

No longer two, but one...

SAINT AGNES WEDDING GUIDELINES



Saint Agnes Church
1920 Newburg Road
Louisville, Kentucky

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Celebrating the Sacrament of Marriage

The entire faith community and staff thank you for choosing St. Agnes Church or Our Lady of the Woods Chapel at Bellarmine University to celebrate your wedding day and for choosing to begin your lifelong commitment to each other in the sacrament of marriage. Your witness of faith is an inspiration to us all. We share in your joy and extend our most heartfelt congratulations!

Since you have chosen to celebrate your wedding day publicly with your family and friends and in the presence of God in the sacrament of marriage, you are encouraged to remain focused on the sacredness of your union in the wedding liturgy. Having to contend with the many details of fashion, flowers, photography, rehearsal dinners, travel arrangements and receptions, it can be easy to become distracted from what is most essential on your wedding day.

The wedding liturgy is a celebration that gives God praise for the love you have found in each other. It is also a grace-filled experience of communal worship intended to foster spiritual growth and transformation in all those gathered. The liturgy is never an event or a show for the bride or groom, with family and friends attending as if they were merely an audience. The prayers, music, rituals, and actions allow all participants to be actively involved in the communal worship of the faith community. The love you received as a gift from God then becomes a gift to the wider faith community and world.

First Steps

The first step in planning your wedding day is to contact Dcn. Trey Mobley, Pastoral Associate, who coordinates the marriage preparation process. He can be reached at tmobley@stagneslouisville.org or 502-451-2220 ext. 563. This needs to be done nine to twelve months before your anticipated wedding date.

To highlight and strengthen the communal dimension of the sacrament, St. Agnes celebrates the sacrament of marriage with those who are registered parishioners or have parents who are registered parishioners. To ensure you are registered, please contact the parish secretary, Pam Slagle, in the Parish Offices at pslagle@stagneslouisville.org or 502-451-2220.

St. Agnes receives many requests for weddings throughout the year. While it is advisable to place a tentative wedding date on the parish calendar a year in advance, the date and time will not be confirmed until a deposit of \$600 is paid. This payment goes toward the overall fees.

Weddings are ordinarily scheduled anywhere from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm on a Friday or on a Saturday afternoon at 1:00 pm or 2:00 pm. It is also possible for smaller weddings to be celebrated privately or within a regularly scheduled

weekend Mass. Weddings at Bellarmine need to consult with the presider to determine the time of the wedding and rehearsal. All engaged couples are required to attend a Wedding Liturgy Workshop. These workshops are presented 2-3 times a year and address the details of planning your wedding liturgy—the selection of readings, music, liturgical ministers, etc. Ordinarily, couples meet with Deacon Trey to confirm the date and begin the marriage preparation process before registering for a Wedding Liturgy Workshop.

The Wedding Liturgy Planning form is available on our parish website at <http://stagneslouisville.org/church/sacraments/#Marriage>, in addition to other forms and information. Forms are due two months before the wedding date and can be submitted by email to Noah Bruce, Director of Music, at nbruce@stagneslouisville.org.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact Noah Bruce at nbruce@stagneslouisville.org or Dcn. Trey at tmobley@stagneslouisville.org at the Parish Offices 502-451-2220.

People Needed in the Ceremony

PRESIDER: A priest or deacon is needed to preside at your wedding liturgy. Fr. Nelson, Pastor, Fr. Sebastian, Associate Pastor, Deacon Ned Berghausen, or Deacon Trey Mobley would ordinarily preside over the Rite of Matrimony. However, with the permission of the pastor, you may invite a priest or deacon from another parish to participate in or preside over the ceremony. Who the presider will be should be a discussion in your initial marriage preparation meeting.

CROSS BEARER: At St. Agnes, the Processional Cross is always carried in the Opening Procession of all wedding ceremonies. This person can be anyone of your choosing, as long as s/he is capable of carrying the cross safely. A cross bearer is not needed at Bellarmine Chapel.

GOSPEL BEARER: The Book of the Gospels is carried in the Opening Procession and placed on the altar. Usually, the person proclaiming the First Reading is the one who carries the Book of the Gospels in the Opening Procession.

WITNESSES: The Best Man and Maid/Matron of Honor usually serve as the witnesses but any two adults in the wedding party can serve as witnesses.

ATTENDANTS: Friends and family members are welcome to participate in a wedding ceremony. Although pets/animals are cherished by engaged couples, they are unable to participate as fully, conscious participants in a liturgical setting, therefore they cannot be a part of your wedding ceremony.

LECTORS: One Lector is needed to proclaim the First Reading from the Old Testament and another Lector is needed for the Second Reading from the New Testament. However, one Lector can proclaim both readings. Care should be taken in selecting Lectors for your wedding. Lectors are those with special training in proclaiming God's word or persons who have the capacity to speak confidently, slowly, distinctly, and convey the message of the reading meaningfully and effectively to the assembly. A separate Lector may lead the assembly in praying the Universal Prayer (formerly referred to as the Prayers of the Faithful). At St. Agnes, it is customary for the Deacon, if present, or the Cantor to lead the sung response to the Universal Prayer by singing, "Lord, hear our prayer," or "Loving God, hear our prayer." If you choose this option, the Deacon or Cantor will pray each petition using the spoken word and then lead the sung the response.

