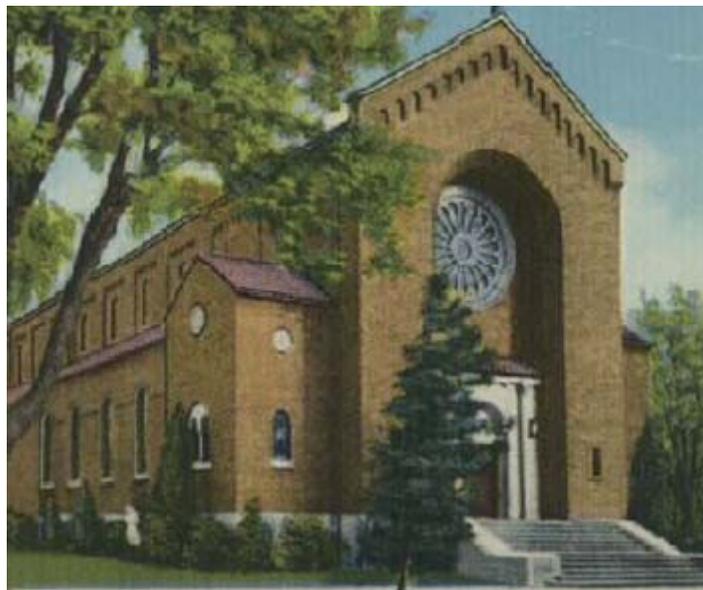


Weddings at Saint John the Baptist



Ypsilanti, MI

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

For myself, and on behalf of the whole parish, I wish to extend to you my sincerest congratulations on your decision to be married in the Church. Be assured of our prayers for you as you begin this journey together to fulfill the vocation which God has called you to. It will be one, I hope, filled with great joy. At the same time, the world presents to us many challenges as we seek to live holy lives, especially to those among us who do so in the married state. But for every challenge or obstacle, God, who is love, shows us the way to overcome them and to find our way to him and to one another in authentic expressions of that same love. In particular, the love of married people is shown most perfectly in the self-sacrificing gift that they make of themselves to one another and to their children in the development and maintenance of a Christ-centered home for the whole of their lives. Our parish, and indeed the whole Church, wishes to aid you in the giving of that gift of self to one another. It is to that end that we have developed this brief booklet and the guidelines within in it. Please review it carefully and if you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me or another member of the parish staff where appropriate so that we can help you better understand and make use of the rich resources that the Church offers to people seeking to be married. And again, know that we are praying for and with you, wishing you all of the good things that God intends for his children who undertake to “love one another” as Jesus has commanded us (Jn. 15:17).

God bless you,

Rev. Robert M. Roggenbuck

Pastor



“God created man in His own image and likeness: calling him to existence through love, He called him at the same time for love. God is love and in Himself He lives a mystery of personal loving communion. Creating the human race in His own image and continually keeping it in being, God inscribed in the humanity of man and woman the vocation, and thus the capacity and responsibility, of love and communion. Love is therefore the fundamental and innate vocation of every human being.”

-Pope John Paul II, *Familiaris Consortio*

Things to consider as you prepare for your marriage:

- Please contact the parish no less than nine months prior to your purposed wedding date.
- As a sign of Christian holiness of life, engaged couples should generally not be cohabiting. If you have questions regarding the Church's teaching on chastity and holiness in preparation for marriage, please contact either the pastor or one of the deacons.
- Prayer is essential to a healthy Christian marriage. A recent study showed that couples who pray together daily and attend church weekly have a less than 2% divorce rate. Engaged couples should pray for and with one another.
- If there have been any irregularities in your vocation to married life (a previous marriage, whether in a religious or civil ceremony) this should be communicated to the priest/deacon helping with your preparations at the very onset so that any necessary paperwork can be completed in a timely manner. According to the guidelines of the Diocese of Lansing, a wedding date may not be set until the freedom to marry has been established.
- Catholics are allowed to marry non-Catholics or those who have not been baptized. If this is the case, then this should be communicated to the priest/deacon as soon as possible so that the necessary dispensations may be obtained from the Diocese.
- Any other concerns or possible complications should be communicated as soon as possible so that resolutions may be reached in a timely fashion.
- The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has a very useful web site for couples preparing for marriage. It is recommended that you visit it at:

<http://www.foryourmarriage.org/>.

