

St. Aloysius Gonzaga Catholic Church

Wedding Policy



St. Aloysius Gonzaga Catholic Church
330 E Boone Avenue
Spokane, Washington 99202
(509) 313-5896
www.stalschurch.org

Revised 04/15/2024

PRESIDER AND MARRIAGE PREPARATION INFORMATION

Diocesan norms require that at least 4 months be allowed for preparing for the sacrament of marriage. This entails that your presiding Roman Catholic priest, or deacon, has established your “freedom to marry” and formatted a preparation plan at least 4 months prior to a date being confirmed. For the Catholic party/parties, you will need to provide your presider, or Ann Smith, our Marriage Pastoral Associate, **with an updated copy of your baptismal certificate with notations** (dated within 6 months).

The Preliminary Marriage Inquiry Form that is found on the St. Aloysius website (<https://stalschurch.org/marriage/>) needs to be completed along with your submission of your \$500 deposit. Upon receipt of the form and deposit, she will confirm the day and time requested for your wedding. *In the case of prior marriages, no date can be set until a nullity “freedom to marry” declaration has been received from the initiating diocese.*

If you are a parishioner, you are welcome to seek an officiating priest through our assigned parish staff, or you have the option of utilizing a visiting priest, or deacon, to officiate at your ceremony.

If the presider is from our assigned staff, Ann will meet with you initially to fill out required diocesan documentation and to outline a viable marriage preparation process.

If you opt for a guest presider, he will generally do the required marriage preparation himself. Our parish preparation sessions can be made available if the need arises. The visiting officiant will be expected to fill out the required diocesan forms, or to make arrangements for this. The documentation will be filed at St. Aloysius when your wedding takes place here. Ann will monitor the process closely. A guest priest/deacon who does not have faculties in the Diocese of Spokane will also need to provide a letter of good standing/testimonial of suitability for ministry from his own diocese or religious congregation in order to be given delegation by our pastor (to preside at a ceremony here).

All couples are strongly encouraged to complement their preparation process by participating in the diocesan Engaged Encounter weekend retreat.

<https://spokane.engagedencounter.com/>
509-850-0378

DATE OPTIONS

Wedding time slots are carefully set to accommodate the needs of our parish faith community. Following are the general allowable time slots:

Saturdays at 11:00 AM, 2:00 PM, or 7:30 PM

Sundays at 3:00 PM

Mondays - Fridays by request

No weddings are scheduled during Holy Week, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Gonzaga University Commencement Weekend, Gonzaga Preparatory School Graduation Weekend, Gonzaga Welcome Weekend, and Gonzaga Fall Family Weekend. Weddings are discouraged during the seasons of Lent and Advent.

LITURGICAL GUIDELINES

Since you have chosen a sacred setting for your ceremony, we require that this sacredness be reflected in your liturgy. The marriage liturgy is a very important aspect of the coming together of two lives in Christ. It will be important for you to be an integral part of this planning. Your presider, as well as Ann Smith (or an assigned member of her team), will assist in guiding you through this process.

If both parties are Catholic, you are most welcome to celebrate your marriage ceremony within the context of a Nuptial Mass, if you so choose. If one of the parties is baptized into a different Christian denomination, the Diocese of Spokane encourages that the ceremony be celebrated outside the Mass in order to be most inclusive for both parties. If a Mass is strongly desired by the Catholic party, this can be discussed with your presider. **In the case of a Catholic and a non-baptized party entering Marriage, the ceremony will be celebrated outside the Mass.**

Three months prior to your wedding date, please contact music director, Andrea Timm, to begin the music planning process. Her email address is: atimm@dioceseofspokane.org.

MUSIC GUIDELINES

Marriage in the Catholic Church is a celebration of love that reflects God's infinite love for us poured out in Jesus Christ. Music used during the marriage ceremony should reflect the sacredness and fidelity of Matrimony in a manner that is dignified, prayerful, and glorifies God within the guidelines of the Catholic Church.

Musicians

St. Aloysius provides a cantor, pianist, and a third musician for your wedding ceremony as part of the overall church fee. If you would like additional instruments for the ceremony such as violin, cello, flute, saxophone, guitar, etc. St. Aloysius can arrange instrumentalists who are familiar with playing at St. Aloysius and the marriage rite. Outside musicians are welcome to join the liturgical music ministry and sing/play for Offertory or Preludes. Outside musicians must be approved by the music director. The reception or rehearsal dinner is a wonderful venue for live music as well, and couples seeking performance ensembles, or wishing to highlight musical friends and family may choose that time to do so.

Music Selection

Please see *Music During the Ceremony* to select music for your wedding. Simply choose one selection under each heading. Other appropriate music such as that from the Breaking Bread hymnal or Gather hymnal may be selected. Other sacred or classical pieces may also be acceptable. All music must be approved by the music director. Music director Andrea Timm will be available to assist as needed.

Music During the Ceremony

Preludes

Instrumental prelude music is provided by the pianist 10-15 minutes before the ceremony begins as the assembly arrives and is seated.

