

*The Celebration
of Marriage*

ST. JOSEPH
CATHOLIC CHURCH



*The love of man and woman is
made holy in the sacrament of
marriage and becomes the mirror
of God's everlasting love.*

*Congratulations on your
Engagement....*

*O*n behalf of the pastor, parish staff and the family of St. Joseph Parish, we pray that this time in which you prepare for your marriage will be filled with holiness and joy, and we trust that these guidelines will assist you in properly preparing for the Sacrament of Matrimony. Marriage is a Sacrament and a Vocation. Sacraments are signs of God's presence among us. In marriage, couples are called to become signs of the never failing love that Christ has for his Church through the love they have for one another and those around them. As a Vocation, a couple states that they feel called by God to be together for the rest of their life. Your parish priest or deacon considers it a privilege when asked to officiate at a wedding.

Index

Matrimony Requirements	4
Fee Structure	5
Wedding Protocol	6
Photography/Video.....	12
Floral and Church Decorations.....	14

Matrimony Requirements

The priests of St. Joseph will complete the Diocesan pre-nuptial inquiry forms with each couple. During your pre-nuptial preparation, you and your fiancé also will complete a FOCCUS inventory and attend a marriage preparation seminar as offered by the Diocese of Palm Beach. Class schedules can be viewed at the Diocese of Palm Beach website, www.diocesepb.org.

Wedding Masses are celebrated on Saturday, and may begin as early as 12:00 Noon, but no later than 1:00pm.

Engaged couples must be registered in this parish for a minimum of 6 months, attending Mass regularly, and participating in our envelope system before initiating the marriage preparation process, which requires approximately 6 months to complete. Tentative wedding dates require meeting with a parish priest and his subsequent approval, before being confirmed/scheduled on the Church calendar.

You are required to provide the following additional documents:

- ◆ Couples must provide a copy of their baptismal certificates. Canon law requires to all documents be dated within 6 months of wedding. A letter should be sent to the church of baptism, requesting a baptism certificate dated within 6 months of the wedding.
- ◆ Couples must also provide a copy of their Confirmation certificates. If confirmed at the same church of baptism, only one letter for both documents needs to be written. If Confirmation was at a different church, contact that church via letter and request a Confirmation certificate.
- ◆ A marriage license is a requirement in the state. Before your celebration of marriage can begin, the celebrant must have this license in his possession. The marriage license should be delivered to the church office no later than one week before the wedding. For more information, contact the Office of the County Clerk.

- ◆ If marriage papers are being provided by another church, the couple is required to contact St. Joseph Parish one month before the wedding ceremony to ensure that all paperwork has been received. St. Joseph assumes no responsibility if papers have not arrived on time. The wedding cannot proceed without all required documents being in possession of St. Joseph Parish.

Fee Structure

Church Fee—Registered Parishioner	\$300
Church Fee—Out of Parish	\$600
Security Agreement and Deposit (out of parish only)	\$200
◆ Required at the time that the wedding and rehearsal are formally entered on the Parish Calendar	
Music Director/Organist	\$150
◆ Includes consultation, rehearsal and ceremony	
◆ \$35 for each additional meeting or rehearsal	
◆ If guest musicians are used, music director must be paid bench fee of \$150. Upon hiring, guests musicians should immediately contact the music director for directives.	
Two Flower arrangements provided by the Church	\$100
◆ Colors can be customized depending on flower availability. However, the type of flower is left to the discretion of the sacristan.	
◆ Arrangements must remain at the Church following the ceremony	

The above fees are to be made payable to St. Joseph Church.

Instrumentalists—Consultation necessary with church music minister.

Gift to Celebrant—Optional and at the couple’s discretion. Check to be made out to Priest.

Wedding Protocol

PRE-CEREMONY

Groom and groomsmen should be in the Church 45 minutes before the scheduled time of wedding. Rings should be placed on the small table, on the tray provided, by the ambo (podium). Groomsmen should begin escorting guests to their seats 30 minutes before the ceremony. Five minutes before Mass/Service time, all guests should be seated.

Bride and bridesmaids should be present at least 30 minutes before scheduled time and are welcome to use the room to the left (sign-in room), inside the main entrance of the church.

No food, beverages or alcohol will be permitted in the church, and no bottled water may be kept in the pews. Water is provided in the sign-in room.

Mass/Service will begin at the set time. If the bride arrives late, this will lessen the time allowed for photography after the ceremony.

ENTRANCE RITE

At the appointed time, the priest, accompanied by the Groom and Groomsmen, comes from the Sacristy. The Groom and Groomsmen follow the Priest and bow in front of the altar. The Best Man and Groom stay in front of the first pew. The other Groomsmen go to the first row pew on the right side, facing the altar.

As the Priest comes out of the Sacristy, the Bridesmaids and Flower Girl should be in position to start the procession.

Unity Candle Option #1 - If the Mothers of the Bride and Groom are to light the Unity Candles, the Celebrant will then invite them to

come forward from their seats and light the two end candles. When they arrive at the foot of the Sanctuary, they bow to the altar and go to the table with the candle. After lighting the candles, they return to their seats in the second row.

