



Wedding at Cana

**St. John the Baptist
Roman Catholic Church
Wedding Booklet**

Important Steps to Remember:

- Register for and participate in an Engaged Encounter weekend. For more information, please call the Diocese of Joliet Family Ministry at 815-221-6243 or look online at www.jolietee.org to register.
- Register for and attend the Natural Family Planning sessions. Go to www.dioceseofjoliet.org and search for “Natural Family Planning.” Or, telephone the diocese’s Office of Family Ministry at 815-838-5334.
- Take online FOCCUS questionnaire, then call FOCCUS coordinator, Barb Rezabek, at 630-653-7227.
- Request baptismal certificate with notations and request confirmation certificate. These should be dated within six months of wedding date.
- Call the parish office to schedule your rehearsal.
- At least two months prior to your wedding, call the Director of Music, Adrienne Rose, 630-653-1489, to schedule a time to discuss music and liturgy.
- Review the Wedding Ritual booklet and return the readings selection sheet to the priest.
- Obtain witness affidavits
- About two months prior, call the priest to make an appointment to fill out the Prenuptial Questionnaire
- Obtain Marriage License from DuPage County Clerk

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church
05233 Church St.
Winfield, IL 60190
(630) 668-0918, ext. 600

Dear Engaged Couple,

Congratulations on your engagement and your upcoming wedding at St. John the Baptist Church. It is a special privilege and honor for us as a parish to be celebrating this holy day with you.

This booklet is given to you to help you prepare for your wedding. We know that you will have many questions and concerns regarding your special day, so we have attempted to address the many different issues that you might have. It is our hope that this booklet will help you in planning your wedding and allow for a smooth, beautiful celebration of the sacrament of marriage at St. John the Baptist Church.

We as a parish look forward to celebrating with you on your most special day. Please know that we are just a phone call away if you have any questions or concerns regarding your wedding.

On behalf of the entire parish family of St. John the Baptist, I congratulate you on your engagement and your upcoming wedding. May the Lord shine His face upon you and bring you always His peace, joy and love.

Fr. Matt Pratscher

Wedding Preparations

The wedding you are now beginning to plan is a significant religious event. Marriage in the Catholic Church is a covenant of love between a man and a woman for life. This union of man and woman in the Sacrament of Marriage reflects God's own everlasting love for his people, the Church. Therefore, our parish wishes to help you prepare a ceremony that will be both joyful and dignified, and that will speak clearly to the religious nature of the celebration.

Initial Arrangements

As you read this, you most likely have already met with a priest to set your wedding date. Arrangements should be made at least six (6) months prior to the desired date of the wedding. In order to reserve a wedding date, you or your parents must be registered parishioners. Weddings are usually celebrated on Friday afternoons or on Saturdays at 12:00 p.m. noon or 2:00 p.m.

After setting your wedding date with the church, you can begin your marriage preparations. Preparation for the Sacrament of Marriage at St. John's has five different parts: FOCCUS, Engaged Encounter, Natural Family Planning, Liturgy Planning, and Required Documents.

Part One-FOCCUS

FOCCUS is designed to help you deepen your relationship with each other. After you've paid your wedding fee to St. John's, your first step will be to complete a FOCCUS questionnaire in-

Final Comments

Money/Costs/Offerings

There are fees associated with the Engaged Encounter weekend and for the music. Additionally, there is an offering to St. John the Baptist of \$500.00.

Church Etiquette

While we recognize that a wedding is a time of great celebration, alcohol and other intoxicating substances are strictly prohibited in and around the church property. Your bridal party, family and friends are expected to respect the sacred space of the church and to conduct themselves appropriately at the rehearsal and the wedding ceremony. Gum chewing, loud talking and rowdy or inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated.

Reconciliation and Prayer

All couples are encouraged to use this time of marriage preparation as a time of prayer. Ask the Lord Jesus to give you a clear sense of your call to the vocation of marriage and ask him for the grace to respond well to His call. Catholics are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the grace of the sacrament of reconciliation in preparation for marriage. The sacrament of reconciliation brings a deep sense of peace to the celebration of marriage and a greater awareness of the Lord's.

In most circumstances, it will be necessary to obtain the testimony of two witnesses for the bride and two witnesses for the groom. The witnesses will certify that the bride or groom is free to marry and is doing so without reservation. These witnesses must have known the groom since the age of 16 or the bride since the age of 14. Usually the parents of the bride and groom are the best witnesses but other relatives or long-standing friends may also qualify. The witnesses should make an appointment at the Catholic parish most convenient for them to complete these affidavits. These should then be forwarded to St. John's.

