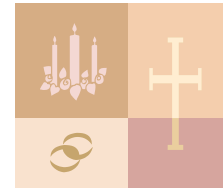


WEDDING GUIDELINES

CHURCH OF SAINT ALOYSIUS

JACKSON, NEW JERSEY



These guidelines have been prepared to identify the various action items that will need to be addressed during the planning phases for your upcoming wedding at Saint Aloysius Church. If you have any questions regarding the information contained in these guidelines, please contact the priest or deacon who is scheduled to serve as the celebrant for your wedding by calling the Parish Office at 732-370-0500 or by emailing the priest or deacon.

REQUIRED PAPERWORK

There are a variety of documents that are required to be submitted/completed while preparing for your special day. Each of the documents has been identified for you below.

• **REQUIRED CHURCH CERTIFICATES**

1. *Newly Issued Baptismal Certificate:* Catholic brides and grooms must obtain a current or newly issued certificate from their Church of Baptism at the time of booking a wedding date

Note: Brides or grooms who are baptized Christians, but are not Catholic, need only to provide a copy of their Baptism Certificate.

If you have already booked your wedding date at St. Aloysius, then you have already submitted your Church Certificates. Check this one off the list!

2. *First Communion & Confirmation Certificates:* Catholic brides and grooms are required to submit a copy of the sacramental certificate(s).

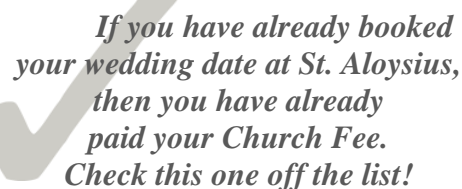
Note: If you have received your sacraments at St. Aloysius Church, the sacramental certificates will be provided by the Parish Office.

• **CIVIL REGULATIONS**

1. You must obtain a civil marriage license prior to your rehearsal date.
2. Marriage Licenses are obtained through the municipal offices of the town where the bride resides.
3. The Issued Marriage License is only good for 30 days.
4. An application for the marriage license requires three (3) full business days to process.
5. Blood tests are no longer required for marriage licenses – but are still recommended.
6. For more information, contact the Municipal Offices of the town in which the bride resides.

FEES AND DONATIONS

- **Church Fees:** Upon requesting to reserve a wedding date at St. Aloysius Church, you will be required to pay the Church fee. The Church Fee for weddings at St. Aloysius is \$500. There are additional fees for hired musicians.
- **Rebate Incentive:** As an incentive to encourage keeping to a timely schedule on your wedding day, a **\$100 Rebate will be issued to the couple via a check from St. Aloysius Church provided that their wedding began on time without any delays!** The rebate check will be mailed to you subsequent to the wedding at the address on the check that was submitted for the Church Fee.
- **Altar Server Donation:** A small tip of \$10 to \$20 is customary to show appreciation for the altar servers who will participate in your wedding liturgy. If you are having a Nuptial Ceremony, there will only be one altar server participating in your wedding. If you are having a Nuptial Mass, there will be two altar servers. ***This donation can be placed in the marked envelope and brought to your wedding rehearsal.***
- **Celebrant Appreciation Gift:** Couples often wish to show appreciation to the deacon or priest who has worked with them in preparing for their marriage. This is up to your own discretion and any gift should be made directly to the priest or deacon.
- **Musician Fees:** At the Wedding Liturgy Workshop, you will have the opportunity to hear a number of professional singers and instrumentalists who you may choose to hire for your wedding day. For more detailed information, please refer to your Wedding Music Packet. ***All musician fees should be mailed or submitted to the parish office one month prior to your wedding date.***



If you have already booked your wedding date at St. Aloysius, then you have already paid your Church Fee. Check this one off the list!

MUSIC & THE WEDDING LITURGY

Music certainly adds beauty and depth to all liturgical celebrations and is a necessary part of your wedding liturgy. All couples must attend our Wedding Liturgy Workshop. The workshop provides important details regarding music selections, liturgy planning, church requirements, enhancing the church environment as well as identifying musicians' fees. Cantors/soloists and other musicians participating that evening will provide you with musical selections that will assist you in the planning of your wedding.

Questions regarding your wedding are readily addressed by emailing Naomi Capasso, at weddings@saintalloysiusonline.org or by phone at 732-370-0500 Ext 217

PLANNING YOUR WEDDING LITURGY

We encourage you to take time to plan your wedding liturgy to ensure that it is focused and personalized to enhance the wedding liturgy experience for you as the new bridal couple and for your family & guests who will be there to witness this special day in your lives. There are a variety of choices for you to select from to achieve this spiritual goal.

- **Selection of Readings:** There is a packet of readings included within this wedding packet for you to review. Every wedding liturgy (Nuptial Ceremony or Nuptial Mass) will require that you select the following readings & prayers:
 - One Reading from the Old Testament
 - One Reading from the New Testament
- **Prayer of the Faithful:** The wedding coordinator will be emailing a Prayer of the Faithful form that you will be able to customize with your own personalization of prayers and petitions specific to your family's needs.
- **Selection of Readers:** You will need to select a total of three (3) people from among your family and friends to proclaim the two readings as well as to present the Prayer of the Faithful:
 - One Person to read the Old Testament Reading
 - One Person to read the New Testament Reading
 - One Person to present/read the Prayer of the Faithful (*Lord, Hear Our Prayer*)
- **Additional Rituals/Traditions:** There are several other opportunities to incorporate participations and/or rituals and traditions into your wedding liturgy. If you have a special devotion or cultural tradition that you would like to include in your wedding liturgy, be sure to speak to your priest or deacon about it.
- **Incorporation of Children in the Bridal Party:** We would ask that you use your good judgment when including young children within your bridal party. It is a stressful day in so many ways and it is more the norm than the exception that the children don't meet with your expectations of them that day – particularly if they are under 5 years old.