Unity Candle Option #2 - Bride and Groom light the Unity Candle. Please see page below.

The music then begins for the bridal party. The Bridesmaids precede individually, then the Maid of Honor, and Flowergirl/Ringbearer. The Bride enters accompanied by either the Father or Mother. Please allow a minimum of three pews distance between each person in the procession as they walk forward. When they arrive at the front pew, each person bows to the altar and enters their pew to the left, at the front opposite the Groomsmen.

If an Event Coordinator has been employed by the couple, the Coordinator's direction is only needed up until the point the Bride walks down the aisle. The Event Coordinator does not participate again until photographs are taken after Mass.

Upon arrival of the Bride at the front pew, the Maid of Honor takes the Bride's flowers and places them in the pew, the Father removes the portion of veil (if worn over face), gives her a kiss, shakes hands with the Groom and then places her right hand in the hand of the Groom. Her father steps back and goes to his seat.

Unity Candle Option #2 (If the couple are to light the taper candles instead of the Parents, the Priest will invite them to proceed to the small table in front of the tabernacle and light the two end candles. Then they walk to the kneelers and remain standing.)

The couple proceeds to the kneelers. They remain standing from the moment the Priest greets them until the Readings from the Scripture.

Then, the Maid of Honor comes forward and assists the Bride by placing her chair in the center behind the Bride. The Best Man does the same for the Groom.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Bride will provide readings in large, readable font - recommended 14-16pt.

Readers should be seated at the end of the pews. The individual who will proclaim the first reading leaves their pew seat, comes up the center of the church, bows in front of the altar, walks to the right of the ambo, and ascends the steps to read. The microphone does not need to be adjusted. At the end of the reading, if there is a cantor, the reader returns to the pew. If there is no cantor, the first reader proclaims the psalm also. As the reader steps from the sanctuary, he/she turns to the altar, bows from the waist in reverence, and returns to seat.

The second reader comes forward at the end of the Responsorial Psalm and proclaims the second reading. When finished, as the reader steps from the sanctuary, he/she turns to the altar, bows from the waist in reverence, and returns to seat.

The priest proclaims the Gospel, followed by the homily. Then begins the wedding ceremony.

RITE OF MARRIAGE

The bridal party faces the congregation at an angle. Bride is to the right of the Groom when facing the congregation. When everyone is in place, the Rite of Marriage begins.

Best Man, Groomsmen, Maid of Honor and Bridesmaids come forward and face the congregation standing at different levels to the left and right of the Bride and Groom. As they approach, the Maid of

Honor and Best Man should remove the chairs and place them by the front of the first pew.

The Bride and Groom come to the top step and face the Priest. Then the Priest will address them and invite them to face each other and join hands. All members of the bridal party should be facing the couple. All of the Bridesmaids should carry their flowers, except the Bride.

During the exchange of vows, the couple should wait to speak until the Priest presents them with the hand-held microphone. When the couple exchanges vows, the Best Man takes the tray with the rings and holds the Holy Water (beside the table). When the Priest blesses the rings, the Best Man presents the tray to the Groom to take the Bride's ring, and then to the Bride to take the Groom's ring. The Best Man will then return the tray and Holy Water to their original location.

The Priest will always say the words quietly so the couple can repeat them after him.

When the rings have been exchanged, the Maid of Honor and the best man, along with the Bridesmaids and Groomsmen, return to their pews. The return order should begin with the people at the two ends and end with the Maid of Honor and Best Man.

The Bride and Groom are then invited to walk to the table with the Unity Candle and take the thin, hand-held tapers, lighting them from the taper candle nearest each person and together light the center candle. The end candles remain lit. The thin, hand-held tapers are handed to the Priest to blow out.

Then the couple descends the steps and returns to the kneelers where they remain standing for the Prayers of the Faithful. The

individual to read the Prayers of the Faithful comes forward. She/he comes to the center of the sanctuary, walks down the center of the church, bows in reverence to the altar, and proceeds to the ambo. The reader remains until the Priest has finished the concluding prayer. As the reader steps from the sanctuary, he/she turns to the altar, bows from the waist, and returns to seat.

If the chairs were previously removed, they are now returned.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

The Bride and Groom remain standing while the priest receives the bread and wine. The bread and wine are brought to the altar by appointed gift bearers.

Mass continues as normal until the Our Father.

(If no Mass is celebrated, immediately after the Prayers of the Faithful, we have the Our Father with Nuptial Blessing, Sign of Peace, Final Prayer, Kiss and Final Blessing.)

At the beginning of the Our Father, the Parents of the Bride and Groom are invited to come forward and hold hands with the couple (optional). At the end of the Our Father, the couple kneels for the Nuptial Blessing. Then the couple stands to exchange the Sign of Peace.

After the Lamb of God, the couple kneels and the priest comes to the Bride and Groom with the Body and Blood of Christ. They are to remain kneeling until the end of the Communion. If one of the couple is a non-Catholic, he/she may not receive Communion.

