

Wedding Photographer Notes for St. Thomas Aquinas Parish weddings:

1. Please adhere to a certain amount of reverence as you are in a church and Mass (or a wedding without a Mass) is a solemn ceremony.
2. From the step up on carpet towards altar to the back wall (also called the sanctuary) is off-limits to photographers and videographers.
3. Flash photography is discouraged during the wedding ceremony and prohibited during the rest of Mass (if a mass is included in the ceremony). Non-flash photography is permitted at all times.
4. When the priest is blessing the couple from the main aisle, photographers are NOT permitted to stand directly behind the priest.
5. Soft-soled shoes are recommended to reduce noise on hardwood floors when moving about the church.
6. Both side aisles may be used throughout the mass/celebration.
7. The main aisle will be kept clear except may be used during entrance and exit of bride and groom.
8. The choir loft may be utilized either for stationary video equipment or for long shot photography, as long as any musician is not interfered with in the loft.
9. You may NOT obstruct guests' view with stationary photographic equipment, or by standing in front of guests in empty pews.
10. No standing or placing of photographic equipment (such as tripods) on pews.
11. Close-up photos need to be done with telephoto lens, not right in front of couple, which obscures guests' line of sight.
12. Wandering around the altar area (sanctuary) is not permitted before or after wedding, with the exception of signing the marriage license, if done at the altar.
13. Flash photos are permitted after mass/ceremony for posed photos in front of altar. Please consult with the parish wedding coordinator to understand the amount of time allotted for photos after wedding (dependent on whether there is another wedding scheduled after yours).
14. A list of photos wanted / needed after the ceremony is extremely helpful in order that the photo session doesn't go over specified time limit (especially if there is another wedding booked after this one.)