Marriage Preparation Requirements Checklist:

- _____ Contact the parish office to check wedding date availability.
- _____ Within two weeks of having a wedding date held with the parish office, YOU MUST COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING FOUR STEPS OR YOUR CHUCH RESERVATION WILL BE DROPPED WITHOUT NOTICE:
 - Contact the parish wedding coordinator at weddings@ypsilanticatholic.com to begin the wedding preparation process.
 - Sign and submit the Wedding Policy Acknowledgement to the parish office.
 - Submit the \$200.00 refundable security deposit, \$100.00 wedding coordinator and \$100.00 formation director fees to the parish office.
 - If applicable, pay the \$1,000.00 fee for the use of the church by non-parishioners.
- _____ Schedule an initial meeting/conversation with the wedding coordinator to confirm wedding and rehearsal dates and times and go over preparation process.
- _____ Ensure that baptismal records with notifications are mailed directly from the churches where the bride and groom were baptized to the St. John parish office no sooner than 6 months prior to the wedding date.
- _____ Schedule a meeting with the pastor of St. John the Baptist (for couples where both parties are Catholic) or a Deacon (for couples where only one party is Catholic) to complete the necessary paperwork to be married in the Catholic Church by contacting the parish secretary at 734-483-3360. This meeting should take place as soon as possible in the preparation process but CANNOT take place until the baptism records of both parties are received by the parish office.
- _____ Schedule and complete Natural Family Planning training. Register for a NFP class in your area at www.ccli.org. Ensure all paperwork/certificates of completion are submitted to the parish no later than 30 days prior to your wedding date. Please be advised that the NFP course takes 90 days to complete, so schedule it as soon as possible in your preparation process.
- _____ Schedule and complete the FOCCUS inventory with the wedding coordinator
- _____ Schedule and complete the faith formation program at St. John the Baptist with the wedding coordinator.
- _____ Schedule and attend WeCARE or Catholic Engaged Encounter. Contact the wedding coordinator or the parish office for a sign-up sheet for WeCare. Information about Catholic Engaged Encounter is available at www.lansingcee.org. Ensure that all paperwork/certificates of completion are submitted to the parish no later than 30 days prior to your wedding date.

- _____ Contact the parish music director at least 3 months prior to the wedding and submit your music selections for approval.
- _____ Schedule and meet with the wedding coordinator 2 months prior to the wedding to finalize any details.
- _____ Obtain a civil marriage license.
- _____ Submit all remaining fees to the parish one month prior to the wedding.
- _____ Catholic parties should receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- _____ Get married!

Specific policies for weddings at St. John the Baptist:

- To be considered a “registered member” of the parish, one of the parties to be married must have completed the parish registration form for St. John the Baptist and be attending weekend mass regularly no less than 6 months (4 months for active Eastern Michigan University students) prior to contacting the parish office to begin marriage prep. No exceptions are made for family members of registered, active parishioners.
- As the parish must accommodate other events and schedules, wedding parties **must be on time** for rehearsals and weddings. Failure of the wedding party, or others involved with the wedding, to comply with the time limits outlined below will result in forfeiture of the \$200 refundable security deposit.

