

Alcohol Policy

All Saints Church, Chevy Chase Parish

Introduction

In accordance with the policies and guidelines of the Diocese of Washington, and by the actions of its Bishop and Diocesan Council, and by virtue of Resolution A158 adopted by the 78th General Convention of the Episcopal Church in 2015, a formal Alcohol Policy is required of each parish of the Diocese.

Accordingly, All Saints Church, by and through the actions of its Vestry, hereby adopts the below Alcohol Policy (hereinafter referred to as the “Policy”, on this 20th day of December, 2016.

Policy

The Policy set forth below is intended for use for all events held within the church building or upon the church grounds. The Policy shall also apply to events officially sponsored by All Saints Church off-site. The limitations and guidelines set forth below are generally provided in accordance with those set forth by the policy of the Diocese of Washington.

1. We understand from Holy Scripture that our Lord used and permitted the use of alcohol in wine. Thus, alcohol is not strictly prohibited for the Christian, but shall be used in a wholesome, godly, and moderate manner reflecting proper discipleship and responsibility.
2. All Saints Church shall strive to provide a safe and welcoming environment for all people, including people in recovery. Thus, such safe and welcoming goals should include matters of alcohol usage.
3. No alcoholic beverage may be provided, served, or consumed at any event beyond what is permitted under this Policy.
4. All applicable federal, state and local laws shall be observed and obeyed, including those governing the serving of alcoholic beverages to minors. No parent, guardian or other person shall provide alcohol to anyone under the legal age of consumption. No minor shall be allowed to serve alcohol to any person or to pour or handle alcohol.

5. Hard liquor shall not be served at parish events, in accordance with the policy of the Diocese of Washington. Alcoholic beverages served at parish events shall be limited to wine, beer, or sparkling wine (e.g., champagne).
6. Any proposed provision of alcohol at any event shall be noticed to the Rector, in writing, not less than two weeks prior to such proposed provision, where reasonably possible. The event organizer or host shall specify to the Rector at that time both the intended beginning and ending times of the serving of alcohol and the types of alcoholic beverages. Service of alcohol shall be limited to three (3) hours. Alcohol may only be consumed in the room provided for an event and shall not extend into hallways, other rooms, or outside the building.
7. A one million dollar private alcohol liability insurance policy, binder, or endorsement shall be required from the host, sponsor or organizer of any non-parish event at which alcohol will be consumed, to the satisfaction of the Rector.
8. Alcohol may not be sold.
9. When alcohol is served, the host, sponsor, or event organizer shall appoint an adult person of discretion to oversee, monitor, and supervise its serving. That adult should not drink alcoholic beverages during the time of his or her execution of his or her responsibilities. All alcohol shall be served by such appointed persons and there shall be no self-pouring or self-serving of alcohol by anyone consuming alcohol. Individuals showing signs of intoxication shall not be served.
10. All persons are prohibited from the use, misuse, possession, or distribution of illegal drugs, and from being under the influence of alcohol, while participating in or assisting with programs or activities of the parish.
11. For any type of non-parish reception, gathering, or other event, the host, sponsor, or organizer shall be responsible for the costs and expenses of any security guard, cleaning personnel, or other service persons deemed appropriate at the sole discretion of the parish through its Rector or other official of authority. Such personnel shall not assume, be deemed to assume, nor be charged with the responsibility of alcohol use management. Such management and responsibility shall remain with the host, organizer, or sponsor.
12. Alcoholic beverages stored on the church premises are to be in locked storage areas or enclosures.
13. If minors are present, alcohol must be served at a separate station that is monitored at all times to prevent underage drinking.
14. No alcohol may be served at any event for children, youth, or teenagers.

15. Alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, and other non-prescription behavior altering substances are not to be consumed by adults who accompany, sponsor, chaperone, or otherwise participate with or in the presence of minors, whether on or off church property, regarding any parish-related activity.
16. Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages will be clearly labeled as such at all events. Food prepared with alcohol does not need to be labeled provided the alcohol is completely volatilized or evaporated by the cooking process; however, it is recommended that even in such case the use of alcohol in cooking be noted on a label.
17. When alcohol is served, appealing non-alcoholic alternatives shall be offered with equal prominence and accessibility.
18. The serving of alcoholic beverages at parish events, if publicized, shall be publicized as a secondary or tertiary part of the event.
19. Alcohol consumption shall not be the focus of any ministry or event.
20. Food must be served when alcohol is present. On such occasions, 50% of the total food served shall be food of nutritional substance, such as proteins.
21. Groups or organizations sponsoring activities or events where alcoholic beverages are served will assume responsibility for those persons who might become intoxicated and will provide alternative transportation for anyone whose capacity to drive may be impaired.
22. The host, sponsor and organizer of any event shall be deemed to assume all moral and legal responsibility, directly or indirectly, relative to the serving of alcohol.
23. Alcoholic beverages shall not be served when the business of the parish is being conducted.
24. Clergy shall consecrate an appropriate amount of wine when celebrating the Eucharist and perform ablutions in a way that does not foster or model misuse. Excess consecrated wine may be reserved for future use, poured into a piscina, poured into the ground or otherwise reverently disposed of. No one is required to consume excess consecrated wine. After each service, communion wine shall be stored and locked. Receiving the sacrament in one kind (bread only) is perfectly valid.
25. The only exception to serving alcohol to children is during the administration of the Sacrament of the Eucharist.
26. All alcoholic beverages will be removed from the church facilities and grounds at the end of any non-parish event.

27. Hosts, sponsors, and organizers of events not sponsored by All Saints Church, agree to indemnify and hold harmless All Saints Church and its employees and leadership from any and all liability caused by the use of alcohol at any such event. The indemnification and hold harmless provisions are provided in more detail in the "Contract for Use of Facilities" to be signed by all parties before any such event. Additionally, the host, sponsor or organizer shall provide All Saints Church with a copy of an effective liability insurance policy or the endorsement or waiver otherwise referenced above.
28. For events not sponsored by All Saints Church, a document detailing the acceptance of this Policy, and the Policy's incorporation into such acceptance, shall be signed and adopted in advance by the event host, sponsor, or organizer, and by the Rector or church official designated by the Rector, with a copy to be kept in the church office.

General Principles

We believe that God's gifts are good and we understand that people struggle to use them in ways that are healthy, positive, joyful, and in harmony with the Lord's purposes for recreation. Moreover, we recognize the pain, confusion and anxiety that arise when the gift of free-will is impaired by addiction to alcohol or other drugs. Because we are people of faith, we do not lose hope nor do we despair in the face of addiction. Jesus Christ offers new life and the Holy Spirit gives us power to transform our darkness into light.

Addiction Is a Disease

All Saints Church acknowledges that substance abuse and misuse are major health concerns for people throughout the world.

Addiction Destroys Relationships

We understand that alcohol and drug abuse and misuse impair the body, mind and spirit of the individual, thus disrupting supportive relationships with family, friends, and others. It is also a spiritual disease that impairs one's relationship with God.

Addiction Is Treatable

We believe that alcohol and drug addiction can affect any individual, regardless of social, educational or financial status. However, the disease is treatable by God's grace.

We Are Called to a Healing Ministry

We especially acknowledge the need for guidance and for a healing ministry for those who abuse or misuse alcohol or other drugs and also for those who have close personal relationships with them. We encourage opportunities for education and conversation about the use, abuse, and misuse of alcohol and other drugs.

Therefore, we call upon the good people of All Saints Church to take to heart the seriousness of alcohol and drug abuse and misuse and to offer the love of Christ and His healing grace to those people and families facing addiction. We also encourage the application of moderation and sensitivity, in all matters, to ensure the offering of a safe and welcoming house of worship to people in recovery.