

Guidelines for Rite of Matrimony during Pandemic

We are happy to celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage with you and your family! Currently, we have certain measures in place which must be observed for the safety of all who participate.

- 1. Safety Protocols:** Masks are required before entering and while you are in the church building. Your temperature will be taken, and hands sanitized as you enter the Narthex. Physical distancing is to be observed. These protocols will also apply to your guests. Please let them know ahead of time so they can come prepared. [Bride and Groom alone may remove their masks at designated times—entrance of the bride, during the vows, for 1 photo following the celebration.]
- 2. Wedding Rehearsal:**
 - Please arrive **no more than 15 minutes before** the scheduled wedding rehearsal (typically held on Friday, the day before the wedding at 5:30 p.m.).
 - Only those who will be in your wedding, such as the bridal party, parents, grandparents, lectors, ring bearers and flower girls, should attend.
 - The safety protocols mentioned above will also be observed at the wedding rehearsal.
- 3. Arrival time for the couple, bridal party, and immediate family:** On your wedding day, the bride and groom, along with the bridal party, and any *immediate family* (parents, siblings, grandparents) are permitted to arrive **1 hour before** the scheduled time of the sacrament. You will be escorted to the Emmaus Room (for the groom and groomsmen) and the Holy Family Suite (for the bride and bridal party). Photographers and florists are also permitted to arrive **1 hour before** the celebration; however, masks must always be worn while in the church building. If you would like to take pictures outside in one of our gardens, masks are optional.
- 4. Arrival time for the guests:** Extended family and friends are invited to arrive **no more than 20 minutes before** the scheduled time of the sacrament. Guests should be notified that if they have been sick or in an at-risk group they should not attend. The total number of guests is currently limited to 25% of our capacity. In the Lady Chapel you may have up to 35 guests. In the Church, you may have up to 400 guests. All safety protocols mentioned above will be observed.
- 5. Seating:** Hospitality Ministers will direct everyone to their seats. Physical distancing guidelines are followed and roped off areas and signs must be observed. All safety protocols mentioned above will be observed.
- 6. Greeting your guests:** Once settled in the Emmaus Room (for the groom and groomsmen) and the Holy Family Suite (for the bride and bridal party), if desired, the couple and/or the couple's parents may stand in the Narthex so that guests will have an opportunity to greet the couple as they arrive. No other visiting is allowed, and guests are not allowed to approach the bride and groom. All are required to follow the safety protocols.
- 7. Optional:** Arras, Lazo/Cord/Veil, & Marian Devotion are optional parts of the Rite and with prior notice, are permitted. At this time, there are to be no gift presenters (for the bread and wine).
- 8. Pictures and Dismissal:**
 - You may have **1 picture taken with the clergy**, and **30 minutes for pictures in the worship space** following the liturgy. In the worship space, everyone must wear a mask. If you would like to take pictures outside in one of our gardens, masks are optional. Only those who will be in the pictures should remain in the pews. We recommend making a plan prior to the wedding.
 - Your guests will be dismissed following the liturgy. Hospitality Ministers will direct this dismissal of the assembly by section and pew. Guests are encouraged to maintain social distancing.
 - These guidelines must be given to the hired photographer(s).

I have read and agreed to the guidelines listed above.

Signature: _____

Date: _____