Procession

Canon in D (Johann Pachelbel)

Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring (Johann Sebastian Bach)

Be Thou My Vision

Gloria (Mass only)

Mass of Renewal (Curtis Stephan)

Mass of Creation (Marty Haugen)

Mass of St. Ann (Ed Bolduc)

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 33: The earth is full of the goodness of the lord

Psalm 34: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord OR I will always thank you Lord

Psalm 103: The Lord is kind and merciful

Psalm 145: How good is the Lord to all

Psalm 148: Let all praise the name of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Celtic Alleluia

Alleluia Chant Mode VI

Mass of Renewal (Curtis Stephan)

Mass of a Joyful Heart (Steve Angrisano)

Offertory (Mass only)

Ave Maria (Franz Schubert, Charles Gounod/Johann Sebastian Bach, or Chant)

The Servant Song (R. Gillard)

Anima Christi (Donna Cori Gibson)

Prayer of St. Francis

Where Charity and Love Prevail

Eucharistic Acclamations (Mass only)

Mass of Creation (Marty Haugen)

Mass of Renewal (Curtis Stephan)

Latin Chant

Communion (Mass only)

Ubi Caritas (Bob Hurd and/or Chant or Taizé)

Panis Angelicus (Cesar Franck)

Bread of Angels (Curtis Stephan/Cesar Franck)

Ave Verum Corpus (Wolfgang A. Mozart)

One Bread, One Body (John Foley)

Taste and See (Bob Hurd or Moore)

Spirit and Grace (Ricky Manalo)

In the Breaking of the Bread (Bob Hurd)

Flower Offering

Ave Maria (Franz Schubert, Charles Gounod/Johann Sebastian Bach, or Chant)

Recessional

Joyful Joyful – Hymn to Joy (Beethoven)

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Wedding March (Mendelssohn)

Trumpet Voluntary (Jeremiah Clarke)

PHOTOGRAPHY

In order to accommodate the needs of all who wish to utilize our worship space, we encourage photography prior to the ceremony. To reduce distraction during this important sacrament, please limit the use of flash photography to photos before and after the ceremony. Photography and videography during the ceremony must be done from appropriate and discreet vantage points and not from the main altar area. Photographers are allowed to stand/crouch in the aisle to get photos of the processional / recessional, but they need to stay in one place and not follow the bride and groom or other wedding party members. Photographers are not allowed in the Sanctuary or near the altar during the wedding liturgy. Please note that the presider has final say on what is allowed by the photographers / videographers.

Depending on the availability of the church and grounds, photography may begin one hour prior to the ceremony inside the church. If your photographer suggests a longer time inside the church, please discuss this need with your wedding coordinator.

You are required to share these guidelines with your photographer.

LOGISTICAL AND DECORATION GUIDELINES

Please read these policies carefully

1. If there is a need to dress on site, there are dressing accommodations in the Parish Center. The rooms are usually available two hours prior to ceremony time. Hair and makeup needs are best addressed in a salon setting prior to arrival. Once the party is dressed, we request that the rooms be returned to the prior condition twenty minutes before the beginning of the wedding to accommodate use by other groups. Please assign someone to make sure that the room is left the same way it was found.
2. If you wish to decorate the church, please consider that simplicity tends to accentuate the glory of that which is already present. All set up and removal will be monitored by a wedding coordinator to ensure the integrity of our worship space.
 - a) *During certain liturgical seasons (Lent, Easter, Advent, and Christmas) the church does have its own decor in place that **cannot** be removed or changed.*
 - b) Because of fire, soot, and wax spillage concerns, any usage of candles must be in moderation. Any individual candles placed on the high altar must be glass encased and a maximum of 25. Aisle lights are not allowed due to breakage and potential damage to the pews. All candles are restricted to the sanctuary area.
 - c) Birdseed, rice, flower petals, glitter and, an aisle runner are not allowed. The use of sparklers is also prohibited as they represent a fire hazard.
3. St. Aloysius Church has the ability to live-stream your marriage on our parish website and YouTube channel for your family and friends who are not able to present.
4. Pets are not allowed in the church unless they are a service animal.

5. Given the historic nature of the church building, there is a possibility that there could be renovations occurring at any point in time.
6. Please note that St. Aloysius is an active parish community and there may be other events scheduled on the same day as your wedding including, but not limited to other weddings, baptisms, and funerals. You will still have access to the church one to two hours prior to your wedding.
7. The Wedding Coordinator cannot be responsible for watching possessions during the ceremony.

Due to the sacredness of the space and the serious nature of the marriage sacrament, **alcohol and drugs are not allowed** in the Church or the Parish Center and there should be no consumption prior to ceremony. Your presider will expect that you be fully present for the sacrament you are about to receive. Your reception will be an appropriate setting for further celebrations.

FEES

*The rental fee for St. Aloysius Church is **\$2,500.00 (\$2,250.00 for parishioners)** which includes church rental, administrative fees, custodial services, marriage preparation, priest stipend, three musicians, live streaming of your wedding, and our ceremony wedding coordinator.* As part of the booking process, you will need to complete the **Preliminary Marriage Inquiry Form** on the website and submit a nonrefundable \$500.00 deposit to secure your reservation. The remaining fee of \$2,000.00/\$1,750.00 is due no later than two months before the ceremony. Fees can be discussed on an individual basis if there is a financial need.

Additional fees to consider:

Additional Musician Fee – if you would like additional musicians (above the three provided), additional musicians hired by St. Aloysius have a \$200.00 fee to be paid in advance to the parish by mail no later than two weeks prior to the ceremony.

St Aloysius Church
Attn: Ann Smith
330 E Boone Ave
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Additional Coordinator Time Fee – if you would like additional time to get ready prior to your wedding outside the allotted preparation time noted above you may contact your assigned wedding coordinator to see if she is available. Additional time is charged at \$25.00 per hour. You will need to speak with your coordinator to arrange for payment of the additional time.

Ann Smith will be most willing to clarify any questions. Your assigned wedding coordinator will consult with you approximately 6-8 weeks prior to your ceremony to format liturgy, will be on hand to assist your presider in facilitating your rehearsal, and will work with your vendors (florist, photographer, videographer, musicians) on site to ensure that your liturgy embodies, not just the day of your wedding, but encompasses the deeper tone of your life-time union in Christ.

Blessings on your lifetime of love and happiness.