SERVERS: If your wedding is celebrated within Mass, two servers are needed to assist the Presider. While the parish assigns servers, you may request specific parish servers.

GIFT BEARERS: If your wedding is celebrated within Mass, you will need two or more people to bring the gifts (bread and wine) to the altar during the Presentation of Gifts. This can be relatives, friends or parents and children of a single family.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS: If your wedding is celebrated within Mass, one or three Eucharistic Ministers are needed to distribute Communion, along with the Presider.

CANTOR: The Cantor will lead the assembly in sung prayer. This includes singing the verses of the Psalm and all the sung parts of the Mass. The Cantor may also be used to sing a vocal selection before the wedding ceremony begins.

ACCOMPANIST: Couples need to make the arrangements to contract an accompanist to play the organ and/or other musicians for the wedding ceremony. Noah Bruce, Director of Music, will make suggestions of other well-qualified musicians, if he is unavailable for your wedding date.

We strongly encourage the use of St. Agnes parish singers and musicians. They know the music that we suggest. They are familiar with the acoustics and sound delay in this church. All musicians are liturgically trained. Singers from outside the parish may be used for prelude music, but a Cantor from St. Agnes parish is the best option to lead the singing during the wedding liturgy. All musicians, singers and music selected must be approved by Noah Bruce, Director of Music.

*St. Agnes Catholic Church upholds the Roman Catholic Church's guidelines regarding appropriate music for all liturgical celebrations, including weddings. All texts must be suitable for use in the liturgy, are to be directed to God(sacred) and be free of associations which render them inappropriate. While popular songs and secular music have no place in the wedding liturgy, they may very appropriately be sung at your wedding reception. No recorded music or accompaniment tapes

may be used at the wedding liturgy. The style of music chosen should also be within the realm of what is normally used at St. Agnes, be it classical or contemporary. Certain parts of the liturgy are to be sung by all present: the Entrance Hymn, Responsorial Psalm, Gospel Acclamation, Preface Acclamation, Memorial Acclamation, Great Amen, Lamb of God, and the Communion Hymn.

Wedding Rehearsals

Generally speaking, rehearsals are scheduled in the late afternoon or early evening on the day before your wedding. For instance, rehearsals for a Friday evening wedding are scheduled at 4:30 pm on Thursday. Rehearsals for a Saturday afternoon wedding are scheduled for 4:30 pm on Friday. St. Agnes provides a Wedding Assistant who, along with the Presider, is in charge of the wedding rehearsal. Rehearsals at the Bellarmine chapel are determined by the presider.

All members of the wedding party, including attendants, lectors, and parents of the bride and groom are encouraged to attend the rehearsal. Anyone who has an assigned role in your wedding liturgy needs to attend. It is recommended that everyone, including the bride and groom, arrive at least 10 minutes before the scheduled rehearsal time so that the rehearsal may begin on time. Usually, the rehearsal lasts no longer than an hour.

At the rehearsal, there will be a practice for those participating in the Opening Procession. The order of the people in the Opening Procession should be decided well beforehand (see pgs. 9-10). More detailed guidelines for determining the order of the procession is provided at the wedding liturgy workshop, but it should be noted that all those in the Opening Procession will begin in the rear of the church as they would at a regular Sunday liturgy. The persons proclaiming the readings or the Universal Prayer should practice over the microphone before or during the rehearsal.

The rehearsal is also another opportunity to ask any questions you might have for the Presider or Wedding Assistant.

Photography

Photographers can arrive 90 minutes before the scheduled time of the wedding. Pictures may be taken anywhere inside the church before the wedding. Although backdrops may be used, they are unnecessary since there are many beautiful locations inside the church that are suitable for taking pictures. Pictures may also be taken on the grounds outside the church. Pictures should be completed 30 minutes before the wedding ceremony is scheduled to begin. This way, photographs are completed prior to the arrival of most of the guests, and the wedding party has ample time to inwardly prepare and tend to last-minute details.

Photographers may take flash photos during the processional and the recessional, but not during the actual wedding ceremony. Photographers may use the center and side aisles, the area directly in front of the sanctuary (before the steps), and the balcony, but they may not be in the sanctuary during the ceremony. Once the prelude begins, movement and talking should be discreet and kept to a minimum during the liturgy.

Photographers and videographers should dress professionally and appropriately for working in church. No jeans, flip flops, ball caps, or other unprofessional attire should be worn.

Videography

Video photographers should follow the same guidelines as still photographers for arrival times and appropriate dress. Video cameras may be placed in the balcony, in the transept areas of the church, and the rear of the church. An **unattended** video camera may be placed in the sanctuary. Video cameras should remain stationary during the ceremony to minimize distractions.

Drones are not permitted inside the church. They may be used outside before guests arrive. The wedding party and drone operator assume all liability for any damages to persons or property caused by a drone.

Church Decorations

The best decorations are often the simplest ones. The purpose of additional decorations, if desired, should be to enhance the beauty of the church and grounds for your wedding rather than to clutter or distract.

You are responsible for providing any additional decorations, if desired, for inside or outside of the church, placing them within 90 minutes before the wedding ceremony and removing them within 30 minutes afterwards.