If you have little ones participating, it's best if a both parents can help: one to start their child down the aisle and the other to greet them at the front of the aisle. If his or her parents aren't available, plan to have a trusted family member able and assigned to escort or help the child on the day of the wedding.

THE CHURCH ENVIRONMENT & THE WEDDING LITURGY

- **Selecting a Florist for your Altar Flowers:** Wedding couples can select a florist of their own choice.
- **Decorative Bows for the Pews:** There are 22 pews on either side of the main aisle. If you are planning on incorporating the use of pew bows or ribbons, please be advised that no tape is allowed to be used to attach the bows to the pews {*tape damages the finish of the pews*}. Rubber bands, pipe cleaners, etc are materials that can be used to secure the bows to the pews.
- **Flower Petals & Flower Girls:** Many couples decide to incorporate a flower girl(s) into their bridal party. Please know that the scattering of flower petals (silk and/live) is prohibited.
- **Floral Arrangements:** Unless other arrangements have been designated, the Altar Flower Arrangements remain in the church after the wedding to enhance the liturgy worship space.
- **Weddings During Lent & Advent:** If your wedding is taking place during Advent or during the Lenten Season, floral arrangements on the altar are not permitted due to the solemnity of the liturgical season.
Advent 2016: November 27 through Christmas
Lent 2017: March 1 through April 16
- **Aisle Runners:** The use of aisle runners is prohibited in the church due to insurance regulations.
- **Handicapped Parking/Access:** There is ample handicapped parking as well as handicapped accessibility available at St. Aloysius. We encourage your guests to observe the handicapped parking regulations.
- **Smoking:** Smoking on the church grounds/property is prohibited.
- **Alcoholic Beverages:** No alcoholic beverages are permitted anywhere on the church grounds. This includes the use of alcohol prior to the wedding ceremony as well as the incorporation of a champagne toast at the limo following the wedding.
- **Good Luck Traditions:** For safety reasons, the use of Rice, Confetti, Birdseed and/or Balloons are not permitted to be “*thrown*” upon the departure of the bridal couple from the church. Fireworks or sparklers are also not permitted inside or outside of the Church.

THE WEDDING REHEARSAL

- **Scheduling**: Usually, the wedding rehearsal takes place on the night/afternoon before your wedding. The rehearsal dates and times are assigned by the Parish office.
- **Be On Time**: Please make sure your entire wedding party is ON TIME for the Rehearsal.
- **Who Should Attend**: Your family, the entire bridal party and lectors/readers should plan on attending the rehearsal.
- **Items to Bring to the Rehearsal**:
 - The Marriage License
 - Altar Server Donations
 - Celebrant Donation/Gift
 - Wedding Programs (*if applicable*)

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

We strongly recommend that both the bride and groom (*if Catholic*) receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation before their wedding weekend. If you wish to receive the sacrament on the night of wedding rehearsal, please arrange with your celebrant ahead of time. You can also call the parish office to schedule.

WEDDING PICTURES

Video or Still photography is permitted throughout your wedding liturgy. While we recognize the importance of capturing all of those special moments throughout your wedding day, please make sure that your photographer's eagerness to get the "best shots" for you does not negatively impact the solemnity of the Sacrament of Marriage taking place within the church.

There are definite guidelines that must be adhered to by your photographer during the wedding liturgy. Please provide your photographer and/or videographer with the enclosed flyer contained within this packet of information.

1. **Do not stop wedding procession coming up or going down the aisle.**
2. **No photographer/videographer allowed in front of first pew.**
3. **No photo/videographer should block view of guests.**
4. **No floodlights on tripods.**

Formal pictures may be taken in the sanctuary or on the church grounds after the ceremony. You have one hour and fifteen minutes from the scheduled time of your wedding to use the church and its grounds (*provided that your wedding liturgy begins on time!*). Saturday afternoon weddings must be out of the church by 4PM as Saturday afternoon confessions begin promptly at 4PM!

VISITING CLERGY

- If visiting clergy will celebrate your wedding, proper permission must be obtained. Please contact the parish office with your celebrant's name and contact information **within 2 months** of booking your wedding date.
- **All the necessary paperwork and preparation should be completed by visiting clergy. If they are unable, they cannot celebrate. The Parish Office can provide more information.**
- The Rehearsal date and time must be scheduled through the Parish Office to ensure that there are not any conflicts and to ensure that the church will be available to you at that time.

PARISH LIFE AFTER YOUR WEDDING

We encourage you to become actively involved within the Catholic Church Community wherever you move after you get married. If your plans include that you will remain within the boundaries of our parish after the wedding, you must **RE-REGISTER** as a new couple of St. Aloysius Parish. **This process will not occur automatically.** You can simply ask the priest or deacon who is preparing you for marriage at one of your meetings to assist you with the parish registration process. Or you can contact the parish office at 732-370-0500 for additional assistance with the registration process. We would certainly welcome you as members of our St. Aloysius Parish family!

FINAL THOUGHTS

The time of preparation for your wedding can often be stressful particularly with all the many details required to ensure that everything is coordinated perfectly for the wedding liturgy, the reception and all the other arrangements. Try to remain focused on the fact that you are truly preparing to receive the Holy Sacrament of Marriage. More importantly, try to keep things in perspective!

We are so happy that you have chosen to be married within the Church and that you recognize the importance of a faith filled union. As you continue in your vocation of holy matrimony, please know that we are here to walk alongside you and support you as you grow together in holiness and faithfulness. Make sure you keep coming to church and pray for the guidance and grace of the Holy Spirit as you prepare- not just for your wedding day, but for a lifetime.

May God bless you as you embark upon this new faith journey together!