

Saint Boniface

CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Safe at Worship COVID-19 Addendum to Wedding Policies and Guidelines

The following policies are in addition to those contained in the Saint Boniface “Wedding Policies and Guidelines” document. This addendum will remain in force for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic or until further modified or rescinded. We understand these policies mean that your wedding day may not look exactly as you have imagined it. However, they are necessary for the safety of you, your guests, and all others involved in your wedding. Our goal is for your wedding to spread love and joy, not disease. When approached in a spirit of mutual respect and understanding focused on the goal of protecting public health, we may be able to take your particular circumstances into account regarding some aspects of these policies. However, obstinate refusal to comply with these policies will result in the cancellation of the wedding and the forfeiture of all deposits and fees.

Capacity and Seating

- In order to maintain a safe distance of at least six feet between households, every third pew in the church is currently available for seating. Pews that are closed for seating are blocked with tape. The number and location of open and closed pews may not be changed for any reason.
- Under current social distancing guidelines, the church has a maximum capacity of approximately 50 households.
 - A precise number of individuals cannot be specified as this depends on the size of each household.
 - Multiple households may be seated in a pew as long as there are at least 6 feet between them.
- Seating for the wedding party should maintain 6 foot social distancing between individuals from different households.
- The tape used to block closed pews may be replaced with other material with the prior approval of parish staff. Whatever material is used (rope, ribbon) must block access to closed pews in some way. After the wedding, such materials should be removed and the tape replaced unless there is prior agreement with parish staff to leave them in place.
- If the church’s safe capacity is reached, additional guests will be refused entry.

Face Coverings

- All guests, members of the wedding party, and family members without a medical exemption should wear a mask or other face covering at all times inside the church. Face coverings should cover both the nose and mouth and comply with current CDC guidance.
- It is the bride and groom's responsibility to inform their guests of this requirement and to ensure that everyone has an appropriate face covering. Couples are encouraged to have masks available for guests who need one. Saint Boniface cannot provide masks for weddings.
- Any person processing from the back of the church should wear a face covering that complies with CDC guidance. This includes the bride and groom, bridesmaids and groomsmen, parents and grandparents, and children age 6 or older.
- Upon reaching the front of the church, the bride and groom may remove their masks for the duration of the wedding.
- Lectors should remove their masks as they approach the ambo and replace them before returning to their seats.
- During the marriage rite itself, members of the wedding party standing in the sanctuary may remove their masks as long as they are at least 6 feet apart from each other and from the couple.

Ushers

- Ushers should not hand programs to guests. Programs may be set on tables near each entrance and guests invited to take one as they enter.
- Ushers should not make physical contact with guests, including leading guests to their seats by the hand or the arm.
- Ushers must respect the configuration of open and closed pews when seating guests. They may not seat guests in pews that are closed, change the location of open or closed pews, or seat multiple households in the same pew if doing so would leave less than 6 feet between them.
- Ushers should discourage guests from congregating near the doors, in the aisles, or in the back of church before and after the wedding.

Music

- Cantors and musicians will perform from the choir loft only. Choirs and other vocal ensembles are not permitted at this time.
- While ordinarily the congregation is encouraged to participate in the liturgy through singing, at this time congregational singing should be limited.

Live-streaming

- Saint Boniface is unable to offer live-streaming of weddings at this time. Wireless internet access is not available inside the church.
- If you wish to stream using your own device over mobile data, the current policies regarding video recording apply.
- Parish equipment for the video recording of Sunday Mass may not be touched or moved.

Liturgical Procedures

- Members of separate households should not hold hands during the Lord's Prayer.
- The Sign of Peace should be offered to those in separate households in a way that does not involve physical contact, such as a bow of the head while saying, "Peace be with you."
- If Holy Communion is distributed during the wedding, the following procedure is observed:
 - Communion will be given under the species of bread only. If Mass is celebrated and if agreed by the priest, only the newly-married couple may receive the Precious Blood from a separate chalice.
 - Those coming forward for Communion should form a single line up the center aisle, using the marks on the floor to maintain a 6 foot distance while in line. They should keep their mask on while they are in line. After receiving Communion, they return to their pew using the side aisles.
 - To receive Communion in the hand, individuals should keep their mask on as they approach the minister with their hand held flat. After the minister places the Body of Christ on their hand, they should step to the side, lower their mask, place the Body of Christ in their mouth, replace their mask, and return to their pew.
 - The minister will wear a mask while distributing Communion. He will sanitize his hands immediately beforehand and while giving Communion whenever necessary.

Pictures

- Individuals may remove their masks only while they are posing for photos.
- Everyone should wear their mask and observe social distancing whenever they are not being photographed.
- Photographers and videographers must wear masks and observe social distancing at all times.

For the Presider

- The presiding priest or deacon should follow all guidelines regarding social distancing, face coverings, etc. while in the church before and after the liturgy.
- He (along with the server and any other ministers) washes his hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before the start of the liturgy.
- During the liturgy, the presider wears a mask whenever he is on the floor of the church (procession, marriage rite, Communion, final blessing). He does not wear a mask while at the chair, ambo, or altar.
- The server's role is limited to carrying the processional cross, bringing holy water for the blessing of rings, and ringing the bells. The server does not hold the book for the presider or touch the vessels for Communion.
- If Mass is celebrated:

- The priest (or deacon, if present) prepares the altar and performs the *lavabo* (hand washing) rite himself. He uses hand sanitizer immediately before bringing the vessels to the altar.
- A host for the priest will be placed on its own paten. His chalice will contain wine for himself alone. An additional paten with hosts to be distributed and any additional chalices (for the couple and/or deacon) should be placed on the side or back of the altar away from the priest.
- With the agreement of the priest, the newly-married couple only may receive Communion under both kinds. In this case, a separate chalice with wine for the couple is placed on the side or back of the altar.
- The priest (or deacon, if present) purifies the vessels himself after Communion.
- If Holy Communion is distributed (either during or outside of Mass):
 - The presider puts on his mask and sanitizes his hands immediately before distributing Communion to the couple and then to the congregation.
 - The presider alone goes to the front of the center aisle to distribute Holy Communion. He sets the paten down on the table next to him and re-sanitizes his hands immediately any time he:
 - gives Communion on the tongue or
 - touches the person's hand while giving Communion.

References

- Kentucky Public Health, "COVID-19 Face Coverings Frequently Asked Questions," <https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/covid19/FAQsFaceCoverings.pdf>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Considerations for Wearing Cloth Face Coverings," <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html>
- Archdiocese of Louisville, "Archdiocesan Plan to Reopen Churches for Public Liturgies," <https://www.archlou.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/COVID-19-Public-Litugies-May-2020.pdf>
- Saint Boniface Catholic Church, "Safe at Worship Guidelines," https://www.stbonifaceparish.com/uploads/3/9/2/0/39209415/project_2-2_final.pdf
- Saint Boniface Catholic Church, "Wedding Policies and Guidelines," <https://www.stbonifaceparish.com/uploads/3/9/2/0/39209415/weddingpolicies.pdf>