Existing church decorations such as banners, plants or floral decorations may not be removed. The exception to this is that floral arrangements on either side of the high altar may be replaced with floral arrangements that you provide. Alternatively, existing arrangements can be left in place, and you can set any additional arrangements on pillars in the sanctuary or by the altar.

The lampposts at the parking lot entrance and along the sidewalks may be decorated with flowers, greenery, ribbons, bows or banners, if desired. Please do not use tape, nails, screws, staples or any other method to affix decorations that would mar the finish on wooden or painted surfaces.

You may want to reserve the first few pews on both sides of church for your wedding party and family. But keep in mind that your wedding guests should be

seated as close to the sanctuary as possible, so make this area only as large as necessary to comfortably seat your family and wedding party.

Bows are available to be placed on pews to designate reserved pews for your wedding party. If you choose a florist to decorate the pews, please note that they may only be attached by tying them around the ends of the pews or on a pew hangar. No tape or other devices may be used that might damage the finish of the pews. Likewise, bows or ribbons may be placed on handrails outside of the church, if desired. Be careful that additional decoration does not obstruct the use of handrails as they may be needed by your guests to navigate the steps.

Wreaths on the doors may be used on hangers that you provide that fit over the top of the doors. Nails or any other hanging devices are not allowed.

Candelabras are not allowed in the sanctuary of the church. Candles down the aisle may obscure your guests' view, but they are permitted as long as the candles are enclosed in glass. Once again, they should not be affixed to the pews in any way that might damage the pew or its finish.

For safety reasons, cloth or paper aisle runners are not permitted in the church. Similarly, nothing should be dropped or thrown in the aisle during the opening procession or closing recessional. This includes rose petals, rice, etc. Bubbles have sometimes been used in lieu of rice to wish the couple well. These are permitted but should be used **outside the church only**. These guidelines are intended to ensure the safety of individuals who might unexpectedly slip on flower petals, rice, or spills from bubbles.

Worship Aids (Wedding Programs)

Worship aids (programs) are provided by St. Agnes Church to assist your guests in participating more fully in the wedding liturgy. Completing the wedding liturgy forms available on the parish website provides the information needed to create the worship aid, including the readings, music and the names of individuals in your wedding party. Samples of the basic worship aid is provided at the Wedding Liturgy Workshop, using standard paper and format.

Alternatively, you may choose to have Cathy Giangarra prepare your wedding worship aids. Cathy has a variety of premium paper stocks and optional ribbons in colors to coordinate with your wedding colors. The cost of her services is not included in the fee for the church that only covers our basic wedding worship aids. See "Important Contact Information" on page 16 for Cathy's email and telephone number.

Arrival of the Wedding Party

Members of the wedding party can arrive up to ninety minutes before the scheduled time of the ceremony on the wedding day.

Aloysius Hall is available for the bride and her attendants to get ready for the wedding. The bride and the bridesmaids are encouraged to arrive at the church as ready as possible. The groom and groomsmen are encouraged to arrive fully dressed because there is no other space available for their use. The wedding party is responsible for cleaning up Aloysius Hall. An extra cleaning fee will be assessed if this is not done.

IMPORTANT: *By canon law, the wedding cannot take place if the bride, groom, or any of the witnesses (anyone in the wedding party) is under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Your wedding will be cancelled if the bride or groom is intoxicated!* They are unable to give consent. Any person in the wedding party may not take part in the ceremony if they are intoxicated. There is to be no drinking or illegal drug use on church property.

Arrival of Wedding Guests

As your guests arrive they will be greeted with beautiful music and the warm ambiance of St. Agnes Church. We encourage you to have your wedding party and family greet their guests as they arrive. Your guests will feel welcomed when they are greeted by someone they know. Customarily, guests have been escorted to their seats by groomsmen or ushers.

In this celebration of unity, we encourage you to seat your guests as they arrive and as close to the front of the church as possible. The custom of seating guests on the bride's or groom's side only creates an unnecessary division, and may result in unbalanced seating. This is especially true if either the bride or groom's family is from out of town.

Keep in mind the comfort of guests who are elderly and those with small children. Trying to keep a toddler with a limited attention span quiet during the wedding ceremony is hard enough without expecting them to behave for an hour or more beforehand. Please advise family members escorting young children and elderly guests to arrive shortly before the wedding.

For those in a wheelchair or who need to avoid steps, there are two ramps on the south side of the church, nearest the monastery. Handicapped parking spaces, located in the circular drive in front of the monastery, are convenient to both ramps. There is a special wheelchair section available near the front of church on the left-hand side.

Guests should be greeted at the door and escorted to their seats without delay. People gathering or waiting in the back of church may create unnecessary noise or confusion for guests arriving for your wedding. If you have a guest register, it can be stationed outside, weather permitting, or in the lobby. Once guests reach the inner doors to church, they can be escorted to their seat.

Introductory Rites

The wedding ceremony begins with a liturgical procession, similar to the one we regularly have at Mass on the weekend. Guests will be invited to stand for the Opening Procession, and the worship aid will include the words, *“Please stand for the Wedding Procession.”*

The order of people in the procession begins with the Cross Bearer, followed by the Servers (if celebrated within Mass), Gospel Bearer, Presider, and then the wedding party. There are three options for the order of procession for the wedding party. The differences between the three options are in bold print.

