

To those seeking the Sacrament of Marriage at Gesu in 2022,

The pandemic has had hard effects on all of us. Some of you were engaged to marry in 2020 and decided to postpone, and some of you wished to marry in 2021 and were unable to make reservations because everything had been booked up by couples who were hoping to marry in 2020. Some of you still may have married civilly for legitimate reasons caused by the pandemic and are still hoping to validate your wedding in the Church. We have been walking through these stories with couples since March of 2020, and it has broken our hearts to have to ask people to change their dates, cut down their guest list, or move their wedding to a different church or location.

Moving forward, we have had to make difficult decisions about how we continue to handle weddings until there is a viable option for combatting the Coronavirus—most likely in the form of a vaccine.

**At this time, we have decided not to open our 2022 wedding Calendar, a decision we will revisit in January. We know this is heartbreaking news. Many of you have been emailing us for over a year for 2022 wedding dates, and we are wholeheartedly sorry for the pain we know this decision will cause.**

Weddings are supposed to be joyous occasions that are celebrated by the entire community. Although we are looking forward to the days when we can open our doors to these large celebrations, we must consider the practicality and cost of opening our church to the public.

Our first and foremost obligation is to our parishioners; those who join us every week to celebrate and share at the Communion Table. The Eucharist is the most important sacrament in our Church, and we feel a responsibility to make sure our parishioners have safe access to the Bread of Life during Covid.

Weddings bring in our most diverse crowds—and typically we love this! We see this as a point of evangelization as we share a special sacrament with your family and friends of many different religious backgrounds. But right now, this diversity means that people are coming in from out of state, or they are unsure of the decorum of worshipping in a Catholic church. They put our staff at greater risk of infection, which, in turn, puts our ability to serve our regular parishioners at risk.

Considering all of this, we also have an obligation to help our parishioners receive the sacraments. Therefore, if you are a parishioner, and you have been registered for at least six months, we will administer the Sacrament of Matrimony in a small ceremony of no more than ten people. This would have no music, no procession, and no Eucharist. When 2022 dates do become available, you will be welcome to do a vow renewal as part of a much larger ceremony. Please note we need at least six months' notice to perform the sacrament, and you will still be required to have all the necessary documentation approved by the Archdiocese. Please note that we will be available to help our registered parishioners complete the Pre-Cana prep work to marry at an alternative location, or at a different Catholic Church in the country. The price for this is \$100.00 and covers our administrative costs. If you have any further questions, please contact Jerri at [jerri.vondenbosch@marquette.edu](mailto:jerri.vondenbosch@marquette.edu).

Covid has changed our lives in so many unsettling ways, and we know this is very difficult. We thank you for your understanding during this critical time.

Sincerely, the Gesu Liturgy Team