

## *Saint Mary of the Lake Church - Guidelines for Florists and Decorators*

### **PLEASE PROVIDE A COPY OF THESE GUIDELINES TO YOUR FLORIST AND/OR WEDDING DECORATOR**

1. Please check-in with our parish Wedding Attendant upon your arrival. She will review our floral/wedding décor guidelines with you. She will also request a copy of your business card for our files.
2. Please designate your florist, a family member or a friend to pin and distribute flowers to those who will wear them. This is not the responsibility of the parish wedding attendant.
3. Weddings at Saint Mary of the Lake are scheduled at 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 2:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m. The set-up time allowed is 30 minutes prior to the ceremony.
4. Altar flowers are not required, but if they are used, they must be delivered and in place at least 25 minutes prior to the wedding liturgy.
5. Altar flowers may not be placed on the altar or in front of the altar, nor may they be placed on the cantor podium or in front of the cantor podium. They may be placed on either or both sides of the altar platform.
6. When flower stands are used, they must be placed only toward the back corners of the altar platform to preserve necessary sightlines between priest, cantor, lectors and congregation.
7. The florist must provide any stands or pedestals used.
8. Pew-end Decorations may be used at regular intervals along the entire length of the aisle, 58 pews total (29 on each side), but they may *not* be attached by pinning, gluing, nailing, tacking, taping or stapling. Elastic bands, plastic pew clips or ribbons must be used instead.
9. Pews may never be blocked by ribbons, cords, strings, etc.
10. Decorations of any type may *not* be affixed in any way from the colonnade in the sanctuary, nor may any decorations wrap around the colonnade.
11. Aisle runners are not permitted.
12. Sanctuary floral arrangements must be done by a professional florist. Paper-mache containers are not permitted. You must use flower containers that present no danger of leaking.
13. Sanctuary appointments such as the ambo (pulpit), presider's chair, lectern, candle sticks, banners, altar cloths, advent wreaths, the paschal candle and any art or liturgical environment *may not be altered or removed under any circumstances*. Keep in mind that different colors are used in the church during the varying liturgical seasons throughout the year. This is a general calendar: Advent — dark violet. Christmas Season — white. Winter Ordinary Time — green. Lent — purple. Easter Season — white. Pentecost Weekend — red. Summer Ordinary Time — green. Expect to find some of these colors present in the church or in the sanctuary. These items may not be removed or altered. Questions regarding any seasonal colors being used on your wedding day may be directed to the wedding coordinator.

14. Rice, birdseed, confetti, flower petals, sparklers, balloons, birds, butterflies, bubbles, etc., may not be used, thrown or released in the church or outside the church. The church is in constant use, and because of safety, maintenance, and time concerns, these items are prohibited.
15. The only candles permitted are those already in place by the church staff. Candelabra, lighted or unlighted are not permitted in the church. Candles in the aisles or on pews are not allowed. The couple is however required to supply the unity candle should they decide to have one. The church does not supply unity candles. The unity candle must be placed on the stand provided by the church. The unity candle is *strictly prohibited* from being placed on the altar.
16. All containers used for corsages, floral arrangements, etc., must be removed from the vestibule before leaving the church. This is the responsibility of the attending florist, not the church staff.
17. No food or beverage is to be brought into the church. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted on church grounds.
18. It is the responsibility of the wedding couple to ensure that the florist and decorating personnel receive these policies and abide by them.
19. If you have any questions about these policies, they must be directed to the Wedding Attendant on duty, and not to the deacon or priest.
20. Any violation of these policies will be immediately addressed. Continued violations will result in the removal of inappropriate decorations and the dismissal of the florist from the building. We reserve the right to prohibit problematic florists from decorating at Saint Mary of the Lake.

**Should you have any questions, you can reach out to Mary Carravallah at the parish office:**

**[mcarravallah@saintmarys.org](mailto:mcarravallah@saintmarys.org)**