Option A (Preferred)

Cross Bearer
Servers (if celebrating within Mass)
Gospel Bearer
Presider
Bridesmaids and Groomsmen, as couples
Flower Girl and Ring Bearer, if any
Maid of Honor and Best Man
Parents of the Groom
Parents of the Bride
Bride and Groom

Option B

Cross Bearer
Servers (if celebrating within Mass)
Gospel Bearer
Presider
Bridesmaids and Groomsmen, as couples
Flower Girl and Ring Bearer, if any
Maid of Honor and Best Man
Parent, Groom, Parent
Parent, Bride, Parent

Option C

Cross Bearer
Servers (if celebrating within Mass)
Gospel Bearer
Presider & **Groom**
Bridesmaids and Groomsmen, as couples
Flower Girl & Ring Bearer, if any
Maid of Honor & Best Man
Bride & Father/Escort

In Option C, the seating of other parents and grandparents takes place prior to the Opening Procession.

Since this is a celebration uniting the bride and groom, and the couple has chosen to be married in the church, the couple is encouraged to process in together in the Opening Procession (as in Option A above). The custom of hiding the bride from the groom before the wedding ceremony dates from a time when marriages were arranged and the bride was literally given away. In such marriages, the couple did not see each other before the wedding ceremony to make it less likely that the wedding would be called off. The simple act of the bride and groom processing in together clearly expresses: "This is a choice we have made together."

The best choice of music for the Opening Procession is one musical piece that accompanies the entire procession. Having a different piece of music begin for the bride to walk down the aisle changes the focus of the Opening Procession from one that is intended to include all in the liturgical assembly to one that emphasizes the bride alone.

The Cross Bearer proceeds down the aisle and up the sanctuary steps, places the Processional Cross in its stand and takes his/her seat. The Gospel Bearer proceeds down the aisle and up the sanctuary steps, then around the altar to place the Book of Gospels in the middle of the altar before taking his/her seat. As each person or couple in the wedding party approaches their pew, they should pause, bow toward the altar, and then enter their pew and remain standing.

Once the wedding party is in place and the procession is over, the Presider greets and welcomes everyone to this joyous occasion. If the celebration takes place within Mass, the *Gloria* (Glory to God) is sung. The Presider prays the Opening Prayer, then invites everyone to be seated to listen to the word of God. This ends the Opening Rite.

The Liturgy of the Word

As part of the wedding liturgy preparation, couples choose the readings to be used in their wedding ceremony. At least one reading that explicitly speaks of marriage must be chosen. These readings are marked with an asterisk (*) on pages 18-20 in this guide and on the website. Couples may choose one or two Lectors to proclaim the word of God.

THE FIRST READING: After everyone has been seated, the Lector assigned to proclaim the First Reading pauses a few seconds before rising from his/her seat, stops before the first step to bow toward the altar, then proceeds to the ambo (lectern). The Lector proclaims the reading slowly, deliberately and clearly so everyone can hear and understand. After the reading, the Lector pauses for a few seconds, and then concludes by saying, “The word of the Lord.” The assembly responds, “Thanks be to God.” The Lector then returns to his/her seat.

THE PSALM: The Cantor pauses a few seconds after the Lector is seated, then approaches the altar, bows, and proceeds to the ambo to lead the Responsorial Psalm. The Cantor intones the refrain, and everyone—including the wedding party—is invited to sing the refrain in response and following each verse. At the conclusion of the Psalm, the Cantor returns to his/her seat.

THE SECOND READING: After the Cantor is seated, the Lector assigned to proclaim the Second Reading pauses a few seconds before rising from his/her seat, stops before the first step, bows toward the altar, then proceeds to the ambo (lectern). The Lector proclaims the reading slowly, deliberately and clearly so everyone can hear and understand. After the reading, the Lector pauses for a few seconds, and then concludes by saying, “The word of the Lord.” The assembly responds, “Thanks be to God.” The Lector then returns to his/her seat.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: When the Presider rises before proclaiming the Gospel, the Cantor leads the assembly in the Gospel Acclamation or Alleluia.

THE GOSPEL: At the end of the Gospel Acclamation, the Presider proclaims the Gospel. After a brief pause, he concludes by saying, “The Gospel of the Lord.” The assembly responds, “Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.” Everyone is seated.

THE HOMILY: The Presider offers a spiritual reflection on the Scripture readings and the Sacrament of Matrimony.

The Rite of Matrimony

At the end of the homily, the Presider invites the bride and groom and their witnesses to join him in front of the sanctuary. The bride should leave her

flowers on her seat during this time. The groom needs to be alert to any extra care that the bride may need in moving about or in adjusting her wedding dress. Before the rehearsal, the couple and the wedding assistant determine where the attendants stand during the Rite of Matrimony. The two witnesses or the entire wedding party, join the bride and groom in the area in front of the sanctuary. Children (e.g. flower girls and ring bearers) remain seated with their family during the Rite of Matrimony.

THE QUESTIONS BEFORE THE CONSENT: The presider questions the couple about their freedom of choice to marry, fidelity to each other, and the acceptance and upbringing of children with the following words:

N. and N., have you come here to enter into Marriage without coercion, freely and wholeheartedly?

-Bride and bridegroom respond: I have.

