



WEDDING INFORMATION
AND GUIDELINES
FOR THE CATHEDRAL PARISH
OF SAINT AUGUSTINE



Congratulations on your upcoming marriage in the Cathedral Parish. The following are reminders of various topics that may be helpful in planning the day of your wedding.

No Bride's Room

Please come to the Church dressed for the ceremony.

None of our facilities has a place for the bride or any of the wedding party to get dressed. Each of our facilities has a secluded space where the **bride and a maximum of two others** can wait; however, they are not equipped for dressing. The groomsmen are to assemble in the rear of the church to help with the ministry of hospitality. If you are traveling from a distance, we suggest that you rent a hotel room near the parish for dressing. For your protection please be sure to lock your handbags and valuables in the trunk of your car. Do not leave them in the bride's waiting area.

Visitors/Tourists

The Cathedral Basilica is one of the most visited locations in the historic district of St. Augustine. In order to minimize any wedding disruptions by tourists, we strongly recommend you assign someone to be positioned outside of each of the three main doors of the Cathedral (front door and each transept door). In addition to acting as hospitality to your guests, these people can point out to the tourists that the Cathedral is closed for a private service. While the parish does provide signs for the doors stating that the Cathedral is closed for a private service, our experience has been that many tourists do not always abide by the signs.

Furnishings

The altar, ambo (pulpit), cathedra (Bishops chair) and other furnishings are *fixed* and cannot be moved. The seasonal decor and other appointments in the Church (Advent wreath, Easter candle and seasonal flowers), likewise, may not be altered or moved. We will provide kneelers, chairs, altar candles, and other elements of the liturgy, as needed.

We do not recommend using candelabras; if you choose to use them they may be placed in the sanctuary; however, you need to rent them yourselves. In your rental agreement be sure that the company will come just before the ceremony to assemble them, and remove them *immediately* after the ceremony. Remember, we cannot be responsible for storing or keeping track of any decor you rent.

Rice

Bird seed, rice and any other confetti-like substance may not be thrown on the Church's property or in the front of the Cathedral on the City of St. Augustine's property. It is helpful to advise guests of this policy before the wedding date.

Military Weddings

Military swords remain in the vestibule during the liturgy. Sword ceremonies may only take place outside the doors of the church.

Concern for the Handicapped

The Cathedral is equipped with an entrance for the handicapped on the West side of the Cathedral. The New Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche can be accessed through the main entrance.

St. Benedict the Moor Church is handicapped accessible through the main entrance.

The Cathedral has No Parking

In order to help your guests find parking near the Cathedral may we suggest the following:

Free Parking: The Cathedral Parish School/Parish Center parking lot, located 4 blocks south of the Cathedral on St. George Street. Please email the parish manager (cathadmin@gmail.com) to make a reservation. If available, your guests may only park for the time surrounding the wedding ceremony.

Both St. Benedict and The New Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche have ample parking.

Metered Parking: The City of St. Augustine has metered spaces and lots around the Cathedral. These meters are enforced until 5 pm Monday-Saturday.

Florists

We suggest coordinating your colors with the liturgical seasons. Artificial flowers and artificial greenery are not appropriate. The Florist is allowed to set up ***no earlier than one hour prior to the scheduled start of the wedding***. Additionally, any flowers that are not being donated to the parish must be removed from the church immediately following the wedding.

At the Cathedral Basilica, wedding floral decorations may be a complement to, not a substitute for, decorations already in place for regular parish celebrations. You may not remove or relocate any of the parish's flowers, nor can you move the Advent wreath, Nativity, or Easter candle.

Bows may be attached to the pews using ***only*** elastic bands, string or ribbon (tacks, nails, tape and metal devices are not permitted). Please remove all pew markers from the church immediately following the celebration.

Pew candle stands are not permitted.

Unity Candles are not permitted. As the use of candles in the liturgy always symbolizes Christ as the Light of the World, the unity candle is not permitted in the church.

Aisle runners are not permitted. Due to our polished floors, our liability insurance prohibits this because they slip on the marble flooring and may be hazardous. For the same reason the flower girl may not drop petals as she comes up the aisle.

We would greatly appreciate it if you would donate your flowers to the church in order to share your celebration of God's love with the rest of the community. If you use palms or larger plants make sure they are removed from the church **immediately** following the celebration.

When multiple weddings occur on a particular day, some couples choose to leave their flowers. Consult with the church sacristan about coordinating this.

Photographers and Videographers

Photographers and videographers are welcome to film the liturgy but may not intrude upon the liturgical action. Flash photography and external lighting are permitted during the processional and recessional, but **NOT during the liturgy.**

Please advise your photographer and videographer that neither equipment nor personnel may be in the sanctuary (altar area) or in the doorways leading to the sanctuary during the wedding liturgy.

In the Cathedral, equipment may be set up in the following locations: the center aisle, and the corners of the transepts with the nave.

Pictures may be taken for one half-hour following the wedding. Please respect this time as there may be another wedding, Mass, or the hearing of confessions following your liturgy. Sometimes with all the excitement, the picture taking gets rather noisy. Please remember that you are still in a house of prayer and there will be people coming into the church.

Please remember:

Your reservation for the church begins one hour before the start of your ceremony. Please communicate this to anyone who may be setting up or making a delivery. Access to the church prior to the start of your reservation is not permitted.

It is imperative that you begin and conclude within the times communicated to you in your reservation confirmation. There are often events scheduled before and after your reservation.

The parish reserves the right to terminate the rehearsal or wedding ceremony (including pictures) at the end of the allotted time (whether finished or not) if there is another event scheduled.

The Bride and Groom are responsible for ensuring prompt attendance of the wedding party and that the events do not exceed the allotted times.

Alcohol is not permitted on the church grounds.

No food or drinks are allowed in the church.

The fees you have paid include no stipends for your Priest/deacon or altar servers. (Suggested minimum offering to your priest/deacon is \$200.00 and \$25.00 for each altar server)

To insure that nothing is left at the church, please assign someone the responsibility to collect all your belongings after the ceremony, especially in the bride and groom's waiting areas.

Please email the parish sacristan (cathedralsacristan@gmail.com) if you have any further questions.