

St. Laurence Catholic Church

Ave Maria Parish Life Center Facility Rental Policy (12/15/15)

The Ave Maria Center is not available for private party rental (including wedding receptions and other personal celebrations).

The reason for this is pastoral, in the best interest of the parish and our surrounding community. The primary purpose for Ave Maria Center is to support the religious education and ministry activity of St. Laurence Catholic Church, a purpose decided on and agreed-to during the Needs Assessment and design phases of the construction of this parish facility.

Five principal points in support of this policy:

- 1. Scheduling** – A venue for wedding receptions and other large celebrations is generally reserved 6-18 months prior to the event. As well, the rental would likely be for 2 days (Friday for setup and Saturday for the event). Annual parish pastoral planning and scheduling occurs each May, when all meetings, classes and events are scheduled for the coming 12-month period. If wedding receptions are allowed to be scheduled beyond that which pastoral activities are planned, conflicts will result that may negatively impact the ability for the parish to use the facility for the purposes it was designed and built.
- 2. Parking** - Due to parking limitations we must manage the number of large events that take place on the property. The need for parking before the Saturday evening vigil mass is a priority and must be accommodated.
- 3. Cleaning** – If receptions and parties were allowed to take place on Saturdays, the facility would require thorough cleaning and be reset for pastoral activities which occur on Sunday, such as Family Faith and Life Teen. The weekend maintenance staff is sufficient to manage pastoral events, but not the type of work involved in cleaning up after a party.
- 4. Staffing** – The parish would have to employ additional staff to administer event planning and cleaning of the facility associated with rental activities.
- 5. Permitting** – During the permitting process of the Ave Maria Center the neighbors in close proximity to our building raised concerns regarding noise and traffic from our new facility. We assured them and the City of Sugar Land that we did not intend to increase our hours of use in the new facility. Having wedding receptions on Saturday evenings would represent a change to our operation and would likely increase the noise and traffic that our neighbors expressed concerns about.