Are you prepared, as you follow the path of Marriage, to love and honor each other for as long as you both shall live?

-Bride and bridegroom respond: I am.

Are you prepared to accept children lovingly from God and to bring them up according to the law of Christ and his Church?

-Bride and bridegroom respond: I am.

THE CONSENT:

The bride and groom declare their consent using one of the following formulas:

Option #1. I (name) take you (name) to be my wife/husband. I promise to be faithful to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, to love you and to honor you all the days of my life.

Option #2. I (name) take you (name) for my lawful wife/husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish until death do us part.

Or, the bride and groom may use one of the following formulas in which each responds, "I do" after the priest or deacon poses the question. These two options question and response options are strongly discouraged except in special circumstances (e.g. speech impediment).

Option #3. (Name), do you take (name) to be your wife/husband? Do you promise to be faithful to her/him in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, to love her/him, and to honor her/him all the days of your life? I do.

Option #4. (Name), do you take (name) for your lawful wife/husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until death do you part? I do.

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THE RECEPTION OF THE CONSENT: The Priest/Deacon, as official witness of the Church, accepts the consent of the couple, and offers a prayer.

THE BLESSING AND EXCHANGE OF RINGS: The couple exchange rings as a sign of their love and fidelity.

THE UNIVERSAL PRAYER: Couples are encouraged to compose their own prayer petitions using the sample set of intercessions (p. 23) as a guide. These prayers may be prayed by a Lector of your choice, or by the Cantor. In liturgies at St. Agnes, it is customary for the Cantor to recite the prayers and then invite the assembly to join in a simple sung response of “Loving God, hear our prayer” or “Lord, hear our prayer.” If you choose the sung response, the Cantor recites the prayers. If you choose a spoken response, one of the Lectors assigned to the First or Second Reading recites the prayers or a third Lector is assigned to this task. After the Presider concludes the Universal Prayer, the wedding party returns to their pews and everyone is seated.

In compliance with liturgical norms for the Archdiocesan Office of Worship, the Unity Candle is not used as part of the marriage ritual. Historical and theological reasons support this policy. Moreover, the symbolism of “two becoming one” is already present in the declaration of consent and exchange of rings and there are multiple signs of unity evident in Catholic liturgy, including the Eucharist, the preeminent sign of unity.

If your wedding is celebrated outside of Mass in a Liturgy of the Word service, then after the Universal Prayer, there is a Nuptial Blessing, the Lord’s Prayer and Sign of Peace, followed by a final Blessing and the Recessional when the wedding party exits down the center aisle. If your wedding is celebrated within Mass, the service continues with the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

If your wedding is celebrated within Mass, then after the Universal Prayer, the assembly is seated for the Presentation of the Gifts of bread and wine. At least two people, or possibly an entire family, are designated to bring the gifts to the altar. A brief instrumental selection, chosen by your musicians, is played during this action.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER: During the Eucharistic Prayer, the Cantor leads the assembly in singing the *Sanctus* (Holy, Holy, Holy), Mystery of Faith, and Amen.

The musical responses are the same ones used at St. Agnes Church during the current liturgical season.

THE LORD’S PRAYER: The Lord’s Prayer (or Our Father) holds a special place among all Christian denominations as a unifying prayer. As such, the entire assembly joins in praying it together rather than the Cantor singing it as a solo piece.

THE NUPTIAL BLESSING: The Nuptial Blessing is a special blessing of the Church on the newly married couple. This blessing is ordinarily led by the Presider.

THE SIGN OF PEACE: This is a time when all will be invited to share a Sign of Peace — a handshake, embrace or kiss. Couples share this Sign of Peace with each other and those in their immediate surroundings in sanctuary. Couples should not leave the sanctuary to greet additional family and friends as this unduly prolongs the rite and moves the focus away from the Eucharist that is about to be celebrated.

THE FRACTION RITE/LAMB OF GOD: After the Sign of Peace, the Cantor leads the assembly in the *Agnus Dei* (Lamb of God) as the Presider and three designated Eucharistic Ministers prepare for the distribution of Communion.

COMMUNION PROCESSION: Those who will not be receiving Communion because they are not members of our Church are still encouraged to approach a Eucharistic Minister to receive a blessing. This helps maintain the flow of the Communion Procession and avoids having some people climbing over others in the pew when they return to their seats. This is especially the case among those in the wedding party. Crossing one’s hands over one’s heart conveys one’s intention to receive a blessing rather than Communion.

After returning to their pews, all remain standing until the entire assembly has received Communion. Once this occurs, all are seated for a brief period of silence. All are invited to join together in silent prayer that one day soon, Christ’s own prayer “that all may be one” will be fulfilled.

Concluding Rites

At the time of the Final Blessing, an *optional* Song of Blessing for the couple which is sung by the Cantor may be added. If this option is not used, then after a final prayer and blessing, the Presider introduces the newly married couple to their family and friends and invites applause from the assembly to congratulate them. Couples may kiss each other before processing out of the church. When the recessional music begins, the wedding party and immediate family follow the couple out. It is not necessary for Cross Bearer, Gospel Bearer, Servers or Presider to process out.