Wedding	Rehearsal	Church is Available
4:30 pm Friday	5:00 pm Thursday	3:30 pm – 6:00 pm
11:00 am Saturday	6:00 pm Friday	10:00 am – 12:30 pm
2:00 pm Saturday	6:45 pm Friday	1:00 pm – 3:30 pm

- The bride and groom and complete wedding parties should plan on arriving at the church **no later** than 30 minutes prior to the wedding.
- Marriages between a Catholic and a non-Catholic are not celebrated during a mass and are celebrated by a deacon from St. John the Baptist.
- Marriages between two Catholics may occur with or without mass. If the marriage is not to take place within mass, a deacon from St. John the Baptist, or a visiting member of the Catholic clergy, will be the celebrant.
- Couples may ask another member of the Catholic clergy to celebrate their wedding but this must be submitted to the pastor of St. John the Baptist for his approval and so that the proper delegations may be made. That member of the clergy should contact the pastor directly.
- Couples may use one of the parish Music Directors, Stephanie Urban or Chris DuPont, or provide their own musicians. However, all music selections for liturgies at St. John the Baptist are subject to the approval of the parish Wedding Coordinator who should be contacted directly at: **sjbypsiweddings@gmail.com**.
- A wedding coordinator will be assigned by the parish to help with preparations and to conduct the rehearsal. Outside wedding coordinators **will not** be accommodated at either the rehearsal or marriage celebration.

Special Policies for Non-Parishioners Marrying at St. John the Baptist:

- Either the bride or groom must be a practicing Catholic able to provide a letter stating such from the parish where they are registered.
- Only priests and deacons from the Diocese of Lansing are allowed to preside at the ceremony without permission from the Bishop of the Diocese of Lansing.
- The priest or deacon presiding at the wedding should make direct contact with the pastor of St. John the Baptist.
- A wedding for non-parishioners may not be scheduled for more than one year in advance of the proposed date.

Fees & Stipends:

St. John's Fee Structure:

	Fee:	Payable to:
Refundable Security Deposit	\$200	St. John the Baptist
Use of the Church by Non-parishioners	\$1,000	St. John the Baptist
Wedding Coordinator	\$100	Individual (_____)
Formation Director	\$100	Individual (_____)
Priest or Deacon	\$200	Individual (Fr. / Dcn. ____)
Parish Music Director (if used during Liturgy)	\$200	Individual (_____)
Parish Music Tech (only required if using non-parish musicians)	\$100	Individual (_____)

- The refundable security deposit, use of church, wedding coordinator and formation director fees are payable upon reserving the church for a wedding. Remaining fees are payable to the parish one month prior to the wedding.
- Couples participating in marriage prep at St. John the Baptist, but getting married elsewhere are subject to the wedding coordinator and formation director fees.
- All fees for wedding prep components are the responsibility of the couple and should be paid directly to the agency or organization providing their services.
- There is no fee for FOCCUS and all costs incurred will be covered by the parish.
- In case of cancellation, all fees except the security deposit are non-refundable.

Church Decorations:

- Pew bows may only be attached by plastic clips, ribbon or elastic. No metal clips, tape or wire should be used.
- St. John the Baptist does not provide any decorations or specific items apart from those necessary for the celebration of the Sacraments.
- Flowers should not be placed directly in front of the altar.
- Decorations should not block the view of the altar, ambo or presider's chair.
- Decorations for liturgical seasons, such as Christmas and Easter, may not be removed or relocated.
- Unity candles are not properly part of a Catholic liturgy and are not permitted.
- Aisle runners may not be used as the flooring of St. John the Baptist makes them unsafe.
- Flower petals may be used on the aisle provided that someone is assigned to sweep them up immediately after the ceremony. Failure to properly remove them may result in the forfeiture of the security deposit.
- Throwing rice or using "Silly String" or similar products is not allowed on church property. Failure to respect this may result in the forfeiture of the security deposit. Throwing only birdseed or flower petals OUTSIDE of the church is allowed, though not encouraged.



