

Diocese of Pueblo

Facility Use Policy

Last updated 4/15/2022

A. Purpose

Queen of All Saints Church is a community of the Christian faithful established in Crested Butte, Colorado and entrusted to the care of its pastor under the authority of the Bishop of the Diocese of Pueblo. As stated in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, the Parish or mission “is the place where all the faithful can be gathered together for the Sunday celebration of the Eucharist.” The Church “initiates the Christian people into the ordinary expression of the liturgical life: it gathers them together in this celebration; it teaches Christ’s saving doctrine; it practices the charity of the Lord in good works and brotherly love.” *Catechism* § 2179 (2d ed. 1994).

This Facility Use Policy (“**Policy**”) sets forth standards for use of the Church’s property and facilities, through which the Church exercises and expresses its Christian beliefs and mission. The Church believes that its property and facilities have been entrusted to it by God, that they are to be used solely to bring glory to Him, and that they are to be shared so that others may experience God’s grace and draw closer to Him. The use of and care for Church property and facilities are matters of stewardship of God’s gifts.

As a Catholic Church, it engages in activities and uses its facilities solely to exercise and express its Christian beliefs and to further its Christian mission and purposes. To this end, the Church invites individuals and groups of all faiths or no faith to be a part of programs and to be guests in Church facilities. Every visit to and use of a Church facility is an opportunity for the Church to express the love of Christ and share the good news of God’s salvation through Christ and His Church.

B. Catholic Standards for Use of Facilities

As a Catholic Church, the Church exercises and expresses its Christian beliefs and values through the following standards.

C. General

The Church generally permit its facilities to be used for activities that are consistent with Catholic faith, morals, and teaching. Church facilities include all land and buildings owned or operated by the Church, including property held in trust by the Diocesan corporation for the benefit of the Church. The use of a Church facility shall not be granted to any individual, organization, or group:

- (a) whose purpose, tenets, acts or omissions, or objectives contradict the faith, morals, and teaching of the Catholic Church or Diocesan policies;
- (b) when the activity for which the facility is to be used contradicts the faith, morals, and teaching of the Catholic Church or Diocesan policies;
- (c) when doing so would directly involve the Church or Diocese in lobbying or in partisan politics in support of or opposition to a candidate for public office, or would otherwise jeopardize any property or income tax exemption;
- (d) when unlawful, unsafe, or hazardous activity may occur as a result;
- (e) whenever the pastor, the Diocese, or other competent authority determines that the granting of such use will not be in the best interest of the Church, its parishioners, the faithful, or the Diocese, or that the denial of such use is necessary to avoid scandal; or
- (f) when such use would cause the facility to be subject to legal requirements (e.g., under “public accommodation” laws) that are contrary to Catholic teaching, or that impose additional compliance costs detrimental to the Church’s primary ministry activities.

D. Religious Activities

The Church engages solely in activities that further its Christian mission and purposes as a Catholic Church.

The Church distinguishes between exclusively religious activities and integrated religious activities. Exclusively religious activities refer to activities that primarily further only religious purposes, such as Mass, the administration of the sacraments, prayer, observance of holy days, and faith formation. Integrated religious activities refer to activities that substantially further both religious and nonreligious purposes. Such activities are often similar to activities conducted by nonreligious organizations and may include educational programs and athletic, cultural, humanitarian, and social service activities. The Church conducts integrated religious activities in response to God’s calling and in furtherance of and in accordance with its Christian beliefs as a Catholic Church.

Similarly, the Church distinguishes between Church buildings that are constructed exclusively for worship and buildings which may have multiple purposes. The primary purpose and function of the Church building is the celebration of the liturgy and private or devotional prayer by the faithful. Any other use proposed to be made of the Church building shall not be of a nature that may contradict the building’s primary purpose and function, in keeping with canonical norms regulating sacred space.

E. Facility Use Guidelines

Individuals and groups that belong to or are affiliated with the Church, the Diocese, or any other Church within the Diocese have priority in the use of Church facilities.

Individuals, organizations, and groups not affiliated with the Church may use Church facilities if they comply with the standards set forth in this Policy, respect the Church's Catholic beliefs, and support its mission.

An event organizer or sponsor must acknowledge in writing that the organization or group using a Church facility has read, understands, accepts, and agrees to abide by this Policy, and that the Church is permitting the organization or group to use the facility as an exercise and expression of the Church's Catholic faith. Granting the use of a Church facility shall not constitute an endorsement by the Church, the Diocese, or the Catholic Church of the principles or philosophy of the individuals, organization, or group being granted such use.

F. Abusive Conduct

Abusive, lewd, crass, or foul language, and violent behavior, are strictly prohibited while using Church facilities because such conduct is inconsistent with Catholic teaching.

G. Standards Related to Human Sexuality and Marriage

Catholic teaching regarding human sexuality, gender, and marriage shall apply in all programs and facility uses. Any events in facilities pertaining to marriage (e.g., weddings, receptions, anniversary celebrations) must involve only marriages recognized by the Catholic Church.

The Church may designate certain activities, facilities, or rooms, including restrooms and locker rooms, for participation or use by a single sex, and only individuals having the designated sex as determined in accordance with Catholic teaching may participate in such activities or use such facilities or rooms. No pornographic materials may be present in any Church facility or activity.

H. Implementation, Authority, and Insurance

A. Spiritual Discernment

The determination of whether any particular guest or use of Church facilities complies with this Policy requires spiritual discernment applied to each particular circumstance and shall be made in the sole discretion of the Church pastor in accordance with this policy. The foregoing applies to any decision regarding facility use,

including the grant, denial, termination, or nonrenewal of such use, or restrictions placed upon such use.

I. Delegated Authority and Scope

The pastor, after consultation with the Church council, may establish additional standards governing facility use by the Church or its guests, provided that such standards are not inconsistent with this Policy or with the faith, morals, and teaching of the Catholic Church.

J. Insurance

Individuals, organizations, and groups not affiliated with the Church or the Diocese who wish to use a Church facility must obtain a certificate of liability insurance coverage with coverage limits that are reasonable in light of the nature, duration, and risks of the activity or use. The Church, the Diocese of Pueblo, and the Bishop of Pueblo, a corporation sole must be named as additional insureds. The Church may impose this same coverage requirement on individuals, organizations, or groups who are affiliated with the Church or the Diocese. Those who do not have their own liability insurance can obtain Special Events coverage through the Diocese's property and casualty insurer. Information and insurance applications are available through the Lessor.