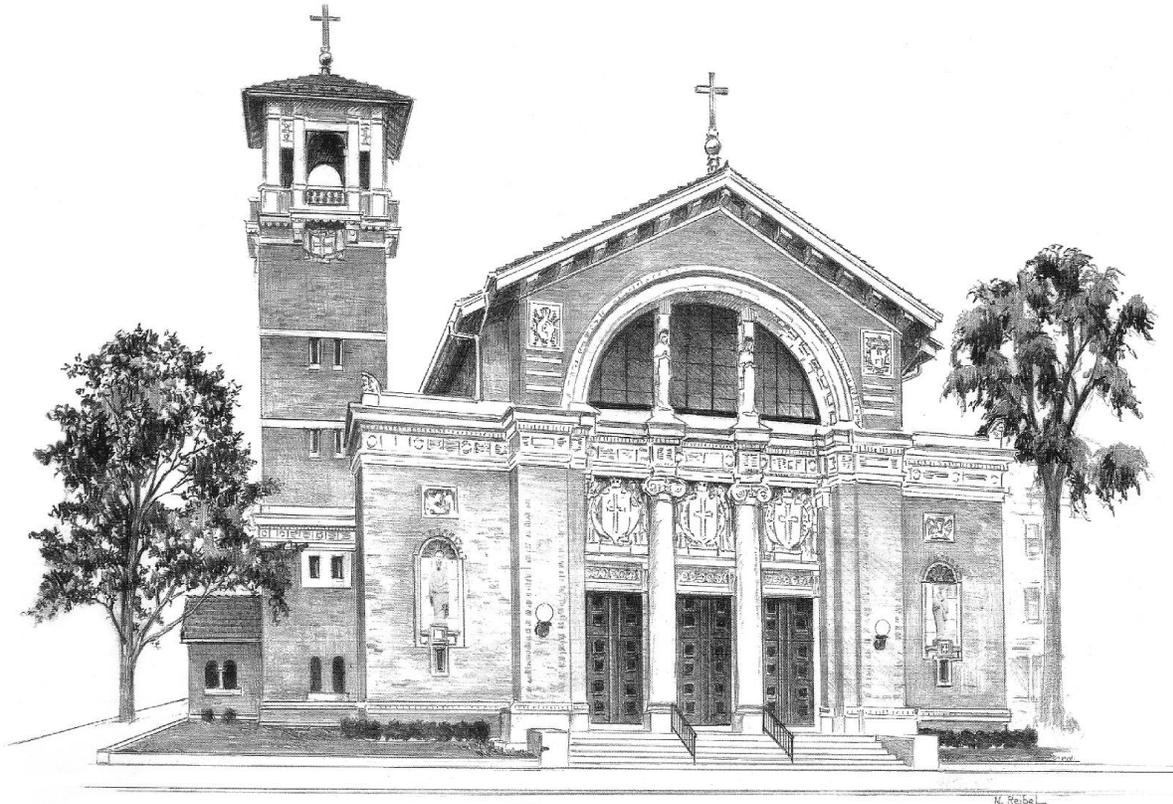


# WEDDING GUIDELINES



**Congratulations on your upcoming wedding!**  
Because **Marriage** is one of the seven sacraments of the Church, your marriage preparation and wedding are important to us. To help you in this preparation, we offer the following guidelines and policies.

**DATE:**

All dates for weddings are established with the priest. The couple needs to meet with the priest at least six months before the determined date.

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

Because marriage is a sacrament, beginning with the wedding, the Church wants to assist you in this entire preparation. The Church offers the couple the following options to help you in the preparation for your upcoming wedding:

- Pre-Cana
- Engaged Encounter Weekend
- The priest or deacon will assist you in prayerfully discerning which of the options is best for you as a couple.

**BAPTISMAL RECORDS:**

Both parties will need to provide a copy of their baptismal records from the parish where they were baptized, issued within six months of the wedding.

**MARRIAGE LICENSE:**

A license for the marriage needs to be obtained from Montgomery County Pro-bate Court no earlier than sixty days before the wedding. Montgomery County Probate Court is located at 41 North Perry Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. It is open Monday - Friday 8:30am to 4:15pm. It is necessary to have a valid photo ID. The phone number is 937-225-4656. It's important that you give the license to the priest before the wedding.

**PRESIDER:**

Ordinarily, the priest from the parish will be happy to perform the wedding. However, visiting priests or deacons are welcome. The minister performing the wedding is responsible for the proper marriage preparation, rehearsal and ceremony.

