

CIVIL REQUIREMENTS:

- ◆ Birth Certificates. Certified photostatic copies can be obtained at the Bureau of Vital Statistics (City or State of your birth).
- ◆ Marriage License.

CHURCH REQUIREMENTS:

- ◆ Baptismal Certificates dated within six months of the wedding day.
- ◆ Certificate of attendance at one of the five approved marriage Preparation Programs offered in the Archdiocese.
- ◆ Pre-marital affidavits (in some cases).



TIMES AVAILABLE FOR WEEKEND WEDDINGS.

- ◆ Friday evening between 6 & 7:30 p.m.
- ◆ Saturday between 10 a.m. & 3 p.m.
- ◆ Saturday between 6 & 7:30 p.m.

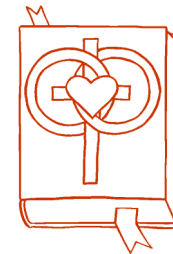


WHO TO CONTACT TO HAVE YOUR WEDDING AT ST. JOSEPH CHURCH?

Call the wedding coordinator (Carol Monahan) between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Mondays through Fridays at (504) 522-3186 ext. 141.

Date Revised: 4-16-2010

*Parish Guidelines
for the Sacrament
of Matrimony*



St. Joseph Church
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WHY GUIDELINES FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY?

The Catholic Church believes and teaches that marriage is a sacrament, a symbol of the love that Jesus Christ has for his people, the church. As a sacrament, marriage is also a covenant by which a man and woman establish a partnership of love for the whole of their lives. Marriage is ordered toward the good of the spouse and the procreation and education of children. It is meant to be a life long commitment..."till death do you part."

Catholic parishes have the responsibility of assisting couples to understand and prepare for the responsibilities of the sacrament of marriage. With that in mind, we offer the information and guidelines that follow.

WHO CAN MARRY AT ST. JOSEPH CHURCH?

1. **Parishioners:** Registered and active members of St. Joseph Church, who are free to marry in the Catholic Church, are welcome to celebrate their wedding at the Church. They must contact the parish priest or a priest of their own choosing at least six months prior to the planned wedding day. This is true even if one party is neither a member nor a Catholic, as long as the party is also free to marry in the Catholic Church.
2. **Non-Parishioners:** Couples request to be married at St. Joseph Church for a variety of reasons. We are pleased to host such weddings (in accordance with Archdiocesan policies and those of St. Joseph Church). It is possible to have our Pastor preside and officiate at your wedding. You are also free to invite a priest or deacon (relative, family friend, etc.) who is in good standing to preside and officiate at your wedding. It is important that you make the following arrangements:

- ◆ A visit to the pastor of the bride (or the groom) must be made a minimum of six (6) months prior to the wedding date. In a mixed marriage, visit the pastor of the Catholic party. Ask for permission to marry outside of your own parish.
- ◆ Invite the pastor, assistant, deacon or other priest to officiate at your wedding. The one who accepts marrying you will be responsible for taking you through the marriage preparation program and fulfilling all Archdiocesan rules regarding publication of bans, obtaining dispensations for a mixed marriage, etc.

GUIDELINES

- ◆ **CHURCH RENTAL.** Rental fees are charged for use of the church. A non-refundable deposit of half the fee is required upon booking the church. The balance is due no later than 30 days prior to the night of the rehearsal.
- ◆ Rental fee is \$2200, which includes the services of a sacristan, an assistant sacristan, and a security guard.
- ◆ **SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION FEE.** St. Joseph Church has a priest on staff who may be able to work with couples to prepare them for the sacrament of matrimony. If you choose to use this service, there is a \$250 fee to be paid at the time you make the deposit on the rental of the church.
- ◆ **CHURCH-WEDDING SACRISTANS:** The church will assign a wedding sacristan to assist you during the rehearsal and wedding. The cost of this service is included in the rental fee.
- ◆ **SEASONAL DECORATIONS.** While we make every effort to accommodate weddings, the church remains an active parish church. Therefore we cannot remove seasonal decorations to accommodate individual weddings
- ◆ Aisle runners are not allowed.
- ◆ Flower arrangements placed on the back altar are to remain in the church.
- ◆ Rehearsals can be scheduled on Wednesday or Thursday between 5pm & 7pm. Friday

rehearsals cannot be scheduled prior to 3 months before the wedding and can only be scheduled at that time if there is no Friday evening wedding .

- ◆ **WEDDING PHOTOS:** The wedding party is permitted to take pictures in the church 1/2 hour before or one hour after the ceremony. You must inform the wedding sacristan at the time of the rehearsal if you will take pictures after the ceremony.
- ◆ You must inform guests to refrain from throwing rice, seeds, bubbles, flower petals or confetti in the church or on the church porch or steps.
- ◆ Your personal involvement in your wedding and that of your attendants or relatives, such as reading from scripture, carrying the gifts to the altar, etc. is encouraged, however, they must be presented to the presiding priest or deacon for his approval.
- ◆ Consult the priest or deacon who will be officiating your wedding if you plan to have a wedding without Mass: as in the case of a mixed marriage.
- ◆ We can recommend organists and/or vocalists who can perform at your wedding.
- ◆ We expect your cooperation in ensuring that both your rehearsal and your wedding begin on time, and that the members of your wedding party behave appropriately before, during, and after your rehearsal and wedding.
- ◆ **MARRIAGE LICENSE. Bring your marriage license to the wedding rehearsal.**

