

St. Andrew Church

400 ST. ANDREW DRIVE
HOLTS SUMMIT, MISSOURI 65043

573-896-5010

WEDDING POLICY

Dear Bride and Groom,

We are glad you are interested in celebrating your wedding at St. Andrew Catholic Church or have already chosen to do so. This wedding policy is provided to guide you through the wedding process. It states the options that are available and some things that we ask you not to do. Please follow these guidelines, and please contact us if you have questions. The diocesan policy can be found at

GENERAL INFORMATION

Catholic weddings can take place between two Catholics or a Catholic and a non-Catholic.

If one of the parties is non-Catholic, the Catholic party must sign a profession of faith in which he or she commits to continuing to practice the Catholic faith and do everything in his or her power to have their children baptized Catholic and raised in the Catholic faith.

If either party has been previously married, an annulment must be granted before a wedding can be scheduled. This applies to both a Catholic and a non-Catholic. If either of you have been married, please consult your pastor.

If a Catholic has not celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation, arrangements should be made to be Confirmed prior to or soon after the wedding, according to the scheduling of the person's home parish.

SCHEDULING A WEDDING AT ST. ANDREW

The wedding policy of the Diocese of Jefferson City requires that couples **contact the parish office at least six months prior to the date you would like to schedule your wedding**. You can tentatively reserve dates for your wedding and rehearsal, but the dates will not be finalized until you have spoken with the pastor of the parish.

Weddings can be celebrated on Friday evening or on Saturday at or before 2 pm.

Rehearsals can be scheduled on Friday night for a Saturday wedding, at a time arranged in consultation with the presiding priest or deacon, usually at 5, 5:30, or 6. Day and time for rehearsals for a Friday wedding need to be worked out with the presiding priest or deacon.

Only one wedding per day is scheduled because of limited time on Friday evening and our Saturday confession and Mass schedule.

Priests or deacons other than the pastor or deacon of St. Andrew may celebrate the wedding with the permission of the pastor of St. Andrew.

The maximum capacity of the church is 500 people.

The St. Joseph Room may be used by the bride and her bridesmaids as a **dressing room** prior to the wedding. The St. Anne Room may be used by the groom and his groomsmen. Any items brought by the wedding party need to be removed following the wedding.

You may take **photographs and video recordings** during and after the wedding. Photographers and videographers and their equipment can move throughout the main body of the church, but are to refrain from going into the sanctuary (from the altar steps forward).

Please do not bring **food or drink** into the church, other than water for the musicians.

Alcoholic beverages are not to be consumed on church property other than in the rented reception hall and only after the wedding. If this is not followed, the parish priest or officiating priest may cancel the wedding.

Please do not throw **rice, birdseed, confetti**, or any other material inside or outside, in order to prevent slipping and debris.

Smoking is not permitted anywhere inside the building or outside by the entrances.

DECORATIONS

The church may be decorated for a Friday evening wedding after 10 am, and for a Saturday wedding after 9 am, unless there is a church event such as a funeral that would make the church unavailable until later. Please contact the church office early in the week to inquire if there are any such events. We will notify you if something arises that would affect the availability of the church during those times.

If a **candelabra** from a florist or rental facility is used, it must be dripless (wax candle placed inside a tube). The parish does not have candelabra.

Pew candles can be used only with hurricane lamps and candle tubes. Clamps must be padded to prevent scratching the pews. Please be careful when removing candles to avoid dripping wax.

Please do not remove parish floral arrangements unless you consult with the pastor. If certain items be easily moved, an exception can be made. Church decorations for Advent, Christmas, Lent, or Easter may not be moved.

Aisle runners are discouraged, but not prohibited.

If **flower petals** are used, please use artificial petals.

Please do not relocate any equipment or furnishings.

Please do not use Scotch or other tape on any wood items or wall in the church.

Please designate a responsible person to ensure the church is back in order by 9 pm on Friday or 3:30 pm on Saturday. This person is responsible to make sure all wedding items are removed from the church and other rooms that were used, programs are picked up in pews and entrances, any debris is removed,

and original church decorations are back in their places, i.e., arrangements, kneelers, chairs, and candles.

MUSIC

Musicians may be St. Andrew musicians or other musicians. Musicians who are not from St. Andrew should familiarize themselves with the church's equipment prior to the wedding. They can schedule a practice time by calling the parish office at 573-896-5010.

The parish office has a list of musicians you can hire for your wedding.

The church has an electronic keyboard, piano, and sound system.

All music before and during the wedding must be **sacred music** – songs that are regularly found in church hymnals, with the exception of some classical instrumental pieces. Two traditional wedding marches are prohibited in Catholic weddings – “Here Comes the Bride,” and the march from A Midsummer Night's Dream.

Please do not attempt to adjust the sound system.

Please do not remove any sound equipment or instruments from their normal location.

FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE WEDDING

Per the wedding policy of the Diocese of Jefferson City, the procession takes place as follows: After the seating of grandparents and parents, the ministers process, followed by the bridesmaids and groomsmen, then any ringbearers or flower girls. There are three options for the bride and groom, with no preference: a. groom with parents, followed by bride with parents; b. groom by himself, then bride with father; c. bride and groom together.

If children are included in the procession, they need to be able to walk on their own or carried by an adult. Wagons or strollers are not permitted in the procession.

Unity candles are not part of the Catholic wedding ritual and are not permitted per diocesan policy.

Flowers may be taken to the statue of Mary if the couple wishes, after Communion during a wedding Mass and after the exchange of vows and rings if there is not Mass.