**THE TIME:**

Weddings at St. Joseph Church are normally celebrated on Saturdays at 1:30 pm. Because of Confessions and the 4:30 pm Mass on Saturday evening, all wedding-related activity in the church, including picture taking, needs to cease by 3:30pm.

## **CEREMONY:**

### **WEDDING MASS:**

Normally, a wedding between two practicing Catholics is celebrated in the context of the Mass. Families can provide their own lectors or the parish will provide them. They need to be active in the Catholic faith and commissioned by their diocese and local parish.

### **LITURGY OF THE WORD:**

Normally, an inter-faith wedding between a Catholic and a baptized non-Catholic is celebrated in the context of the Liturgy of the Word without Mass.

The wedding of a Catholic and a non-baptized person is always celebrated in the context of the Liturgy of the Word without Mass.

### **MUSIC:**

Your wedding liturgy is a celebration of Catholic worship. As such, it is a part of the Church's official prayer.

The music for your wedding is an important part of the ceremony and its primary purpose is to enhance prayer. Music helps the congregation praise God for bringing you together as a couple. It should help make your wedding sacred and beautiful.

Music selection is based upon the guidelines of the Worship Office of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

Wedding couples are expected to contact our organists Brad Wilson (937-207-8976 or [wilson.bradley@live.com](mailto:wilson.bradley@live.com)) as soon as possible after the determination of the wedding date, to schedule an appointment. You will meet with the organist nearer the date of the wedding and he will assist you in the selection of the music. Guest musicians are permitted with the prior approval of the pastor/associate pastor.

### **FLOWERS:**

Flowers are welcome as adornment of the House of God. We use Furst Florist (223-1213) and work specifically with Shirley however you may work with any florist you like.

The floral arrangement of the liturgical seasons of Advent, Lent, Christmas and Easter always prevail over the décor and floral arrangements of a wedding. All decorations at the time of a wedding need to honor the liturgical calendar of the Church. Nothing should ever be rearranged in the sanctuary without the permission of the pastor.

### **CHURCH DÉCOR:**

As with flowers, all decorations of the church and the sanctuary should be in accord with the liturgical season. They should never cause any permanent damage to the church such as wax on carpets, tape on pews, etc.

Rice, confetti, and birdseed are not in accord with a church wedding and are not to be used. The center aisle is 90 ft long.

### **PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEOGRAPHY:**

Pictures may be taken, flash or otherwise, before and after the wedding and during the procession and the recession.

To protect the dignity of the ceremony, once the wedding begins, only non-flash photography/videography is allowed and it is limited to the back of church or the choir loft. When in the choir loft, care should be given not to interfere with the organist or musicians.

All picture-taking should cease when confessions begin at 4:00 p.m. When scheduling pictures before the wedding, the couple needs to check for other possible events in church that day. It is the responsibility of the wedding couple to share these policies with their photographer/videographer.

### **WEDDING COORDINATOR:**

A trained parish wedding coordinator is required and will be provided to assist you with the rehearsal and the details of the wedding. The coordinator will work with the wedding party, families of the bride and groom, the celebrant, the music director, the photographer/videographer, and the florist. The wedding coordinator will assure entry into church and cleanup after the wedding and attend to the details of lighting, heating, air conditioning, etc.

### **USE OF BUILDING:**

In most instances, the church will be available to you one hour prior to your wedding. There is a bridal room in the undercroft of the rectory that is

available two hours prior to the wedding. Please inform all parties involved that no alcohol or smoking is permitted on church property. St. Joseph Church is not responsible for the loss of any personal items and care should be taken that valuables are not left unattended.

**REHEARSAL:**

The rehearsal normally takes place the evening before the wedding. The rehearsal will be conducted by the priest and the wedding coordinator and should begin at the arranged time. Lectors are expected to be present at the rehearsal to practice the readings.

**ADDITIONAL DETAILS:**

**Receiving Line:** This is only possible when time permits and is more appropriately done at the reception.

**Bouquet to Mary:** Can be arranged through your florist or purchased on your own.

**STIPENDS/FEES:**

The fee for the church will be discussed at the time the wedding is confirmed. The fee for the organist varies and should be discussed when you contact the organist. The fee for the wedding coordinator is \$100. The wedding coordinator can also perform the duties of a server and lector if needed.

No wedding will ever be refused because of an inability to pay the fees. All checks should be made out to St. Joseph Church and the church will pay the various parties involved.

We hope you find these guidelines helpful as you prepare for your wedding. We want your wedding to be a prayerful expression of your love for one another. Please call Rita at the rectory if you have questions 228-9272.