

# *St. Joseph Parish*



## *Wedding Booklet*

*1761 Second Street (Church)*

*215 Falls Ave (Rectory)*

*Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221*

*Phone: 330-928-2173*

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## **The Spirituality of Marriage**

Your marriage is one of the most important events in your life. It is a sacrament because it is established by God Himself. It is serious “because it will bind you together for life in a relationship so close and intimate, that it will profoundly influence your whole future.” Therefore, we are honored to share this very special moment in your life. We here at St. Joseph Parish look forward to sharing that special day with you and hope to see you often throughout your married life. Our goal is to help you make your wedding day a beautiful and spiritual experience that will begin your marriage in the best possible way.

The spirituality of marriage should always be uppermost in the minds of everyone approaching this Sacrament. Engaged couples should pray daily that God will bless their marriage and that the Sacrament of Matrimony will assist them in achieving their salvation. The Church tells us that, “Married Christians, in virtue of the Sacrament of Matrimony, signify and share in the mystery of that unity and fruitful love which exists between Christ and His Church; they help each other to attain a holiness in their married life and in the rearing and education of their children; and they have their own special gifts among the people of God.”

We hope this booklet will answer many of your questions. If you have any other questions, please feel free to call the Parish Office (330-928-2173) or the Priest with whom you are doing your preparation.

## **Who Can Marry at St. Joseph Parish?**

1. Any registered parishioner may be married at St. Joseph Parish. If neither of you are registered parishioners here, you must receive permission from the Pastor of St. Joseph Parish **as well as** the Pastor of the Parish at which you are registered parishioners.
2. At least one of the parties must be a **practicing Catholic**. A practicing Catholic is defined as someone who attends Mass weekly, on Holy Days of Obligation and receives the Sacraments regularly. If you have been away from the Church for a while and have not actively practiced your faith this could be an excellent opportunity to renew your commitment to your faith.
3. Cohabitation prior to marriage is considered a very serious matter by the Church. Couples who are living together before marriage are asked to speak to the Priest before setting a date for their wedding.

## **Setting the Date**

1. Please call the Parish Office and speak to a Priest before finalizing any other plans. Many dates are booked far in advance, sometimes more than a year ahead of time. Saturday at 11:00am or 1:00pm are the prescribed times for marriage at St. Joseph Parish. 2:00pm is the time for a wedding between a Catholic and a non-Catholic or non-baptized person. Any times or days outside of these must receive the Pastor's permission before proceeding.
2. The parish secretaries do not reserve wedding dates. Only the Priest or Deacon who is preparing you for marriage can finalize a date with you.

## **What is the Pre-Marriage Preparation Process?**

In order to adequately prepare for your marriage, it's important that you be as well informed as possible about the demands of living the vocation. Therefore, the Diocese of Cleveland requires pre-marriage instructions be given prior to the marriage ceremony. Please check with the Priest working with you or the Parish Office for information on scheduling these instructions. The pre-marriage instructions are to be considered obligatory and require participation in the following:

1. Attendance/Participation in Pre-Cana Day (pre-marital educational/faith formation)
2. Prepare/Enrich survey instrument and follow-up sessions with assigned clergy.

***NOTE: Pre-marital instructions should begin at least six (6) months prior to the proposed date of the wedding.***

## **What are the specific requirements governing marriage?**

### **Church Requirements (*For Catholics*)**

It will be necessary to obtain a recent copy of your Baptismal Record (within the last 6 months) with ALL notations. Be sure to specify that it is for marriage purposes. (These can be obtained at the church where you were baptized.)

### **Church Requirements (*For Non-Catholics*)**

A Baptismal Certificate is required but does not have to be issued within 6 months. Any questions should be referred to the Priest who will be celebrating your marriage.

## **Civil Requirements**

State Laws require that a marriage license be obtained before the ceremony. The license can be obtained at the Marriage License Bureau of the Summit County Court House. Application for the license must be made by both persons. When issued the license is valid for 60 days.

