

## St Francis Xavier Parish Environment Guidelines

Thank you for choosing St Francis Xavier for your Sacrament of Marriage. We believe that our church is a beautiful setting and hope you enjoy your special day with us. In order to help us maintain the beauty of the parish, please keep the following in mind when planning decorations and pictures for your wedding. You may also want to share this with family and friends who will be helping you with these plans.

St. Francis has been blessed with many weddings in the past year. Please keep this in mind when planning your wedding, as you may be sharing the weekend with another couple and the use of the building may be limited.

Confessions begin at 3:00 on Saturday afternoon before the evening Mass. Out of respect for all who worship at the parish, please plan accordingly so that everyone from the wedding party is out of the facility and all areas have been cleaned by 3:00 pm.

### Building use:

- Always keep in mind the Liturgical Season in which you plan to be married. Decorations in the church are to be left as is.
- Designate at least 2 people to help CLEAN the parish after the wedding. This includes any areas used downstairs. Your deposit can only be returned if the church is left exactly as it was found. This includes: emptying garbage, picking up clothing bags and flower boxes, all food and beverages, decorations and programs.
- Aisle runners are not permitted. There is often not enough time to secure them to the floor and people have been known to trip on them resulting in injuries
- Blowing of bubbles as the Bride and Groom leave the church is encouraged. NOTHING else is to be thrown outside the church, including rice, birdseed, flower petals and confetti
- Again, space is limited. If you are planning to provide snacks for your wedding party, please keep in mind that we can only guarantee the availability of the dressing rooms. If Reidy Hall is not otherwise being used, we are happy to provide this additional space.
- Alcohol (including champagne) and smoking are strictly prohibited on the church grounds. No alcohol should be consumed before the ceremony by anyone involved in the Liturgy

### Candles:

- The only candles allowed during the wedding ceremony are: The two altar candles and the candelabras provided by the church (to be placed on the rear altar)
- You may have an optional Unity Candle and Tapers. These are NOT provided by the church. Your Liturgy Coordinator will be happy to work with you to find the appropriate space for them and holders in which to place them.

## Flowers:

- Keep flowers arranged tastefully and not overdone. Arrangements may be placed on the rear altar and in front of the ambo.
- Flowers and all other decorations must never block the view of the altar or of the Bride and Groom
- Flower petals, including silk, may not be thrown by the flower bearer. We would be happy to recommend alternatives.
- Silk flower arrangements may be used for pew decorations. In addition, pew bows or arrangements may be attached only with either ribbon or rubber bands.

## Photography:

- Video and photography are allowed
- We recommend taking pictures before the ceremony and should be completed 30 minutes before the start of the service
- Within the 3:30 time constraint, you may have an additional 15 minutes after the ceremony to take additional pictures
- During the marriage liturgy, a photographer or videographer should work with care and sensitivity to the environment of worship and prayer, not interrupting the flow of the liturgy and at no time being offensive or disruptive or blocking the movement of ministers at the procession or recession
- Use of flash attachments, floodlights, etc. during the wedding is not permitted.

## Liturgical Ministers:

- You will need readers for 3 readings, and for weddings with Mass, a minimum of an additional 3 Eucharistic Ministers
- All Liturgical ministers should be adult, active Catholics
- Special consideration will be given for persons of other faith traditions to serve as readers, gift presenters, etc.