

No rice, alcohol, etc.:

For safety reasons and environmental concerns, we do not permit the throwing of rice, bird seed, confetti, flowers, balloons, etc. Eating and drinking or chewing gum is not allowed in the church or adjacent rooms. Alcohol or drugs are NOT permitted on church grounds. If the bride and/or groom is intoxicated on the day of the wedding, the marriage ceremony will not be celebrated.

Photographs:

The couple must designate one official photographer (whether a professional or a family friend). They then arrange for this person to meet with the presider before the liturgy to discuss what is allowed. No extra lighting or flash bulbs are allowed during the liturgy. The same restrictions apply to video recording of the wedding.

Please be considerate of those who use the church after you. All decorative bows, flowers, boxes, tissues, etc. must be removed from the church pews and vestibules.

Rehearsal:

The day and time of the rehearsal will be arranged with the wedding coordinator. All wedding participants are expected to be present and on time for the rehearsal. If the couple would like special traditions or customs particular to your family or national heritage included in the ceremony, they must discuss them with the presider and wedding coordinator before the rehearsal.

Financial Offering:

It is impossible for a couple to express adequately their thanks to God for the gifts of their lives and their vocation together. Financial offerings to the Church are a small way to express this gratitude.

- Church offering.....Parishioner \$500.00
Non-Parishioner \$1000.00
- Instrumentalist..... \$ 200.00
- Cantor.....\$ 200.00
- Wedding Coordinator..\$ 150.00
- Marriage preparation with marriage taking place at another church.....\$100.00

The priest or deacon does not receive any part of these offerings. Many people feel it is appropriate to make a separate donation to the priest or deacon for their services. The usual donation to the priest is \$150.00.

A \$100.00 down payment reserves the date of the wedding. If the wedding is canceled, the down payment is not refunded. The balance of \$400.00, plus the stipends for the instrumentalist, cantor and wedding coordinator will be collected at the wedding rehearsal.

The journey of marriage which you travel together holds many hidden joys—and some sorrows too. There will be many surprises which can interrupt the routine of everyday life and which can keep you alive to each other.

We hope we can be helpful to you during this time when you are beginning your journey together. We appreciate the faith with which you come to the Church to celebrate your mutual pledge in the Sacrament of Marriage. We look forward to celebrating with you the gift of God's love.

MARRIAGE AT AT JOAN OF ARC CHURCH



We are happy to have you celebrate your wedding liturgy at St. Joan of Arc Church. While the wedding liturgy will touch you, your family and friends in an especially intimate way, it also pertains to the local parish and to the larger Church as well. When you exchange your vows, you offer a visible sign of God's presence and love to the parish in which your wedding is celebrated. You create a new family within that community. At the same time, the Church, and in particular the local parish, promise to be there for you in times of joy and in times of need. You are making a commitment to each other and to the Church. In turn, the Church is making a commitment to you.

The guidelines which follow have been established to reflect this commitment. As a liturgy of the parish, your wedding will be influenced and shaped by the parish's regular patterns of worship, especially the celebration of Sunday Mass. Please look upon these guidelines as an expression of the Church's desire to celebrate your wedding as an integral and welcome part of the parish's worship.

ARRANGING YOUR MARRIAGE

Our Marriage Preparation Program takes a minimum of six months to complete; therefore we strongly recommend you begin the program at least ten to twelve months before your proposed wedding date.

In asking to be married at St. Joan of Arc, you are stating that you want the members of this Christian Community to witness and support you through your preparation program and married life, in thought and prayer. To this extent, it is advisable that you get to know people from this community of which you have chosen to be a part. If this is done, your wedding will truly be a celebration of our whole community at St. Joan of Arc, along with your family and friends. With Christ as the center, we as a parish can participate in welcoming you and helping you start your sacramental life.

No wedding dates or times will be set until after an introductory meeting with the priest or deacon.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION PROGRAM

Step 1: Fill out the Marriage Questionnaire form and return it to the parish office.

Step 2: Initial interview with the priest or deacon.

Step 3: FOCCUS Inventory and evaluation

Step 4: Attend ONE of the Marriage Preparation Programs

- * P.R.E.P. Resident Weekend
- * P.R.E.P. Commuter Weekend
- * Evenings for the Engaged Sessions
- * Convalidation Preparation
- * Re-Marriage Preparation

Step 5: Complete required documents

Step 6: Plan the wedding liturgy

- * Meet with the Wedding Coordinator
- * Meet with the Director of Music

PRACTICAL POINTS ABOUT YOUR CEREMONY

Times:

Saturday is the normal day for weddings. They can be scheduled at 11:00am or 2:00pm.

The Ceremony:

As you plan your wedding ceremony, the priest or deacon, wedding coordinator and music director will assist you with all the liturgical details. We recommend a Eucharistic Liturgy for couples who have been practicing their faith regularly. Otherwise, especially for interfaith marriages, we recommend a Liturgy of the Word with the exchange of vows.

Music:

The couple is required to attend a meeting with the Music Director who will offer a variety of processional and liturgical music that will enhance your wedding liturgy. Since the wedding liturgy is modeled after the Sunday liturgy, only liturgical music, not secular music, will be sung at the wedding liturgy. Guest musicians must be approved by the Music Director. If they are approved, the Music Director will be paid his/her usual stipend and will be present at your wedding to make sure all is in order musically.

Flowers:

Flowers are a gift to the Church and a sign of the couple's gratitude for their new life together. They should be delivered to the church and remain there as a part of the environment for the Sunday Eucharist.

Flower arrangements or candles are not to be placed on the altar table. Aisle runners, flower arches, and the throwing of flower petals down the aisle are not permitted. Nothing can be pinned or taped to the pews. Bows must be attached with floral clips or large rubber bands placed around the top of the pews.

Seasonal environment (Advent/Christmas, Lent Easter, etc.) in the church is NOT be removed.