Scripture Texts for use in the Marriage Rite:

Old Testament Readings:

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| 1) Genesis 1: 26-28,31 | Male and female he created them. |
| 2) Genesis 2: 18-24 | And they will be two in one flesh. |
| 3) Genesis 24: 48-51, 58-67 | Isaac loved Rebekah, and so he was consoled for the loss of his mother. |
| 4) Tobit 7:9-10, 11-15 | May God join you together and fill you with his blessings. |
| 5) Tobit 8: 5-7 | May God bring us to old age together. |
| 6) Song of Songs 2: 8-10, 14, 16; 8:6-7 | For love is as strong as death. |
| 7) Sirach 26: 1-4, 13-16 | Like the sun rising is the beauty of a good wife. |
| 8) Jeremiah 31: 31-32, 33-34 | A new covenant with the house of Israel and Judah. |

New Testament Readings:

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| 1) Romans 8: 31-35, 37-39 | Who will separate us from the love of Christ? |
| 2) Romans 12 TWO FORMS: | Offer to God your bodies as a living sacrifice. |
| a. Romans 12:1-2, 9-18 | LONG FORM |
| b. Romans 12:1-2, 9-13 | SHORT FORM |
| 3) 1 Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20 | Your body is a temple of the Spirit. |
| 4) 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:8 | If I am without love, it will do me no good whatever. |
| 5) Ephesians 5 TWO FORMS | Mystery applies to Christ and the Church. |
| a. Ephesians 5:2,21-33 | LONG FORM |
| b. Ephesians 5:2,25-32 | SHORT FORM |
| 6) Colossians 3:12-17 | Above all have love, which is the bond of perfection. |
| 7) 1 Peter 3:1-9 | Agree with one another, be sympathetic and love. |
| 8) 1 John 3:18-24 | Our love is to be something real and active. |
| 9) 1 John 4:7-12 | God is love. |
| 10) Revelation 19:1,5-9 | Happy are those invited to the wedding feast of Lamb. |

Responsorial Psalms:

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| 1) Psalm 33 | The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord. |
| 2) Psalm 34 | Taste and see the goodness of the Lord. |
| 3) Psalm 103 | The Lord is kind and merciful. |
| 4) Psalm 112 | Blessed the man who greatly delights in the Lord's commands. |
| 5) Psalm 128 | Blessed are those who fear the Lord. |
| 6) Psalm 145 | The Lord is compassionate toward all his works. |
| 7) Psalm 148 | Let all praise the name of the Lord. |

Alleluia Verse and Verse Before the Gospel:

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| 1) 1 John 4:8-11 | God is love; let us love one another as he has loved us. |
| 2) 1 John 4:12 | If we love one another, God will live in us in perfect love. |
| 3) 1 John 4:16 | He who lives in love, lives in God, and God in him. |
| 4) 1 John 4:7b | Everyone who loves is born of God and knows him. |

Gospel Readings:

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| 1) Matthew 5:1-12 | Rejoice, your reward will be great in heaven. |
| 2) Matthew 5:13-16 | You are the light of the world. |
| 3) Matthew 7 TWO FORMS | He built his house on rock. |
| a. Matthew 7:21,24-29 | LONG FORM |
| b. Matthew 7:21,24-25 | SHORT FORM |
| 4) Matthew 19:3-6 | What God has united, man must not divide. |
| 5) Matthew 22:35-40 | The greatest and first commandment. |
| 6) Mark 10:6-9 | They are no longer two, but one body. |
| 7) John 2:1-11 | The 1 st sign of Jesus, given at Cana in Galilee. |
| 8) John 15:9-12 | Remain in my love. |
| 9) John 15:12-16 | This is my commandment: love one another. |
| 10) John 17 TWO FORMS | May they be completely one. |
| a. John 17:20-26 | LONG FORM |
| b. John 17:20-23 | SHORT FORM |

WEDDING POLICY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that we have received a copy of the Wedding Policy of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Ypsilanti, Michigan. The Wedding Policy outlines the privileges and benefits, as well as our responsibilities and obligations for getting married at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, and we understand that we are to observe these responsibilities.

We understand and agree with the provisions of the Wedding Policy. By signing this form, we acknowledge that we have read the policy and are responsible for completing all requirements contained within this policy in order to be married at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church.

_____/_____
Printed name of Bride/Groom

_____/_____
Signature of Bride/Groom

Date