

WEDDING GUIDELINES FOR THE PREVENTION OF COVID-19

The celebration of the Rite of Matrimony is a joyous moment for the wedding couple, their family, and the Church. To reduce the spread of COVID-19, the following guidelines have been implemented for the Sacrament of Marriage:

1. To practice social distancing, a capacity of 20% or no more than 76 units will be allowed in the church during the ceremony. A unit can be a family that lives in the same household or one individual. The wedding party is included in the 76 units.
2. Every attendee at the liturgy must wear a mask and encouraged to wash their hands or utilize hand sanitizers for the safety of all.
3. Masks do not have to be worn by the bridal couple, wedding party, or parents during the processional and recessional. Masks are to be in their pews prior to the ceremony so they can be worn once seated.
4. Only the bride, groom, maid/matron of honor and best man are to be allowed on the altar with the priest during the vows and exchange of rings. When seated, the maid/matron of honor, best man and wedding party must practice social distancing.
5. Ushers are to seat attendees from the side aisles rather than the middle aisle. The middle aisle is reserved for the wedding party. Those in attendance may exit by the side aisles as well as the middle aisle.
6. Flowers and decorations must be kept to a minimum to lessen surfaces which may be a means of transmitting the COVID-19 virus.
7. All social distancing signs/markings relating to directional pathways, pew entry, masks, occupancy limitations, etc. must remain in place.
8. The Rite of Matrimony must not be prolonged unnecessarily. The bride and groom are to forego certain customs and traditions not essential to the validity, integrity, and dignity of the rite.
9. The bride's room in the church loft will not be available for dressing the day of the wedding. The wedding party is encouraged to dress at home. For a fee, the St. Mark Room in the Parish Center is available for congregating before the ceremony. Social distancing must be practiced.
10. The bride and groom are to communicate and explain the health and safety guidelines that are in place to their family and friends who will be attending the liturgy. If any of the immediate family, wedding party, and other guests fall in the vulnerable category, or exhibit a symptom(s) of the COVID-19 virus, it is highly recommended they stay home.

These wedding guidelines will go into effect August 1, 2020 and will remain until the virus is mitigated.

Respectfully submitted,

Fr. Joe Culotta
Pastor

Christina Rickey
Wedding Director