After the Wedding

Couples who plan on taking pictures immediately after the wedding, should process out, down the front steps and return inside the church going up the ramp and into the side entrance. It is not advisable to form a reception line at this time, but to make that part of the reception.

The post-wedding picture session should be no longer than 30 minutes. There may be another wedding, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, or another scheduled activity in the church following your wedding.

To avoid any loss, someone should check Aloysius Hall and the pews to gather all personal belongings, flowers or decorations for safe-keeping. Remember, couples are responsible for the removal of all additional decorations. Please designate a person responsible for ensuring this is done.

Fees and Gratuities

Beginning March 1, 2024, the fee to celebrate a wedding at St. Agnes Church is \$1200. A deposit of \$600 is paid to confirm the date on the parish calendar and that payment goes toward the entire fee. This fee includes the cost of using the church, wedding assistant, wedding workshop, and worship aids (wedding programs). The Cantor fee is \$125. The Accompanist fee is \$200–\$300, depending on the accompanist you choose. Any additional musicians—e.g. trumpeters, violinists, flutist, etc.—set their own fees. Please add \$20 (cash) for each server, if celebrating your wedding within Mass. The fees for Cantor, Accompanist, additional Musicians or Servers, if applicable, must be paid directly to these individuals, separate from the payment of the church fee.

You are welcome to have additional professional musicians such as brass quintets, string quartets, harpists, flutists, etc. Noah Bruce is happy to assist in recommending or reserving such musicians for your wedding, but these musicians set their own fees and payment arrangements.

A gratuity to your Presider is not required. However, most couples desire to express their gratitude to the Presider with a monetary gift. While the amount is strictly up to the giver, \$100-\$150 is recommended.

Fees related to weddings held at St. Agnes are due four weeks before the wedding date.

Make out checks for the balance of the church rental fee in the amount of \$600. to St. Agnes Church. Checks for Accompanist, Cantor, and additional Musicians are made out directly to these individuals. Cash for Servers, (\$20 each) can be mailed to St. Agnes (1920 Newburg Road, Louisville, KY 40205) marked to the

attention of Noah Bruce, Director of Music, or dropped off in person at the Parish Offices during normal business hours.

The fee schedule for weddings at St. Agnes and Our Lady of the Woods Chapel at Bellarmine University is subject to an annual review

Important Contact Information

Marriage Preparation

Dcn. Trey Mobley, Pastoral Associate

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Wedding Liturgy Preparation/Musicians

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Professional Wedding Programs:

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Timeline for Wedding Liturgy Planning

Now, or as soon as possible:

- Book both the Accompanist and Cantor as these are required.
- Book any additional musicians, if desired.

At least TWO MONTHS before your wedding date:

- Submit wedding forms available at <http://stagneslouisville.org/church/sacraments/#Marriage> to Noah Bruce, Director of Music, at nbruce@stagneslouisville.org. These include:
 - Wedding Liturgy Plan
 - Procession Plan, including the names of the Maid/Matron of Honor, Best Man, other attendants, and parents to create the Worship Aid

At least FOUR WEEKS before your wedding:

- Drop off payments of church fee, Accompanist, Cantor, other musicians and Servers to Noah Bruce, Director of Worship at the Parish Offices:
 - Church--\$1200
 - Servers--\$20 each, if celebrating within Mass (cash)
 - Cantor--\$125 (Check made out directly to the Cantor)
 - Accompanist--\$250 (Check made out directly to Accompanist)
 - Gratuity for Presider--at the couple's discretion, but \$100-\$150 is recommended (cash or separate check).
- Send Intercessions, if you are composing your own, to Noah Bruce at nbruce@stagneslouisville.org
- Inform Pam Slagle, Parish Administrative Assistant, whether two Servers are needed for the date/time of your wedding in the Parish Offices at pslagle@stagneslouisville.org

One Week before wedding date:

- Give wedding license to Pam Slagle, Parish Administrative Assistant, in the Parish Office during normal business hours.

Options for Scripture Readings

Based on ancient patterns of worship, the Liturgy of the Word involves several passages from the Bible and invites us to listen to how God continues to speak to us today. For weddings, as for weekend Mass, three readings are normally chosen. The First Reading is usually taken from the Old Testament, followed by a Responsorial Psalm. The Second Reading is taken from the New Testament. Then there is a reading from one of the four gospels. Options for the readings are provided in the *Order of Celebrating Matrimony*, a guide for worship in Catholic weddings. This list is also available online at the Catholic website, *For Your Marriage*, foryourmarriage.org/readings, along with lots of other helpful information related to marriage. Below are the readings with a descriptive title, Scripture citation and a brief excerpt from the reading. The full text of each reading, in a format designed for reading, is also at <https://stagneslouisville.org/church/sacraments/#Marriage>.