***NOTE: The marriage license is to be given to the Priest at the wedding rehearsal or any other time prior to the wedding.***

## **The Wedding Party**

According to Church law, the Best Man and Maid of Honor must be at least sixteen years old. Because of a lack of maturity, we suggest that children under six should not be considered for a role in the wedding party. If in doubt about who should be members of your party, consult the Priest celebrating your marriage. As the Bride and Groom, you are responsible for the attitude and the conduct of the members of the wedding party. Attire should be simple, modest, and decent, as befitting a church ceremony.

## **The Rehearsal**

The rehearsal usually takes place a night or two before the actual wedding. We ask that those who are in need of the Sacrament of Penance make private arrangements prior to this night with their own confessor or parish Priest. Since the rehearsal is held in the Church, all are encouraged to make a visit to the Blessed Sacrament praying for him/her and those to be married. **Laughter, loud talking, gum chewing, drinking or eating anything, smoking, alcohol, etc. are inappropriate behaviors in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.** Men should remove hats upon entering the Church, and **there is never a need to bring beverages into the Church.** Please advise the members of the rehearsal party not to engage in these behaviors while in the church.

## Flowers

1. If the Bride is making a visit to the Blessed Virgin Mary, a separate arrangement is to be ordered.
2. No tape may be used to affix bows or flowers to pews.
3. Flower girls are not permitted to drop live flower petals along the aisle as they walk into the Church.
4. An aisle runner is **not** necessary, but if one is desired, the aisle is 100 feet in length.
5. You are responsible for cleaning up any flowers, bows, aisle runner, etc after the wedding. It is customary to leave your altar flowers as a gift to the Church for the weekend's liturgies.

## Photography

1. The photographer should never disrupt or obstruct the marriage celebration. Please have the photographer consult the Priest and custodian prior to the ceremony in order to maintain the dignity and sanctity of the ceremony.
2. Flash photography and video lights are permitted during the ceremony however video cameras are restricted to the choir loft for the entire ceremony. With the zoom lens, this provides the camera with an acceptable angle to all the movements of the ceremony.
3. Photographs are permitted after the ceremony; however, they should be kept to a maximum of thirty minutes. Please remember the Church is a House of Prayer and not a photography studio. See "Rehearsal" section for inappropriate behaviors to avoid while in Church.

## **The Music**

On your wedding day you will want the ceremony to be as meaningful as possible. Through words of prayer, gestures, and music, the mystery and wonder of your marital covenant will be made evident to the community which has gathered to witness your love. Thus, the music chosen should reflect not only the theme suggested by the scriptures, but also the beauty, dignity and the sacred character of that encounter.

The Priest who will officiate at your wedding and the musician for St. Joseph Church, who will provide the music for the occasion, will assist you in making suitable selections. Excellent guidance is offered by the revised statement “Music in Catholic Worship” (Bishop’s Committee on Liturgy, National Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1972). It offers the following priorities of judgement: musical, liturgical, and pastoral. All three judgments are important in selecting the right music.

Certain elements of the liturgy **must** be sung, whether your ceremony is within or outside of Mass. The St. Joseph Church musician can assist you in finding a soloist as well as any other instrumentalists you might wish. Musicians should be booked as soon as your date is chosen to be assured of the availability of the musicians you prefer. Musicians are not automatically provided by the Church. All musicians’ fees are separate from the church offering and should be discussed with the musician. All additional musicians besides the St. Joseph Church musician must be approved. St. Joseph does not allow the organ to be played by musicians that are not currently employed organists in the Diocese of Cleveland.

As soon as a wedding date is set, please contact our St. Joseph Church musician to discuss the process of choosing your music:

Theresia Hartz: (330) 612-6440 or [thartz@neo.rr.com](mailto:thartz@neo.rr.com)

***Please remember because of the sacred character of the Sacrament of Matrimony, non-liturgical music is strictly prohibited within the marriage itself.***

## **The Ceremony**

It is important that the ceremony start on time. Those in the party should be at the Church about 30 minutes before the actual time of the ceremony.

