

CHURCH OF ST. GENEVIEVE

Preparation for a Christian Marriage

Congratulations on the announcement of your marriage! We welcome you as you prepare to be married at the Church of St. Genevieve. Several people in our parish community will be working with you during your pre-marriage preparation and liturgy planning. The enclosed materials explain our process of preparation, as well as fees and other information you will need to know.

You are undertaking a special vocation in the Christian Community, and your wedding is a public celebration of worship in the Church. The parish Sunday Liturgy is the model of all worship in this Community, and so we encourage you to become familiar with the liturgies at St. Genevieve's.

As bride and groom, you are the ministers and recipients of the sacrament, which is celebrated with an invited assembly who have gathered to pray with and for you. This celebration includes elements of word, music, gesture and ritual. A spirit of Christian prayer is essential in all elements of the liturgy.

The primary symbol in the marriage rite is the exchange of promises. Thus, other symbols are to be of secondary significance. There are many wedding traditions both sacred and secular. We will offer you more insight into these traditions as you plan your wedding liturgy. The wedding liturgy is to express your Christian faith and your commitment to God and to each other.

You are in our prayers as you journey together in Christ.

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Wedding Coordinators:	Anne Sievers	651-269-5789
	Melissa Montgomery	763-438-1664
Wedding Music Coordinator:	Betsy Sandstrom, Accompanist	651-433-3955

REQUIREMENTS FOR MARRIAGE PREPARATION

- _____ Be a registered member of Church of St. Genevieve (either bride or groom) for at least six months before making an appointment to set a wedding date.
- _____ Contact the Parish Office (651-429-7937) at least six months prior to your wedding and make an appointment to meet with the pastor or deacon, who will set the date for the wedding, and go over any necessary paperwork.
- _____ Participate in the PREPARE pre-marriage inventory program. After you have met with the pastor or deacon to set the date for your wedding, you will be contacted by a Prepare coordinator to set up arrangements to participate in the PREPARE program, and you will receive an email from Prepare to complete the pre-marriage assessment.
- _____ Participate in an Engaged Couples Course or weekend experience. Please visit www.stgens.org for options for this requirement.
- _____ Within six months of your wedding date, arrange for a copy of your Certificate of Baptism from the church where you were baptized to be delivered to the St. Genevieve Parish Office.
- _____ St. Genevieve's Wedding Coordinator will contact you once your wedding date has been scheduled to set up a meeting to review the details for the wedding liturgy, the rehearsal, and the wedding itself.
- _____ Contact the Wedding Music Coordinator, Betsy Sandstrom, accompanist at the Church of St. Genevieve, at 651-433-3955 after your date is secured, but **before** you begin your liturgy planning, so that liturgy expectations can be handled clearly and cooperatively from the beginning of your planning.
- _____ Contact the Parish Office (651-429-7937) 2-3 months before the wedding date and make an appointment to meet a second time with the pastor or deacon. Bring certificate of completion of the Engaged Couples Course to this meeting for a Reduce Fee Marriage License statement.
- _____ Make application for your marriage license at least one month prior to the wedding date, **and** bring marriage license to the wedding rehearsal.

Weddings at St. Genevieve's (St. Genevieve Church-Centerville, St. John's Site -Hugo & Parish Community Center) are scheduled at the following times:

- Fridays time negotiable
- Saturdays 2:00 pm

Note: Families will have access to the church and hall three hours before wedding start time.

The fee for a wedding at St. Genevieve's is \$500. Please make check payable to St. Genevieve's as follows:

\$300.00	Due when wedding date is set to secure the date
\$200.00	Due 2 weeks prior to wedding

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Music Guidelines For Liturgies of Christian Marriage

To begin the wedding music planning process, you must call the Wedding Music Coordinator, Betsy Sandstrom, accompanist at the Church of St. Genevieve, at 651-433-3955.

