

The wedding attire of the bride and groom, the entire wedding party and guests should reflect the nature of what is being celebrated namely, the union of husband and wife before God, his Church and his people. As is sacred space and a sacred event, clothing should be modest and in good taste.

**When selecting dresses please avoid the following low-cut bodices showing cleavage sleeveless strapless or backless dresses-above the knee hemlines or hemlines with slits above the knee, open or sheer midsections, and very light-fining designs.**

**We ask that brides and bridesmaids would wear some type shawl or jacket that covers the shoulders, back and cleavage for your time here in the church.**

**Suits or tuxedos worn by the groom and groomsmen should also be chosen carefully. Guests attending your wedding should be aware of these guidelines as well.**

**In Reverence  
for our Lord  
in the Blessed Sacrament**

Arrive before Mass begins

Settle in and place your heart and mind in the presence of the Lord.

Say an individual preparatory prayer.

Participate and assist at the Mass by devoutly saying the Mass prayers and singing hymns.

Receive Holy Communion worthily and reverently.

Remember not to leave until after our celebrant, acting in the presence of Christ, has left the church.

**Please refrain from:**

- **talking in the church**
- **cell phone use, texting, games**
- **eating/drinking chewing gum**

**Attire**

Please avoid:

- shorts/skirts/dresses above the knee
- sleeveless/backless strapless sheer shirts, spaghetti straps midriff shirts, halter tops, tank tops, and swimwear
- low cut shirts/tops
- revealing or tight fitting clothing
- shirts/tops with suggestive wording or images.
- Men and boys should remove hats/caps upon entering the church.

**Sacred Heart of Jesus Roman  
Catholic Church**

**Reverence  
and  
Modesty at Weddings**

**From the Catechism of the Catholic Church**

*On modesty:*

**2521 Purity requires modesty, an integral part of temperance Modesty protects the intimate center of the person. It means refusing to unveil what should remain hidden. It is ordered to chastity to whose sensitivity it bears witness. It guides how one looks at others and behaves toward them in conformity with the dignity of persons and their solidarity.**

**2522 Modesty protects the mystery of persons and their love It encourages patience and moderation in loving relationships: it requires that the conditions for the definitive giving and commitment of man and woman to one another be fulfilled. Modesty is decency inspires one's choice of clothing It keeps silence or reserve where there is evident risk of unhealthy curiosity. It is discreet.**

**2523 There is a modesty of the feelings as well as of the body. Modesty inspires a way of life which makes it possible to resist the allurements of fashion and the pressures of prevailing ideologies.**

## **Reverence and Modesty at Weddings**

### **Congratulations on your engagement!**

We share your happiness and we pray that God will bless you abundantly during your marriage preparation and throughout your married life.

Your faith in the Lord and in His Church has led you to invite the community to share your joy through the public sacramental exchange of your vows of love

The celebration of Christian marriage, your wedding celebration, is an opportunity for the whole community to experience the Lord through powerful symbols spoken and sung Word, bread and wine, music and light, vows and rings, bride and groom. **In this celebration of the love of husband and wife, we see a reflection of God's love for us, the people of God.**

It is for this reason that careful planning should take place:

“How will this help us, our families and our friends enter into a prayerful celebration of God's love in our marriage?”

With this in mind, we hope you will find these guidelines useful.

**In the church we stand on sacred ground. The church, especially when the Most Blessed Sacrament is**

**reserved in the tabernacle, is the temple of God Jesus is truly present with us Understanding this, each of us is responsible for creating an atmosphere of reverence and prayer inside the church We must be aware of our behavior and demeanor in the sanctity of this sacred space. We ask all who enter the church to respect it as a place of prayer and encounter with God.**

**In consideration for those praying and the sacred setting of the church, a respectful quiet should be observed by all when in the church. For this reason we ask that there be as little conversation as possible in the church during rehearsal and before and after. Your wedding Guests may converse quietly in the narthex (vestibule) or in cooler weather, in the courtyard. Cell phones should be turned off and must not be used in the church We ask all to refrain from eating, drinking or chewing gum in the Church.**

**Special care must be taken in our way of dress when we enter the church. It**

is not simply a question of modesty, but of reverence for our Lord's presence. In our daily lives we all accept that in order for us to visit certain places or people we must go appropriately dressed. In our work places, we are expected to conform to professional forms of dress. We have all the more reason to be sensitive to this issue in church where God resides.

Through the way we dress we express our consideration for the people encountering us.

We owe it to the rest of our community, to our brothers and sisters who may feel understandably uncomfortable at seeing extremely short, tight or revealing clothing.

We owe it to ourselves because when we dress with decency, more than just covering ourselves, we are in reality manifesting our dignity through our way of dress and giving witness to the sacredness of where we are and what we have come to do.

For us as Christians, the body is sacred, so sacred that God himself took one. Having modesty does not mean we despise our bodies. On the contrary, it is a sign of a superior dignity, a physical echo of a spiritual soul that elevates us above every other creature and which demands discretion and respect.