that show any part of the breast,
- any outfit that shows undergarments,
- very short skirts or skorts,
- dirty or torn jeans/clothing,
- tee shirts with inappropriate secular messages printed on them or any outfit that makes a political or social statement
- shorts for men

If we look at the dress of those attending funerals at St. Raphael (even the teens and children), we do not see any of the above. Those attending are showing respect for the deceased, the family and the occasion. Doesn't Our Lord at Sunday Liturgy deserve the same?

I ask our Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Ministers of the Altar, Cantors, and Hospitality Ministers ***to prayerfully consider the attire you choose to wear while serving as a representative of the entire community.*** The liturgical documents tell us that ***ministers should be transparent in their ministry, allowing the Lord's presence to show forth in us, rather than attract undue attention to ourselves.*** Please remember that many times your service is needed on a last minute basis and it would be helpful to always be appropriately dressed to serve. We ask that you adhere to a higher standard of dress not only to show the proper respect for the Lord in His house but also to set an example for others in the community.

In Christ's Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Ted".

Fr. Ted Weitzel