

NORMS FOR VESTURE OF
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION
ST. ANN CHURCH AND SHRINE
METAIRIE, LA.

Every Mass is the celebration of the central mystery of the Catholic Faith. The death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus is the saving light of eternal life. The priestly ministry of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, the Holy Eucharist, is shared in the first instance with Bishops, Priests and Deacons. These all wear special vestments during both Sunday and weekday liturgies. Therefore, as specified in number 29 of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Norms, we find "All ministers of Holy Communion should show the greatest reverence for the Most Holy Eucharist by their demeanor, ***their attire*** and the manner in which they handle the consecrated bread and wine..."

1. The "vestment" of Extraordinary Ministers at St. Ann's is considered the special clothing one wears at a Church wedding, a funeral, or in a secular context at a banquet in a fine restaurant or hotel ball room. It cannot be the usual daily clothes worn at casual events. The criterion is not our personal comfort but the uniform of a leader.
2. For women, Christian modesty is the virtue sought in dress. This means no sleeveless or strapless dresses or sheer cloth and no visible cleavage. Dresses should be at or below the knee (longer preferred). Pant suits are acceptable.
3. For men, dignified and simple patterns of color and design are called for. Suit or sport coat and/or dress shirt and tie are the norm. Striking colors or designs that catch people's attention are to be avoided. No sports teams' (or other brand name) insignia should be visible.
4. For all, jeans (even dress type) or t-shirts with any symbols or wording are to be avoided. Even religious themed school or parish shirts are not appropriate for a liturgical minister.
5. The rule of thumb is to look dressed up (and possibly be noticed for that) but not in a way that calls attention to your self. It is the Christ that we are bringing ourselves and the assembled faithful to encounter and experience communion.