Options for the First Reading (Old Testament)

1. ***The first creation story** (Genesis 1:26-28, 31): “God created man in his image; in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” [B-1](#).
2. ***The second creation story** (Genesis 2:18-24): “The Lord God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make a suitable partner for him. That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one body.’” [B-2](#).
3. ***With God's help, Isaac finds a suitable wife in Rebekah** (Genesis 24:48-51, 58-67): “Then Isaac took Rebekah into his tent; he married her, and thus she became his wife.” [B-3](#).
4. ***Tobias asks Raguel for Sarah's hand in marriage** (Tobit 7:9-10, 11-15): “May the Lord of heaven prosper you both. May he grant you mercy and peace.” [B-4](#).
5. ***Tobias prays for God's mercy for himself and Sarah on their wedding night** (Tobit 8:5-7): “Call down your mercy on me and on her, and allow us to live together to a happy old age.” [B-5](#).
6. ***Virtues of a worthy spouse** (Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31): “When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls.” [B-6](#)
7. **A biblical love song** (Song of Songs 2:8-10, 14, 16; 8:6-7): “Set me as a seal on your heart, as a seal on your arm; For stern as death is love, relentless as the nether-world is devotion; its flames are a blazing fire. Deep waters cannot quench love, nor floods sweep it away.”. [B-7](#).
8. ***The qualities of a good spouse** (Sirach 26:1-4, 13-16): “A gracious wife delights her husband, her thoughtfulness puts flesh on his bones.” [B-8](#).

9. **God's covenant with his people as a model for the marriage covenant** (Jeremiah 31:31-32a, 33-34a): “But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD. I will place my law within them, and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people.” [B-9](#).

Options for the Second Reading (New Testament)

1. **The depth of God's love** (Romans 8:31-35, 37-39): “For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” [D-1](#).
2. **A summary of Christian life.** (Romans 12:1-2, 9-18 [long form] or Romans 12:1-2, 9-13 [short form]): “Let love be sincere; hate what is evil, hold on to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; anticipate one another in showing honor.” [D-2](#).
3. **In harmony with one another** (Romans 15:1b-3a, 5-7, 13) “May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to think in harmony with one another.” [D-3](#).
4. **The sanctity of the body** (1 Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20): “Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been purchased at a price. Therefore glorify God in your body.” [D-4](#).
5. **The qualities of love** (1 Corinthians 12:31 - 13:8). “Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth.” [D-5](#).
6. ***Marriage compared to the relationship between Christ and the Church** (Ephesians 5:2, 21-33 [long form] or Ephesians 5:2, 25-32 [short form]): “As the Church is subordinate to Christ, so wives should be subordinate to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the Church and handed himself over for her to sanctify her.” [D-6](#).
7. **The peace of God will guard your hearts** (Philippians 4:4-9) “Rejoice in the Lord always.” [D-7](#).
8. **Love perfects all virtues** (Colossians 3:12-17): “And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection.” [D-8](#).
9. **Let marriage be honored among all** (Hebrews 13:1-4a, 5-6b. “I will never forsake you or abandon you.” [D-9](#).

10. ***The conduct of Christian wives and husbands** (1 Peter 3:1-9): “Finally, all of you, be of one mind, sympathetic, loving toward one another, compassionate, humble.” [D-10](#).
11. **Love of God requires love of one another** (1 John 3:18-24): “And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.” [D-11](#).
12. **God is love** (1 John 4:7-12): “Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten of God and knows God. Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love.” [D-12](#).
13. **The wedding feast of the lamb** (Revelation 19:1, 5-9): “Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory. For the wedding day of the Lamb has come, his bride has made herself ready.” [D-13](#).

Options for the Gospel Reading

1. **The Beatitudes** (Matthew 5:1-12): “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” (verse 3). [F-1](#).
2. **Be salt and light for the world** (Matthew 5:13-16): “Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.” [F-2](#).
3. **Build your house on rock** (Matthew 7:21, 24-29 [long form] or Matthew 7:21, 24-25 [short form]): “Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. But it did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock.” [F-3](#).
4. **The Greatest Commandment** (Matthew 22:35-40): “He said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. The second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’” [F-5](#).
5. ***The wedding at Cana** (John 2:1-11): “Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, ‘They have no wine.’” [F-7](#).
6. **Jesus' commandment** (John 15:9-12): “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I love you.” [F-8](#).
7. **No greater love** (John 15:12-16): “No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.” [F-9](#).
8. **That they may be one** (John 17:20-26): “As you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me. And I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one...” [F-10](#).

Wedding Music – Instrumental

Prelude/Processional/Recessional

Trumpet Voluntary in D Major - Jeremiah Clarke, Processional
Trumpet Tune in D Major - Henry Purcell, Processional
Canon in D Johann - Pachelbel, Processional
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring - Johann Sebastian Bach, Prelude, Processional
Prelude in C Major – Johann Sebastian Bach, Prelude, Processional
Hymn of Joy - Ludwig van Beethoven, Processional, Recessional
Hornpipe Allegro Maestoso - George Frederick Handel, Recessional
Wedding March - Felix Mendelssohn, Recessional
Trumpet Tune in D Major - David Johnson Prelude, Processional
Te Deum* - Marc Antoine Charpentier Recessional, Prelude
Air - Johann Sebastian Bach, Prelude
I Vow to Thee - Gustav Holst, Prelude
Overture from Suite in D Major* George Frederick Handel, Prelude
Air George Frederick Handel, Prelude
The Peace May Be Exchanged - Dan Locklair, Prelude
Trumpet Voluntary – Gordon Young, Prelude/Recessional
Jubilate – Gordon Young, Recessional
The Swan – Camille Saint-Saëns, Prelude/Processional
Song for All Saints – MacDonald, Recessional
Toccatà from Symphony no. V- Widor, Recessional
Toccatà on Amazing Grace – Pardini, Recessional

Most instrumental music on this list is suitable for organ alone, or optional instrument.

