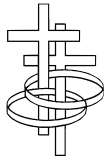


CIVIL REQUIREMENTS:

- ◆ Birth Certificates. Certified photocopies can be obtained at the Bureau of Vital Statistics (City or State of your birth) and are required in order to get a marriage license.
- ◆ Marriage License (valid, as required by law).

CHURCH REQUIREMENTS:

- ◆ Baptismal Certificates dated within six months of the wedding day.
- ◆ Initial interview with the priest at least six months prior to the planned marriage date.
- ◆ Certificate of attendance at one of the five qualified Marriage Preparation Programs.
- ◆ Completion of the Pre-Marital Inventory.
- ◆ 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.

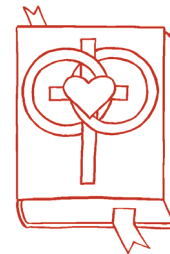


WHO TO CONTACT TO HAVE YOUR WEDDING AT ST. JOSEPH CHURCH?

Call the St. Joseph Wedding Director (Carol Monahan) between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday at (504) 522-3186 ext. 143.

Date Revised: 1-17-2012

*Parish Guidelines
for the Sacrament
of Matrimony*



St. Joseph Church
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New Orleans, LA 70112-2246
(504) 522-3186
www.stjosephchurch-no.org
stjoseph@bellsouth.net

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 in Christ 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 Pastor 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 welcome such weddings (in accordance with Archdiocesan policies and those of St. Joseph Church). You should invite your Pastor or a priest or deacon (relative, family friend, etc.), who is in good standing, to preside and officiate at your wedding. Note that at least one party must be Catholic in order for a wedding to be celebrated in a Catholic church.

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 written permission to marry outside of your own parish. This should be forwarded to the Pastor of St. Joseph Church.
- ◆ 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 process and fulfilling all Archdiocesan rules regarding obtaining dispensations for a mixed marriage, an annulment if previously married, etc.
- ◆ Please note that a priest or deacon who will officiate, or take part in your wedding ceremony in any way, currently ministers outside of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, will need to seek approval from the Archbishop of New Orleans by way of a letter of good standing from his local ordinary in order to be eligible to minister here. Also note that registration with the State of Louisiana may be required for those who are not Louisiana residents. Please contact the Wedding Director in a timely manner for information and instructions.

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 wedding sacristan and an assistant sacristan/parking lot attendant.
- ◆ **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, as stipulated by the Archdiocesan insurance company. You

must inform guests to refrain from throwing rice, seeds, bubbles, flower petals or confetti in the church for the same reason.

- ◆ 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.
- ◆ 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, you must discuss this with the presiding priest or deacon during the preparation process.
- ◆ Consult the priest or deacon who will be officiating at your wedding about celebrating your wedding without Mass, as in the case of a mixed marriage.
- ◆ See the sheet enclosed in this packet for a list of suggested wedding service providers.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ The church rental fee covers a 4-hour period: 2 hours in advance of the contracted start time of the wedding for the florist and perhaps musicians to set up, and two hours after the contracted start time of the wedding for the ceremony and photographs after the ceremony. (You must inform the Wedding Sacristan at the rehearsal if your photographer will take photos after the ceremony.) Everyone will have to be out of the church at that time as the sacristans will darken and lock the church.
- ◆ We would appreciate it if any flowers placed on the back altar be left in the church for Masses on Sunday. All other flowers and other decorations brought into the church must be removed from the church immediately after the wedding ceremony.
- ◆ Please consult with Carol Monahan, St. Joseph Wedding Director about these matters.
- ◆ **MARRIAGE LICENSE.** You must bring your marriage license to the wedding rehearsal.

