

Planning for a Catholic Christian Wedding

Our congratulations and prayers are with you as you prepare for your Christian marriage. We feel your marriage is not only a gift that you give to each other, but a gift celebrated in God, and therefore a gift to us as well. You are able to make this lifetime commitment of love and fidelity to each other because God has committed to you in love and fidelity first. In fact it is in reflecting this love and fidelity of God that you share with us your gift of love.

Marriage is a sacrament of vocation in the Catholic Church. The sacrament holds deep religious meaning and must be entered only after prayer, consideration and the conviction of God's presence in your relationship. It should be respected and revered.

In view of the above we ask you to keep in mind that there are usually two important parts of your special day: the wedding ceremony and the festivities that take place afterward. The first takes place in **God's house** which we acknowledge as **holy ground**; and the second at a facility meant for parties, receptions, etc. Please do not confuse the two. What is appropriate at the latter is not always appropriate on holy ground. Thus, inappropriate behavior such as chewing gum or inappropriate dress is not allowed. The use of alcohol anywhere in the church or on church grounds or in the possession of any member of the wedding party or attendees is strictly prohibited.

We hope the following information will be helpful in the planning of your wedding. May God bless you in the days and years ahead.

Parish Policy

The Sacrament of Marriage is an important step in your faith life. To live your Catholic faith, you must be true to your commitment and obligation to regularly attend Sunday and Holy Day Masses.

Only active parishioners (either the prospective groom or bride), registered with our parish for a minimum of one year, may celebrate their wedding at St. Ann. Active members are those who participate in parish life and attend Mass regularly. Wedding date requests will not be considered until the parish has established your active participation in our parish.

If you grew up in our parish and your family continues to be active members, you may have your wedding celebrated here. You must, however, provide a written statement from the Catholic parish where you are registered indicating you attend Mass regularly.

Wedding Times at St. Ann

Saturday: 12:00PM and 2:00PM

No Sunday Weddings

Nuptial Mass and Ceremony

The parish Liturgist will assist you in preparing your wedding liturgy. Please feel free to ask any questions. If you have decided to have a booklet for your wedding, please have the parish Liturgist review the order and selections you have made.

Visiting priests and clergy of other denominations are welcome at our church once **permission has been granted by our pastor**. Please finalize all arrangements with the parish Liturgist.

Music Ministry

Good music enhances the wedding ceremony, but it is important that the music be appropriate for the occasion we are celebrating.

Marriage, in the Catholic tradition, is a sacrament and is celebrated as a religious event. The music is to be religious and sacred in nature. The various hymns and instrumental music should also fit the meaning of their placement in the Marriage Mass or Ceremony.

In our parish the services of our music director and cantor are used for all weddings. In

some circumstances guest musicians are welcome. However, **the Parish Music Director must be consulted regarding all visiting musicians and liturgical music selections.**

The "Wedding Music Guidelines" booklet will provide helpful information and the music policy we adhere to in accordance with standards set forth in the General Instruction of the Roman Missal. **All musical selections are final through the decision of the Parish Music Director.**

Contact the parish Liturgist and Music Director, Brian Kozlowski at the Parish Office (708-895-6700, Extension 121) no earlier than 3 months prior to the wedding date to begin preparations for your music selections.

Religious & Civil Documentation

Baptismal Certificate:

Please contact the church where you were baptized to obtain an updated copy of your baptismal certificate. The copy must be dated no more than six months prior to the date of the wedding. Since the church of your baptism is notified of your marriage, this copy insures that you were baptized and you have not previously married in the church. Also, if you have been confirmed, you should obtain a copy of the certificate from the proper parish.

Affidavits:

Affidavits for your marriage to take place in the Catholic Church are required in some circumstances. The parish minister will tell you if these are necessary.

Questionnaire:

You will fill out a prenuptial questionnaire with a parish minister during one of your marriage appointments. You should bring your baptismal certificate with you at that time.

Marriage License:

You may obtain your marriage license at the following:

County Clerk's Office 708-210-4150
16501 Kedzie Pkwy Markham IL 60426
(or check on line for additional locations)

Your marriage license must be obtained in Cook County, Illinois for it to be valid.

Both parties must be present. Please bring:

- Proof of legal age, such as drivers license, passport or birth certificate
- A \$35.00 fee in cash for the license

If you were born in Cook County, you do not need your Birth Certificate. You *will* need it if you were born outside Cook County, Illinois.

Art & Environment Policy

Also called, “decorations”, the Sanctuary and Altar are decorated to reflect the liturgical season which supersedes all other celebrations. As such, you are welcome to enhance the setting but you may not replace or change it. **This means the colors, plants, and other decorations may not be removed.**

Flowers & Bows:

- Florists are given one hour prior to the wedding to set up and a half-hour after to remove arrangements. Please consult the Liturgist regarding placement of flowers.
- Artificial plants and flowers are not permitted.
- Bows may be placed on the ends of chairs and pews provided they are attached with cloth ties or rubber bands. Wire, plastic, or adhesives (tape) are not permitted as they expose the furnishings to damage.

Aisle Runners:

- Runners are not permitted in our church for safety purposes.

Items to Throw:

- If you elect to have a flower girl, we only permit artificial/silk petals as real petals stain the carpeting.
- As a matter of safety, we do not permit throwing rice, birdseed, confetti, or balloons on the church property.

Photography Information

Please have those you are employing for this purpose consult the Presider and Liturgist

officiating one half hour before the wedding for the guidelines in our church.

Please inform them of the following:

- Video companies should be aware that they are responsible for their own power-pack, sound and other equipment.
- We allow for picture-taking after the ceremony for 15 minutes.
- Photographers – we do not allow flash during the vows, exchange of rings, or consecration of the Eucharist.
- Please be reverent and discreet when performing your duties. Remember, we are in God’s house.
- Photographers/videographers are **NOT allowed to enter the Sanctuary area or the Music Ministry Area AT ALL.**

Stipends, Fees and Gifts

Please bring the following to the parish office at least **three (3) weeks prior to your wedding date** in separate labeled envelopes:

- Stipend - \$500 Payable to St. Ann Church
- Music Stipend - \$200 Payable to musician
- Cantor Stipend - \$100 Payable to cantor
- Music Consultation Fee (\$100-if applicable)
- Altar Servers (3) - \$10.00 cash each.
- Personal monetary gift to officiant (optional)
- Marriage license
- Selection sheet from “A Marriage in the Lord” or “Together for Life”

Wedding Rehearsal

- The time and date are set by the parish.
- Due to other rehearsals, perhaps on the same evening, it is very important that your entire party is ready to rehearse at the time you are scheduled.
- The readers of the Scriptures should attend the rehearsal. Please give them copies of the readings you have chosen so they may practice before the rehearsal.

Celebrating your Wedding

Information - Guidelines - Policy



A Future Full of Hope

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