** Suitable only with organ and trumpet.*

Wedding Music - Vocal

Hymns

All People that on Earth Do Dwell #928 OLD HUNDRETH, LM, Entrance Hymn
O God, Beyond All Praising #725 THAXTED, Entrance Hymn
Love Has Brought Us Here Together #1073 HYFRYDOL Entrance Hymn
God, in the Planning #1070 SLANE Offertory
When Love Is Found #1071 O WALY WALY Offertory
The Gift of Love arr. Hopson O WALY WALY Offertory
God of Love, Embrace Your People #1074 HYMN TO JOY Entrance Hymn, Recessional
Covenant Hymn # 1016 Gary Daigle offertory
Praise to the Lord, The Almighty #714 LOBE DEN HERREN Entrance Hymn
Amazing Grace #757 NEW BRITAN Entrance, Offertory
Now Thank We All Our God #743 NUN DANKET Entrance, Recessional
**All hymn numbers are as found in the Ritual Song Hymnal*

Communion Hymns

In Memory of You #1043

Draw Near # 1037

Take and Eat # 1025

Supper of the Lamb - Schutte

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart #1028

I Am the Bread of Life #1029

Now in This Banquet #1041

O Lord, I Am Not Worthy

**All hymn numbers are as found in the Ritual Song Hymnal*

Marian Devotion

Ave Maria Franz Schubert Prelude/Marian Devotion

Ave Maria J.S. Bach / Charles Gounod Prelude/Marian Devotion

Alma Redemptoris Mater – Advent Season Marian Devotion

Ave Regina Caelorum -Lenten Season Marian Devotion

Regina Caeli – Easter Season Marian Devotion

Salve Regina – Ordinary Time Marian Devotion

Choral Schola (Quartet) Music

*Extra expense

Sicut cervus – Palestrina Prelude, Offertory

Set Me As A Seal – Clausen Prelude, Offertory

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring – Bach Prelude, Offertory

Ave Verum Corpus - Mozart Communion

Ave Verum Corpus – Byrd Communion

Ave Verum Corpus – Elgar Communion

Ave Verum Corpus – Bullard Communion

Ave Maria – Arcadelt Prelude, Marian Devotion

Ave Maria – Busto Prelude, Marian Devotion

Panis Angelicus – Franck Prelude, Communion

If ye love me – Tallis Prelude, Offertory

More options available. If interested, please talk to Noah Bruce as soon as possible

Sample Intercessions

Presider: Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Therefore we boldly lift our prayers to God who is love.

Reader: For the Church, for fidelity in proclaiming the gospel, for faith in good times and in bad, for unwavering commitment to unity: May we never cease to profess boundless love for all creation. We pray to the Lord...

For the world and all peoples, for those without food, shelter, or clothing; for those without meaningful work or meaningful relationships; for those without hope, joy, or peace: May we be a word of comfort for them and a sign of Christ's abundant love. We pray to the Lord...

For our families and friends: for those gathered here and those far away, for those united in love many years and those just beginning, for those we love and those we struggle to love: May Christ deepen our bond to each other in God's strong embrace. We pray to the Lord...

For [bride] and [groom] and all who begin married life today, for peace in times of chaos and confusion; for generosity when there is little to give; for faith in each other and love beyond reason: May their lives be a sacrament of Christ's irrational, irresistible, and invincible love for us all. We pray to the Lord...

For those in need of healing, for those nearing death, for loved ones who have died, and for all who need our prayers, especially those we hold in the silence of our hearts: May nothing ever separate us from the love of God through Christ. We pray to the Lord...

Presider: Faithful God, we have heard your voice in the Word, and seen your love made visible in this couple, so make us now your life-giving presence for the world, and fill us with your unfailing Spirit of love, that the prayers we have offered may come to fulfillment in you. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Wedding Liturgy Workshop: Quick Review

Wedding Rehearsal and Wedding Day:

- Enter the church quietly and with respect for the reverence of this sacred place.
- Bride and groom should be examples of how you want your wedding party to behave.
- Children in the wedding party should be at least 4-5 years old.
- No drinking or smoking on the property.
- No aisle runner, rice, bird seed; bells and bubbles are OK outside afterwards.
- No unity candle. This is better suited for the reception.
- Outside Wedding Coordinators may be used for other events (e.g. showers, bachelor/bachelorette party, and wedding reception) but not for your rehearsal or wedding ceremony in the church.
- Arrive up to 90 minutes before the wedding
 - Children and elderly should arrive about 30 minutes beforehand.
 - It's fine for the bride and groom to see each other before the wedding.
- Plan to make use of time before and after wedding for photography.
 - You have approximately one hour for photos *beforehand* because photos should stop 30 minutes before ceremony begins.
 - Photos should stop 30 minutes after the ceremony.
- After your wedding ceremony:
 - Remove flowers, bows, wedding decorations that you plan to keep; otherwise, they will be thrown away.