

# SAINT ALBERT THE GREAT

## Guidelines for Weddings during COVID-19 Pandemic

### Welcome to Your Wedding Day!

The pandemic of 2020 has disrupted and threatened almost every aspect of our social lives but it has been a particular pain and disruption to your wedding plans. We sympathize with that difficulty and, as your church, we offer our prayers and support to you and your family. Also know, that our obligation and responsibility is to keep everyone as safe as possible while on our church property.

To that end, we have developed this guidelines for the celebration of a wedding in light of the covid-19 pandemic in cooperation with the CDC, Governor DeWine, and the bishops of the state of Ohio. Please refer to our parish website ([www.saint-Albert.org](http://www.saint-Albert.org)) for the most up-to-date guidelines. Anyone unable to cooperate or uncomfortable with all of these guidelines is asked to refrain from attending a wedding in our church at this time.

We thank you in advance for doing your best to cooperate with all of these guidelines because they are the best we can propose considering our obligation and responsibility to the common good, to the wider community, to our government and health officials, and our church authorities.

### Wedding Guests are Worshippers in our Church

Anyone desiring to enter the church for your wedding ceremony will be asked to observe several public health and sanitary precautions known widely as “social distance”. Therefore,

- The number of people permitted in church is limited to those who can fit into the designated “box seats” marked on the pews with yellow tape (approx. 250 people)
- **face coverings** are to be worn inside buildings by everyone older than two years of age (please bring your own)
- **sanitization of hands** upon entering the building - sanitizer is available at the entrances (you should carry personal sanitizer with you)
- **social distance** while seated (sitting only within the yellow marked box seats) and during standing/ waiting in line (floors are marked in red)
- reception of holy communion **in the hand only**
- no use of kneelers, no physical contact with non-family members, no socializing in the church, etc
- All worshipers are required to leave the church immediately following the service and refrain from congregating or socializing in church

### Virtual broadcast of your wedding

Our church is equipped with a very modest cell phone stand located in the first pew of the church if you would like to broadcast your wedding on Facebook Live or some other streaming service that you may have available.

### The Wedding Rehearsal

The wedding rehearsal will be led by our wedding coordinator and will last for approximately 45 minutes. Everyone attending the rehearsal is required to practice and observe social distancing including wearing face coverings.

## **The Wedding Celebration**

- The members of the wedding party will be seated socially distant from one another in the front pews of the church.
- The members of the families can be seated in household groups however separated by an empty pew in front and behind.
- All other guests for the wedding must be seated according to the marked seating chart (yellow taped boxes on the pews, socially separated)
- It is understandable that the members of the wedding party, the bride, the groom, and the bride's father would remove their face coverings as they walk in procession.
- All members of the wedding party and the families are required to replace their face coverings once they have taken their seats in the church.
- The bride and groom will be seated in the sanctuary and will not be required to wear a face covering during the celebration of the wedding nor during the exchange of vows.
- Only the best man and maid of honor will be invited to step forward for the exchange of vows and they will stand at least six feet distant from the couple.
- If the wedding celebration includes Mass, there will be no gifts of bread and wine presented
- The readers of the Scriptures and the intercessions will need to carry paper copy of the reading, read from a standalone microphone outside the pulpit/ambo, removing mask only for speaking.

## **After the Wedding**

- Greeting Bride and Groom: The family and congregation cannot congregate on the patio in front of the church waiting to greet the bride and groom with bubbles or any other thrown materials.
- Pictures: Due to the need to sanitize the entire church before the Saturday afternoon mass and because of the demands of social distancing, we can permit 15 minutes for the taking of family/ household pictures only inside church after the wedding. Photographers and videographers are free to record the wedding during the service as always.