

August 13, 2020

St. Aloysius Church Wedding Guidelines during Covid-19 Pandemic

Currently St. Aloysius Church is allowed to celebrate public Masses, sacramental celebrations and Wedding Liturgies, but we are required to follow these social distancing guidelines to lessen the spread of disease and to protect the safety of your family, friends, parish volunteers and staff:

- The seating capacity of the church is very limited. If we maintain 6' social distancing between households and individuals, it is estimated that only about 250 people may be seated in the church. Guests may need to be seated on all three side of the church.
- During this time, a Wedding liturgy needs to be a private function with only your immediate family and invited friends in attendance. You agree to help assure the allowed attendees by not publicizing the date and time of the wedding through any social media or messaging platform.
- All in attendance must follow the general guidelines for public worship in St Aloysius Church, ***These worship instructions from Phase I have not been relaxed:***
 1. See the Worship Guideline Video <https://vimeo.com/419701229>
 2. **Wash hands** with soap and water or **use hand sanitizer** before entering and upon leaving the church.
 3. **Face masks/coverings are required for everyone** from the time that you leave your car and the entire time that you are in the church building.
 4. Sit only in the available pews (unavailable pews are blocked off with tape or ribbon.). Members of a household may sit together. A 6'social distance in every direction should be maintained between individuals or household groups.
 5. Please do not embrace or shake hands with people outside your household. Do not hold hands during the Lord's Prayer. Offer the Sign of Peace without touching, using a bow, a wave or some other gesture.
 6. An offertory procession cannot not take place. The bread and wine for the Eucharist will already be placed on the credence table before Mass.
 7. Holy Communion will only be offered in the form of bread, in the hand.
 8. At the end of the liturgy please depart the church immediately without visiting inside or outside the Church. Do not remove face covering until inside your vehicle

Wedding Rehearsals: A Traditional wedding rehearsal with several guests in attendance is not allowed; however, a briefer meeting with the Bridal Party (to explain procession and seating), the Ushers (to explain seating arrangements), the Church Wedding Liturgy Coordinator, and an outside Wedding Planner will be held in advance of the wedding.

Photography:

- No large group photography sessions may be held in the church before or after the wedding.
- Photo sessions can take place outside or in another location, but not in church.
- A photographer may take candid photos during the ceremony, as well as, a few bride and groom only photos in the Church.

Arrival at the Church:

- Bridal party arrives no earlier than 30 minutes ahead of the wedding.
- The Groom and Groomsmen gather in the pews of the south transept (the cry room is not available)
- The Bride and Bridesmaids gather in the Parish Hall.

Seating of the Assembly by the Ushers

- All guests are required to wear face masks and use hand sanitizer (placed at entrances) on entering and exiting the church.
- Guests will arrive at the large wooden doors to the gathering space/baptistry area as they currently do. Glass Side doors will be closed.
- Ushers greet people (without touching or offering their arm) in the gathering space and then seat guests down the center aisle. Begin seating guests behind the reserved seats for the immediate family, filling the pews from the front to the rear, maintaining the 6' distance between households
- The distribution of programs, orders of worship, favors and the use of a Guest Book is discouraged.
- Once the central nave has been filled, then ushers will need to seat people in the north and south transepts.

Music: Vocal Music should be limited. A Cantor and an Organist/Pianist is allowed. Choirs and vocal ensembles are not allowed. Additional instruments are allowed.

Decorations: We will follow the regular parish guidelines for flowers and decorations which only limits flowers and decoration during the seasons of Advent and Lent.

Except for the pews of the parents and bridal party, the taping or blocking off of pews in the church may not be altered.

Procession into the church (*Those processing into the church, may remove face covering **only for the procession.***)

- Parents of the Bride and Groom are escorted in, walking together or escorted by a family member.
- For the entrance procession, the men will not escort the women down the center aisle. The Men will enter sanctuary from the South Transept. The women and flower girl/ring bearers will walk alone down the center aisle to the sanctuary.
- The bride will be escorted in the traditional way by father, parents or another person.
- A Cross bearer or altar server is not needed for Weddings.

- The Bride and Groom will be seated in the sanctuary as usual. The groomsmen and bridesmaids will be seated in the north and south transept, but seated socially distant, 6” apart (For large bridal parties, they will need to be in several pews.)
- For Weddings celebrated in the context of the Eucharist, kneelers for the bride and groom will be provided in the sanctuary.

The Liturgy of the Word

- Celebrated as we normally do, 3 readers are allowed to proclaim the first reading, the second reading and the General Intercessions.
- A binder with all the readings will be prepared by Worship Director and placed on the Ambo. All readings read from this binder at the Ambo.

The Rite of Marriage

- For the sharing of the vows and the rings, only the Best Man and Maid of Honor will join the Bride and Groom in the sanctuary. The others in the bridal party remain in their pews for the vows.
- Priest will wear face mask to receive vows; bride and groom will not be masked
- For the blessing of rings, the priest will provide his own holy water.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

- The presentation of the gifts of bread and wine does not take place. The bread and wine, vessels, linens and other items needed for the Eucharist are placed before Mass on a small credence table close to the altar.
- The wedding liturgy coordinator or another person may ring the bells at the elevations during the Eucharistic Prayer.
- As usual, when both Bride and Groom are Catholic, the Liturgy of the Eucharist is celebrated with the sharing of Holy communion with the couple and the assembly only under the form of bread. Holy Communion is given in the hand. (Only one Eucharistic Minister in addition to the priest will be required for most weddings.)
- One to Three Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion may be needed depending on the number of guests in attendance.
- In weddings where the Bride or the Groom may not be Catholic, the Liturgy of the Eucharist is not usually celebrated. This is determined by the Priest and the Couple.

Dismissal/Recessional

- After the Dismissal, everyone files out of church and immediately departs to the reception.
- No large group photography sessions will be allowed in the church after the wedding. A few photos with the bride and the groom and the officiant are allowed.

The church and all its contents and surfaces have been ‘fogged’ with Virus-killing disinfectant in advance of the Wedding Liturgy. These guidelines are required in the interest of compromising or contaminating as little as possible the sanitized condition of the premises for the protection and well-being of Church staff, volunteers, and attendees.