Preuptial Questionnaire

The couple completes this document in an interview with the priest. The purpose of this questionnaire is to state clearly in writing your intention to enter the unconditional commitment of marriage. This is usually done about two months before the wedding when most of the other preparations are complete. Please phone the presiding priest to set up this appointment.

Marriage License

A civil marriage license is required for your marriage. This license can be obtained from the offices of the DuPage County Clerk's office, 421 N. County Farm Road, Wheaton, IL 60187. For requirements and information, go to [www.dupageco.org/Services/License Issuance>Marriage Licenses](http://www.dupageco.org/Services/License%20Issuance/Marriage%20Licenses). The license must be obtained at least one day before and not more than 60 days prior to the wedding. The license must be presented to the presider on or before the night of the rehearsal. The presider will sign the license and will mail it to the DuPage County Clerk's office after the wedding takes place.

ventory which is devised to "help engaged couples appreciate their unique relationship, learn more about themselves, and discuss topics important to their lifelong marriage." After completing the questionnaire, please call our FOCCUS coordinator, Barb Rezabek, at 630-653-7227 to set up a meeting between you and an experienced married couple from the St. John the Baptist's Marriage Preparation team who will go over your answers on the FOCCUS questionnaire and who will share their vision of marriage with you.

Part Two-Engaged Encounter

The Engaged Encounter Weekend is a very rich marriage preparation experience. It involves a whole weekend of personal sharing with your future spouse. Please see the Engaged Encounter brochure for more information on available weekends and how to register.

Part Three-Natural Family Planning

Introductory sessions in Natural Family Planning are an important part of preparing for your new life together. These sessions emphasize enhanced intimacy and shared responsibility in marriage. Modern Natural Family Planning methods should not be confused with the old "rhythm" method. Our Diocese of Joliet's Office of Family Ministry offers Natural Family Planning classes in English and Spanish. For available classes and locations, go to: www.dioceseofjoliet.org and search for "Natural Family Planning." Or, telephone the diocese's Office of Family Ministry at 815-838-5334.

Part Four-Liturgy Planning

Part Four covers many details of planning your wedding liturgy. A wedding liturgy in the Catholic Church is an act of worship in which a bride and groom come together to offer thanks and praise with family and friends and to ask God's blessing on their new life as husband and wife. The wedding guests celebrate not as spectators but as participants in this worship. We encourage all couples to celebrate their marriage within the Mass. The Liturgy of the Eucharist harmonizes beautifully with the sacrament of marriage and fills it with a deeper meaning and connection with the universal Church. In some situations, however, you may consider celebrating the sacrament of marriage without a Mass. Your presider will help you carefully consider which option will offer you and your guests an appropriate and prayerful experience. You will also be given a booklet which contains options for the various prayers and readings during a wedding ceremony.

Visiting Clergy

While the priests at St. John the Baptist generally perform all of the marriages for the parish, visiting clergy may be permitted. Permission for visiting clergy to celebrate the wedding must be obtained. Visiting clergy are asked to follow the guidelines of St. John the Baptist Parish and are strongly encouraged to attend the rehearsal. Ministers of other faiths are welcome to participate in the marriage liturgy within the guidelines of the Church.

Music

The Director of Music will assist you in planning your music and arranging for the services of qualified and experienced professionals. Please contact the Director of Music, Adrienne Rose, well in advance of your wedding at 630-653-1489 to set up an appointment.

hearsal. Please call the parish office to schedule the time of your rehearsal. If you have visiting clergy officiating, he should be in attendance at the rehearsal. Please be on time for your rehearsal; it should take no more than one hour. You could be one of several couples having a rehearsal on the same evening, and we encourage you to do all you can to ensure that your bridal party arrives on time and that your family and friends are respectful of everyone's time. As you gather, please remind your wedding party that proper and respectful conduct is expected at the rehearsal. No alcohol is allowed on the premises. Please bring your marriage license to the rehearsal. All paperwork is to be completed prior to the rehearsal.

Part Five-Required Documents

Baptismal and Confirmation Certificates

- 1) If you are Catholic, you will need to provide a new, official copy of your baptismal certificate (dated not more than six (6) months prior to the wedding). Call the parish where you were baptized and let them know that you are getting married and need a certificate with all notations listed on it. If you were confirmed at a parish other than your baptismal parish, please request a copy of your confirmation certificate as well.
- 2) If you are a Christian of another denomination, please provide a copy of your baptismal record. All certificates can be sent directly to St. John the Baptist, 0S233 Church St., Winfield, IL, 60190.

Witness Affidavits

Flash photography is prohibited during the ceremony

Decorum on the part of your photographer/videographer is expected at all times, with no excessive movement around the church for pictures.

Your photographer/videographer is not to delay the start of the liturgy or entrance procession by stopping people for pictures.

