

Physical Spaces

Indoor

1. No indoor weddings are permitted at this time.
2. No church building, permanent or temporary, including the parish hall, school classrooms, school and parish offices may be used for any wedding service.
3. One interior location may be used for the “bride’s room”, but maximum occupancy must be limited to ten (10).

Outdoor

1. Provide sufficient on-site security to ensure maximum safety of attendees/guests during outdoor services; ushers should not serve in both capacities.
2. Designate an usher/volunteer to oversee a first aid kit, including sufficient bottles of water, should an emergency arise due to summer heat. Ensure that the usher/volunteer possesses a cell phone to Dial 911, should it be necessary.
3. Ensure outdoor attendees do not exceed 100 persons maximum at each service.
4. Use of parish parking lot is permitted only for the seating and spacing of wedding attendees/guests; attendees may not remain in vehicles during celebration of the wedding Mass or receiving communion.
5. Provide outdoor water misting systems if possible, utilizing either PVC piping or appropriate rubber hosing, which can be permanently affixed to building eaves. Do not affix misting systems to portable canopies, tents, Eazy-Ups, etc.
6. Maintain social distancing between all attendees of six (6) ft. minimum, except those that reside in the same household, by spacing chairs/seating six (6) ft. apart. If benches are used for seating, mark them as you would the church pews by taping seating areas six (6) ft. apart, ensuring all seating is stationed on flat surfaces.
7. Require face masks at all times, by all attendees, with the exception of those under two years of age and younger.
8. Ensure that sanitizing teams are in place and scheduled to sanitize chairs, tables, benches, or any other outdoor hard surface used during each outdoor service.
9. Allocate sufficient time between outdoor services for cleaning and disinfecting.
10. Mark the flow of traffic to the outdoor area, by taping or posting six (6) ft. spacings wherever possible by utilizing standing signage posts, tripods, or other stationary devices, including but not limited to safety cones, guard ropes, or colored safety tape.
11. Configure parking spaces to ensure six (6) ft. separation by closing or marking every other space.

12. Install outdoor portable restrooms, if possible; if not, ensure that interior building restrooms are closely monitored and thoroughly sanitized after each use.
13. Close all exterior drinking water fountains and any decorative outdoor water elements.
14. Install sun canopies, portable tents, Easy-Ups, or similar portable overhead protections; such enclosures must be open for full air circulation on at least two sides. Ensure that all installations are securely anchored.
15. Post signs in highly visible locations (e.g., entrances, exits, foyers) reminding congregants of social distancing requirements; incorporate non-slip yellow tape in areas where trip and falls may be an issue.
16. Post signs in all restrooms, including any portables used that describe proper handwashing, sanitizing, and personal hygiene practices.
17. No outdoor fans or air circulating devices are permitted.

Pastoral Directives

1. Schedule weddings during early morning or evening time periods, as much as possible, due to summer heat.
2. Weddings must be celebrated on church property; no off-site public gathering places, such as parks, beaches or community centers, may be used.
3. Create an outdoor worship space reflecting the reverence of the sacrament.
4. The sacrament of marriage may occur outside of the celebration of the Mass itself; however, if celebrated within the Mass, follow the pastoral directives for Celebration of the Eucharist outdoors.
5. Do not distribute liturgical worship aids, personal wedding programs or announcements.
6. No open flame candles are permitted outdoors; LED candles may be used.
7. Allow wedding flowers to be placed at, not on the altar.
8. Permit flowers to be offered to Our Lady or at another statue/image by the bride and/or groom, if requested; any statuary used must be returned to the church immediately after wedding ceremony.
9. Permit bridal party processions, ensuring that physical distancing requirements are maintained between each individual.
10. Allow groomsmen to walk separately, followed by bridesmaids; as an alternative, the bridal party may elect to be seated rather than process.
11. Allow the bride and/or groom to process in with his/her parents, if requested.

12. Ensure that the two witnesses remain in their respective chairs/seats during the entire liturgy and wedding ceremony.
13. Permit instrumental music as attendees/guests arrive, during communion, and the recessional; music may be provided by musicians or previously recorded and broadcasted electronically.
14. No cantors, choirs, or congregant singing of any kind is permitted at this time; however, previously recorded worship singing may be broadcasted.
15. Allow musical instruments, except woodwind or brass, which generate air particles.
16. Direct the priest or deacon, receiving the vows, to maintain the six (6) ft. physical distance from the bride and groom, at all times, including during the nuptial blessing.
17. Place the rings and arras/coins on a plate on a small table or stand near the altar. At the appropriate time bless the rings and the arras/coins at the table. Present them to the groom and bride at the proper time. The couple will exchange rings. The arras/coins are returned to the plate and the plate back on the table.
18. Placement of the lasso or veil is not to be included in the ceremony.
19. Omit the sign of peace at this time.
20. Distribute communion in accordance with the pastoral directives for Celebration of the Eucharist outdoors.
21. Ensure that ushers oversee entering and exiting of attendees and guests, in accordance with social distancing requirements.
22. Permit wedding photos at the end of the celebration; avoid gatherings of more than ten (10) in photo for more than ten (10) minutes.
23. Ensure that the photographer or videographer maintains proper social distancing, at all times, from attendees in the church.
24. Direct the photographer/videographer to wear a face mask or face shield.
25. Assign an "on-site" monitor/coordinator to ensure that these sacramental guidelines are followed, and to ensure directives for Physical Spaces are carefully monitored.