



## *Saint Francis Xavier Environment Guide*

*Thank you for choosing St. Francis Xavier for your Sacrament of Marriage. We believe that our church is a beautiful setting and hope that you will enjoy your special day with us. In order to help us maintain the beauty of the parish, please keep the following in mind (you may also want to share this with family and friends) when planning decorations and photography/videography for your wedding:*

- Confessions take place on Saturday afternoon before the evening Mass. If your wedding is scheduled for 1:00 or 2:00, please plan accordingly, so that everyone from the wedding party and all decorations are out of the church (and it's cleaned) by 3:30. If your wedding is scheduled for 10:00, please plan to be out of the church by 12:00 if there's another wedding following yours.

### BUILDING USE

- Always keep in mind the liturgical season in which you plan to be married. There may be decorations already in the church and they are always to be left as they are. Decorating may take place after 8:00 Mass on Friday or early Saturday morning but not later than 2 hours before the ceremony.
- Designate TWO or more people to help CLEAN the parish after the wedding. The church and any ancillary areas used to dress or prepare must have EVERYTHING removed that was brought in. Your deposit can only be returned if the church is left exactly as it was found.
- Aisle runners are not permitted in the church. Decorations may be placed (on the altar, in windowsills) or hung on the ends of pews. No tacking, taping or otherwise affixing decorations is allowed in the church (rubber bands, ties and ribbons may be used; no bare wire, florist's wire, or anything that could scratch the wooden pews).
- Alcohol and tobacco products are STRICTLY PROHIBITED anywhere on church property. No alcohol should be consumed by anyone participating in the Liturgy before the ceremony.
- The blowing of bubbles as the bride and groom exit the church is encouraged; please DO NOT THROW anything (rice, petals, bird seed, confetti, etc.) outside the church. Other wedding parties have used noisemakers, bear bells, and kazoos to make a joyful noise!
- Speak to Susan Standley about reserving extra space if you'd like a dressing area and/or to set up refreshments for your wedding party. In warm weather, outside is an option.

### CANDLES

- The only candles allowed are the two altar (floor) candles and the candelabra on the high altar, provided by the parish.
- A unity candle (and the tapers to light them) are to be provided by the couple. Your Liturgy Coordinator will assist in finding an appropriate place for them during the ceremony.

## FLOWERS

- Arrangements may be placed on the high altar, in front of the ambo, or on the floor where they do not obstruct or interfere with the priest's or wedding party's movements.
- The flower bearers are not to throw flower petals, even artificial petals.
- You may decorate as many pews as you like with silk flowers, ribbons, or other decorations

## PHOTOGRAPHY

- Both photography and videography are allowed during the ceremony. This should always be accomplished with care and sensitivity to the environment of worship and prayer, being respectful of solemn moments in the ceremony. Your Liturgy Coordinator will review this.
- If you are having photographs taken before the ceremony, they should finish 30 minutes prior to the wedding (and before guests begin to be seated). Be mindful of your after-ceremony time constraints; you may only have about 15 minutes for photos.
- Most priests will allow a judicious and limited amount of flash for photography; make sure you know your presiding priest's preference.
- At no time should the photographer or videographer be in the sanctuary, nor should they in any way be obstructive or disruptive.

## LITURGICAL MINISTERS

- If your families or friends will be participating as Liturgical Ministers, the following opportunities are available to include them:
- Readers: Old Testament, Psalm (if not sung), New Testament, Prayers of the Faithful\*
- Eucharistic Ministers: 3 adults, practicing Catholics to assist the priest in distributing the Sacred Body and Blood
- Presentation of Gifts (bringing the bread and wine from the back of the church) \*

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- A young adult or child (no younger than 9 or 10) to light candles
- A young adult or adult with both a reasonable amount of strength and height to ring the church bell during the recessional (candidates can try their hand at the rehearsal)

\* *Special consideration will be given for persons of other faith traditions to perform these functions.*