We recommend our parish hymnal, **Gather**, serve as the music resource for hymns and psalms selected for use at weddings. The Wedding Music Coordinator will help you make selections based on the above criteria. Because of the importance of music in the wedding liturgy, all music to be used must be approved by the Wedding Music Coordinator

Our accompanist will help you choose a cantor/soloist from our list of cantors.

The use of musicians outside our Parish must be approved by the Wedding Music Coordinator.

Selecting Musicians

At a minimum, you will need an organist/pianist and a cantor for your wedding liturgy. Because strong musical leadership, as well as familiarity with our parish liturgical ritual, is essential to lead the assembly in hymns, songs, and psalms, we require the use of our accompanist at all wedding liturgies.

Other singers and instrumentalists with liturgical music experience may be invited to assist with the wedding music, after consultation with the Wedding Music Coordinator.

The fees for other musicians, if any, will be incurred by the couple.

Wedding Rehearsal Information

- Wedding rehearsal date and time is set up with the wedding coordinator.
- The wedding coordinator will conduct the rehearsal. The pastor or deacon will not be present.
- The wedding rehearsal is scheduled for an hour.
- Bring your marriage license to the rehearsal.
- Bring copies of your readings and prayers of the faithful to the rehearsal.
- Designate one person "clean up person" who will be in charge of making sure the church and hall are cleaned up after the wedding.
- If pictures are to be taken before the wedding ceremony, be sure everyone in the wedding party is aware of the photography schedule.

Wedding Guidelines

- Aisle runners and flower petals are not allowed
- Alcohol is not allowed on church property
- Smoking is not permitted on church property
- Rice, confetti, or birdseed cannot be thrown on inside or outside church
- Bubbles may be used outside
- Please advise guests with cameras to not take pictures using flash during ceremony
- Ushers may not decorate wedding party cars during wedding ceremony

Flower and Candle Information

- No candles or other pew décor may be used. (pew bows MAY be used if they are simply tied to the pews-no glue, tacks or tape allowed)
- Unity candle is allowed, provided by couple.

Photography Information

- We encourage you to take photos 30 minutes before the ceremony.
- Photos taken after the ceremony must be completed so the church can be cleaned and vacated by 3:15 pm.
- The church and hall will be open to the wedding party three hours before the wedding start time.
- Be sure everyone in the wedding party is aware of the photography schedule.

Wedding Consultants

- Many couples hire wedding consultants. Please remember any activities planned within the church must be cleared with the Wedding Coordinator.

Wedding Clean Up

- **Wedding party is responsible for cleaning parish hall and church before leaving. It is advised that a "clean up" person is designated to see that this is done.**

Usher Information

- Ushers should arrive at the Church at least an hour before the wedding ceremony.
- Unless otherwise instructed, ushers should use the center aisle.
- The Wedding Coordinator will indicate when general seating should cease, prior to the Procession, so the following duties can occur:
 - Usher in the groom's grandparents and/or immediate family, seating them in the designated pew(s) on the right. Please consult with groom's family on this matter.
 - Usher in the bride's grandparents and/or immediate family, seating them in the designated pew(s) on the left. Please consult with bride's family on this matter.

UNLESS THE PARENTS ARE ESCORTING THE BRIDEGROOM, the following applies:

The groom escorts his mother, seating her in the second pew on the right, just behind the groomsmen's pew.

Next, an usher escorts the bride's mother, seating her in the second pew on the left, just behind the bridesmaids' pew.

During the seating of family, one usher should be leading latecomers to the appropriate side aisle and asking them to seat themselves.

After all seating is completed, if ushers are to go forward, they should line up at designated places. If ushers are not going forward, they should stand near the rear of the church to help guests during the ceremony if needed.

After the Recessional, the bride's mother and father depart down the center aisle, followed by the groom's mother and father.

After the immediate families have left their pews, ushers should assist the guests as they leave their pews. If there is to be a receiving line at the church, the ushers should allow time for the line to form.

Ushers should not leave the ceremony for any reason, including to decorate wedding party cars.