



Confirmation Mass Dress Guidelines

Confirmation is a gift from God that strengthens the Holy Spirit within the candidates and prepares them through the grace conferred to live out their lives as disciples. The sacrament of confirmation is not a celebration of adulthood in the Church or a ceremony of confirming faith and lifelong devotion to the Catholic faith. Our candidates will stand before God, His priests, and the whole Church to receive the gift of God's grace. They ought to be dressed in a way that authentically presents their dignity and identity as children of God.

We have set these dress guidelines to assist you and your candidate in preparing to approach the sacrament with grace and care. **These guidelines are intended for all in attendance to the Confirmation Mass, including the sponsor, family members, and all other attendees.** We would never prevent a candidate from receiving the sacrament on account of their financial inability to meet these guidelines. Please reach out if you have concerns or questions.

Note for 2022 and future years: We are no longer using confirmation robes for our candidates. St. Matthew will not provide robes, nor should families purchase robes for use during the Mass. You are welcome to purchase a robe for photos taken at home or prior to/after Mass, if you desire to.

Guiding Principles of the Dress Guidelines for Candidates:

- This is an occasion to dress your best, not a casual or everyday event.
- Candidates should feel comfortable and confident on the day of confirmation. If they constantly need to adjust or pull on their outfit to cover themselves, it will distract from their full participation in the Mass.
- Candidates should have a place to wear a nametag on the upper portion of their chest to be easily readable by the bishop.
- Candidates and their sponsor during the Rite of Confirmation will bow in front of the bishop, with their back to the congregation.

For all:

- No athletic shoes, boat shoes, casual sandals, or flip flops.
- No jeans (including "nice" jeans) or shorts.
- The color red is the traditional & liturgical color of Confirmation, but candidates are not required to wear red.
- Traditional cultural apparel (sari/wrapped garments, kilts, kimono, etc.) that meet the below requirements are also encouraged.

For gentlemen:

- Dress shoes (brown or black) with dark colored socks
- Dress pants with dress belt
- Dress shirt, long sleeve
- Tie or bowtie
- Sport coats/Blazers or suits may also be worn, if desired.

For ladies:

- Dress shirt & slacks, dress, or jumpsuit that meet the below guidelines are allowed.
- Dress flats or modest heels/wedges. (Make sure you can walk in them!)
- Neckline should be no more than one hand's width below collarbone.
- Skirts should come no higher than fingertip length when both standing and bowing.
- When bowing, no underwear, shorts or excessive cleavage should be seen.
- No midriff/low back cutouts or open back tops
 - Shoulders/Upper back should be 90% covered. Midriff should be 100% covered.
- No strapless or spaghetti strap shirts/dresses without a cardigan or cover worn at all times when inside.