



Our Lady of Consolation

CATHOLIC PARISH

4865 11 Mile Rd NE Rockford, MI 49341

March 2024

Dear Parishioners of Our Lady of Consolation,

Summer is so close! Even though I'm a big fan of cold-weather activities, I'm just as excited to go for a hike without my winter coat. As we look ahead into the summer months, please prioritize your weekend obligation- not just attending Mass, but proper attire for Mass.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states, "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." (CCC 1387). In most cases of a wedding, funeral, or another special event, many of us would take a moment to consider the appropriateness of our outfit. If you've ever been to Rome and the Vatican, you know shorts are not allowed to be worn inside St. Peter's. Why? Our Lord Jesus Christ present in the Holy Eucharist deserves our reverence of body and soul. Showing respect for Whom we encounter and receive at Mass, should be made both interiorly and exteriorly, for one affects the other.

With this in mind, please follow these guidelines:

- For women: Dress slacks or skirts/dresses which are not above the knee. Blouses, sweaters, or appropriate tops.
- For men: dress pants, dress shirts, khakis, jeans without signs of wear (holes), polo shirts, jackets with or without ties, sports coats, dress shoes, docksiders, or business suits.

Examples of inappropriate attire include jeans, flip-flops, sneakers, low-cut blouses or tops with spaghetti straps, and mini skirts/dresses that are inappropriately revealing. Please remember that these guidelines apply year-round, not just during the summer months.

What we wear to Holy Mass can give greater honor and glory to Almighty God, give good example and edification to others, and increase our faith and devotion to the Real Presence of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. The image we project reflects not only the dignity of the ministerial role, but our own personal dignity as well. Dress should express respect and reverence for the sacred mysteries that are being celebrated. It should never draw attention.

In Christ,

Father Dominic Couturier
Pastor