



CO-CATHEDRAL *of the* SACRED HEART

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

FLOWERS, CANDLES & More for Weddings

The Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart takes pride in the architectural beauty of our church and recognizes its “noble simplicity.” The use of flowers and other decorations can enhance a wedding liturgy as they can add additional beauty to the celebration. But due to the simplicity of our church, we believe simple adornment rather than many decorations is preferable. These guidelines are to be followed so that the beauty of our Church is protected. A copy of these floral guidelines is to be given to the florist.

1. Flowers may be placed in the altar area only in the designated spaces in the diagram of the reversed side. Flowers may be placed on the church provided pedestals in the back of the altar area; or in front of the ambo (pulpit) and the cantor (musician) lectern. Since the church is so large, proportionality of the size of the floral arrangements to the size of the church should be considered. But any floral arrangement in front of the ambo and cantor lectern is to be an appropriate, proportionate size so as not to obscure completely the ambo and cantor lectern.
2. Only fresh flowers are allowed. Silk or artificial flower arrangements are **not** allowed.
3. All floral arrangements, potted, plants, etc., must have adequate saucers to prevent water spillage.
4. Existing seasonal floral arrangements (especially during the Christmas and Easter Seasons), potted plants, furnishings, etc., in the altar area and throughout the entire church may not be moved.
5. During the Christmas and Easter seasons, the church will be decorated beautifully already. There is normally no further need for additional flowers. However during the Easter Season which lasts 50 days, the Easter flowers normally only last up to 2-3 weeks at the most after Easter Sunday. So your flower arrangements could be used, but always recognizing the existing Easter décor. Normal-ly, they could be put on the pedestals in the back of the sanctuary (altar area).
6. It is customary to leave your flowers in the church for weekend Masses. If you choose to donate your flowers, you may request a letter for tax purposes. You may share your flowers (and expense) with others being married on the same day. To arrange this, consult the parish wedding secretary.
7. **Weddings during Lent** – To respect this liturgical, penitential season (which does not allow flowers), floral arrangements are **not** allowed in the sanctuary (altar area), nor other areas in the church. During Lent, only flowers carried or worn by the bridal party (including any immediate family members), and any flowers to be presented to the Blessed Virgin Mary, are allowed.
8. Flowers (either a bouquet or vase) for the Blessed Virgin Mary may be presented by both the bride and groom after the exchange of vows and rings. These flowers are to be placed prior to the wedding ceremony as follows: a bouquet on the front bench or a vase on the sanctuary floor—both on the cantor (musician) lectern side. Or someone can present the flowers to the bride and groom.
9. Pew decorations: Flowers/greenery and/or bows may be placed only on the first pew on either side of the center aisle using only special floral hangers. Only the first pew has a “side” panel facing the main aisle so as to attach such decorations. Pews (or any other furnishings) must not be marred in any way by adhesive tape, staples, tacks, screws, clamps, etc.
10. The Church is available for floral set-up **no earlier** than one hour before the wedding.

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11. If you desire to use a candelabra, the parish set must be used. Contact the parish wedding secretary to secure them. No outside candelabra are allowed.

12. Nothing may be placed in front of or on the altar or the Celebrant's chairs. The Church furnishings and liturgical decorations anywhere in the church may not be changed or moved.

13. No aisle stanchions, lanterns or candles, etc., or aisle runners are permitted due to safety reasons.

14. To ensure accessibility, ribbons or ropes may not be used to block access to any aisle.

15. The throwing of real or artificial flower petals, bird seed, rice and/or confetti, etc.; the letting go of doves or butterflies, balloons or bubbles, etc., are not allowed due to safety reasons.

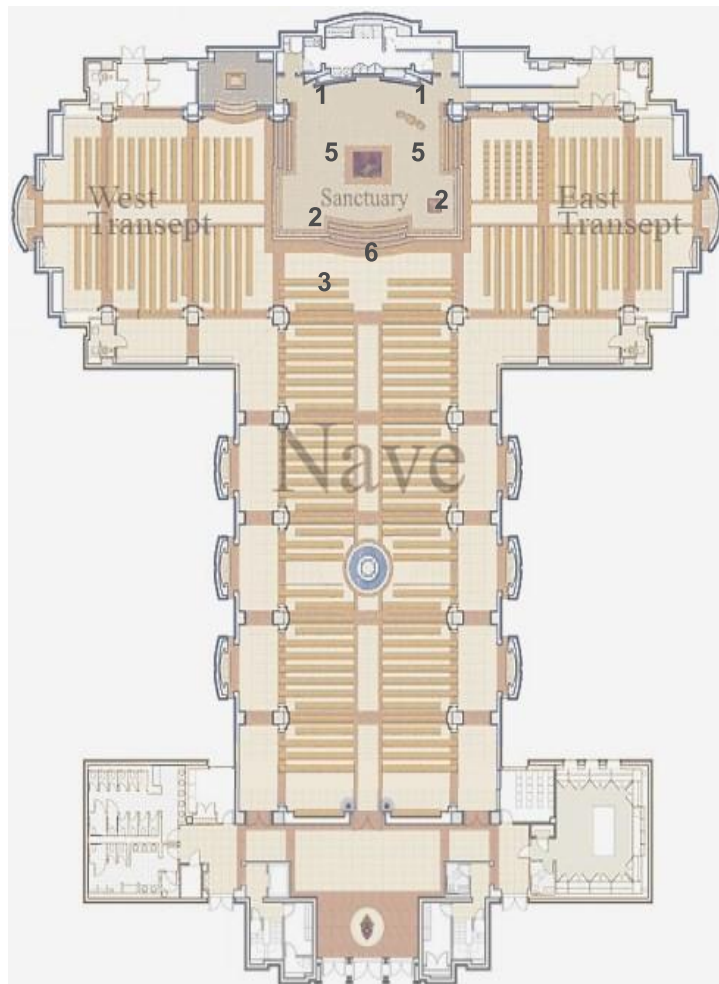
16. Full dignity and decorum is expected by all in the church. Ensure that the Church is left in the same order in which you found it.

The officiating priest or deacon and/or the Co-Cathedral's wedding assistant will enforce these guide-lines if they are not observed.

It is the bride and groom's responsibility to give a copy of the Co-Cathedral's guidelines to any florist. If these Co-Cathedral's guidelines are not followed, the bride and groom understand their wedding deposit will be forfeited.



1. Floral arrangement on church provided pedestals
2. Floral arrangement in front of ambo & cantor lectern
3. Vase of flowers for Mary
4. Bouquet for Mary: front bench
5. Two candelabra
6. Wedding kneeler



November 3, 2017