At rehearsal, a reminder is given to those present that those who are Catholic may receive Communion. Non-Catholics may come forward to be blessed. Their intention is indicated to the Priest by approaching with arms crossed, their hands placed on shoulders.

At the end of Mass, the couple stands for the Concluding Prayer and Final Blessing. After the prayer, the Priest invites the Groom to kiss the Bride. The Maid of Honor comes forward and returns the Bride's bouquet to her.

POST CEREMONY

The Bride and Groom, along with bridal party and parents, walk to the main entrance of the church and enter the sign-in room. A receiving line should be done at the reception hall only.

The couple then returns to the altar for photographs. A maximum of thirty (30) minutes is allocated for photos, with one hour for the ceremony.

Guest book should be made available at the reception hall. No petals, rice or any other substance are to be thrown inside or outside the church. No runners are allowed in the church. All floral arrangements attached to pews must be removed. Only arrangements that will not mar the pew are allowed. Nails are not to be used.

Please be courteous and accept the instruction of The St. Joseph Parish wedding rehearsal instructor, as our team of volunteers are following the direction of the Pastor of St. Joseph Catholic Church. The rehearsal team is not in the position to make changes without approval of the Pastor.

Bridal party attire—The Bridal party must be dressed appropriately. Men are to be attired in suits or tuxedos. Women's dress should indicate proper reverence for church. If necessary, coordinate shawls and/or bolero styled jackets for a modest display of shoulders and/or bodice.

Photography and Video

We realize how important it is to record the sequence of events during a wedding and are happy to facilitate the couple. However, we ask that you be conscious that the ceremony is taking place in Church, a place of worship, and that due respect are to be given at all times to the religious and spiritual dimensions of the occasion.

To ensure this, the following are the moments when photography may be used by the official photographer only. Anyone else wishing to take photographs or use a recording device may do so only after the couple have returned to the sanctuary area at the end of Mass. None of the guests should take photographs until the end of Mass.

Photographer should introduce himself/herself to the priest before the Mass/ceremony begins.

At no time should the photographer walk on the marble-tiled area, which is the sanctuary.

- ◆ Photographs can be taken outside of church upon arrival of bride if required.
- ◆ If mothers of the Bride and Groom are to light candles, this moment may be captured.
- ◆ Once the procession of Bridesmaids, Maid of Honor and the Bride begins, the official photographer may take photographs until the Bride and Groom have reached the sanctuary area and the kneelers.
- ◆ If the Bride and Groom are to light the candles, then the photographer may take a photograph.

- ◆ One photograph may be taken of each of the individuals who are proclaiming the Word of God.
- ◆ When the wedding ceremony begins, only the official photographer may be mobile and take as many photographs as necessary (without being obtrusive). Please do not detract from the ceremony. At no time should the photographer give directions to the Priest or couple during the ceremony. No guests are to take photos.
- ◆ When the newly married couple light the unity candle, a photograph may be taken.
- ◆ A photograph may be taken of those who bring forward the bread and wine.
- ◆ No photographs should be taken until the Our Father when the Parents come forward to hold the hands of the Bride and Groom. No photographs are to be taken during Communion, during the wedded couple's first kiss or during the procession from the sanctuary.

Floral and Church Decorations

- ◆ No aisle runner allowed.
- ◆ There are 19 pews on each side of the middle aisle. All pew decorations must be taken by the family after the ceremony. Do not use nails, tape, etc. that would mar the wood.
- ◆ Entrance into pews from the middle aisle may NOT be hindered or obstructed by using rope, swag drapery, etc. Guests will be escorted up the main aisle and seated.
- ◆ If the altar flowers are to be provided by an outside vendor, colors of flowers should be approved by the church. Two arrangements are allowed—one low arrangement in front of the altar and one arrangement in front of the ambo (podium). Altar flowers provided by an outside vendor may stay at the church or be taken by the family to the reception.
- ◆ Altar flowers purchased through the church must stay after the ceremony. If flowers are to be provided by the church, the church must be notified at least three weeks in advance.
- ◆ A flower arrangement for the Blessed Virgin Mother Mary is optional. The statue of the Blessed Mother is in the chapel near the annex. The statue will not be moved for the wedding ceremony.
- ◆ On the day of the wedding, the church doors will be unlocked 1 hour before the wedding. Florist may decorate at that time.

- ◆ Pews on each side of the altar (parking lot side/10th St.) should only be used as overflow. Encourage guests to not sit there or in the chapel area.
- ◆ Church Doors – the double doors at the entrance of the church may have wreaths. Nails and tape are not allowed.
- ◆ Walls of the church are not to be decorated.
- ◆ If couple wishes to use a Unity Candle in their celebration, the candles are to be provided by the couple. Unity Candles can be purchased in the St. Joseph Good Shepherd Gift Shop.

*St. Joseph
Catholic Church*

1200 E. 10th Street

Stuart, Florida 34996

772-287-2727

sjcflorida.org

Reverend Noel McGrath, Pastor