The video cameras are to remain in one location only, to the right or left of the sanctuary, and are not to be moved around the church. All pictures must be completed thirty minutes after the liturgy. If your wedding starts late or is excessively long, your time for pictures will be shortened accordingly.

Decoration and Flowers

The use of flowers in church as decoration is at the discretion of the couple. After the wedding, it is suggested that your flowers remain as a gift of remembrance and gratitude to the Lord. Flowers for the Holy Family, Our Lady of Guadalupe and/or for the Sign of Peace are optional and supplied by the couple. Flower or ribbon decorations for the pews are allowed if they do not restrict movement or obscure the view of any of the guests. They must be attached with ribbon or rubber bands. Clips and tape are not allowed. Pew decorations must be removed immediately following the wedding. For safety reasons, lit candles are not allowed in or on the pews. Altar furnishings may NOT be moved in any way.

Rehearsal

Your presider and/or ceremony coordinator will conduct the re-

(Your fee is paid directly to the organist not to the parish. The organist's fee is \$250. - The Cantor's fee is to be negotiated with the cantor. Please pay the musicians before the night of rehearsal. If couples desire to use someone other than St. John the Baptist's Music Director, there is a \$100 consultation fee to be paid to St. John's Music Director, who must approve the selections of music you make with other musicians. Any outside musicians must be approved by Mrs. Rose, the Director of Music for St. John the Baptist Parish. Fees for a guest organist and/or vocalist are arranged individually between you and them.)

Ceremony Coordinators

St. John's provides a ceremony coordinator to ensure that each wedding ceremony flows well and is in keeping with the sacred setting. The ceremony coordinator will usually conduct the wedding rehearsal in conjunction with your presider. The ceremony coordinator is responsible for assisting with the set-up of the church, greeting visiting clergy and musicians, assisting the florist, reviewing St. John's policies with the photographer and/or videographer, greeting and assisting the bridal party, lining up and pacing the bridal party for entrance procession, assuring that time schedules are kept, and cleaning and re-setting the church. Your ceremony coordinator is available to meet with you to review St. John's guidelines and answer any questions you may have. Nancy Garner and Gisele Sparks are St. John's ceremony coordinators. Please contact Gisele Sparks at 630-835-6093 or Nancy Garner at 630-329-0946 to discuss the rehearsal.

Ushers

The men or women you choose for ushers will be assisted by the ceremony coordinator. The ceremony coordinator will familiarize the ushers with the facilities, answer questions, and make sure all guests are welcomed and seated. Ushers should be present at least thirty (30) minutes prior to the liturgy. Guests are to be seated as close to the front as possible and only in the center aisles. This provides for better participation by your guests during the liturgy.

Lectors

You are encouraged to choose different lectors for the readings and intercessions. Lectors should be accustomed to proclaiming the Word of God in church and be well-rehearsed. Lectors will proclaim the Word of God from the Ambo and should read directly from the Lectionary provided.

Altar Servers

If you are having a Mass, it is suggested that two altar servers from St. John's are asked to assist the priest with your wedding Mass. Please contact the parish secretary to arrange for altar servers.

Ethnic Traditions

Sometimes requests are made to incorporate a particular ritual, tradition, or ethnic custom into the marriage liturgy (e.g. Lasso, Arras, Unity Candle, etc.). Your presider will discuss with you the customs that are acceptable within the liturgy.

Post Ceremony Traditions

The throwing of rice, birdseed, candy or confetti is NOT allowed

in, around, or in front of the church or chapel. Rose petals may be dropped in the aisle, but only on the runner. Bells, bubbles and balloons are allowed outside the church only. Balloons are not allowed in the church for any reason. Every effort is made to have the church as presentable as possible on your wedding day. We appreciate the same consideration on your part for other liturgies.

The Aisle

The runner length of the small church/chapel is 85 feet and the runner length in the big-church is 75 feet. A runner is not required, but if you choose to have one, it may be obtained from your florist. The ushers customarily take care of bringing down the runner. If you are using a runner, pins or tape will be required to secure it.

Photos/Videos

If you choose to have pictures and/or videos taken during your wedding liturgy, please remember that you are in a sacred place. Your photographer/videographer will be asked to arrive at least 20 minutes before the start of the ceremony and to be appropriately dressed. Please ask your photographer/videographer to introduce himself/herself to the ceremony coordinator. She will review the guidelines for photos/videos at St. John's and will assist him/her in staying within the guidelines. To assure a prayerful experience during your wedding liturgy, we ask the following with regard to photos and videos:

The photographer/videographer is NOT allowed to enter the sanctuary

No video cameras are allowed in the sanctuary