For those receiving Holy Communion, abstain for one hour before receiving Communion from all solid and liquid foods. Water does not break this fast.

According to Church law, only Catholics may receive Communion at Mass out of respect for our faith and the faiths of all non-Catholic denominations.

According to the Rite of Marriage, the Unity candle is no longer permitted in a wedding ceremony.

No extraordinary signs or devices are permitted in Church. For example, no wagons or signs may be used by the flower girl or ring bearer to walk down the aisle.

## **Following the Ceremony**

The throwing of rice, bird seed, and/or confetti is strictly prohibited for safety reasons. The use of bubbles or balloons, if desired, must be kept outside the doors of the Church. Smoking is never permitted inside the Church doors or in the lobby.

Please remember that you are responsible for cleaning up any flowers, bows, aisle runner, etc after the wedding. It is customary to leave your altar flowers as a gift to the Church for the weekend's liturgies.

Please see "Photography" section for what is permitted after the ceremony.



## **Church Offerings**

We ask that the offerings for the wedding be given no later than the night of the rehearsal, along with the civil marriage license.

**An offering is requested for each of the following:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Church** - free for parishioners / \$150 for non-parishioners

\_\_\_\_\_ **A non-parishioner using the Church and bringing their own priest** -  
\$350 to St. Joseph Church

\_\_\_\_\_ **Priest or Deacon** - \$250

\_\_\_\_\_ **Custodian** - \$50

\_\_\_\_\_ **Servers** - \$15 each

\_\_\_\_\_ **Musician** - see “Music” section about contacting a musician after the wedding date is set. The musician will let you know their offering.

## **Visiting Priests**

Priest relatives or friends can be invited to be the principal celebrant at your wedding with the approval of the Pastor. Priests who are not from the Diocese of Cleveland are required to present a Letter of Good Standing from their Diocese to the Pastor before they may perform a wedding at St. Joseph. Visiting Priests from out of state must also be legal in the state of Ohio to marry at St. Joseph Church.

The use of St. Joseph Church with a visiting priest has a fee of \$350. Visiting clergy fees are a separate offering and should be taken care of privately with the clergy.

If you are being married by a priest not located at St. Joseph, you must fulfill all obligations required by the Diocese.

## **The Rite of Worship**

The following information should help answer many of the questions you may have regarding the Rite of Worship here at St. Joseph Church. The St. Joseph Musician can provide you with a template for a program which will encourage your guests to participate in your ceremony.

**Prelude Music** begins about 15 minutes before the wedding. 3-5 songs can be chosen to be performed by the vocalist and other musicians. The last piece in the prelude generally is a piece chosen especially for the seating of the mothers and/or grandmothers.

**The Entrance Procession:** The Revised Rite of Marriage (Sept. 8, 2016) requires an Entrance Hymn as part of the Entrance Procession. Composers have composed hymns that transition directly into the traditional bridal march.

The **Gloria** is led by the cantor and sung by all

The **Responsorial Psalm** is sung by the cantor and echoed by the people

The **Alleluia** is sung by the cantor and echoed by the people

The **Acclamation** after the Exchange of Vows is led by the cantor and sung by all

The **Hymn or Canticle** after the Exchange of Rings is led by the cantor and sung by all

The **Ordinary of the Mass** is sung. We encourage congregation participation

The **Lord's Prayer** is usually recited

**Offertory and Communion** songs should reflect upon the sacred prayers of the Mass both in style and amplitude of sound. Offertory music should end when the celebrant washes his hands. Communion music should end when the last communicant has received the Eucharist.

The **Visit to Mary's Altar** is optional, but if the couple elects to offer prayers to The Virgin Mother, a hymn to Mary is usually sung by the soloist

The **Recessional** is the music for the couple, wedding party and celebrant to exit the Church. Usually a piece of classical music is chosen

# Pre-Marriage Checklist

## General Items:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Initial appointment with a Priest
- \_\_\_\_\_ Date and time for the wedding and rehearsal is placed in the Parish calendar
- \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Musician (see “Musician” section)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Prepare/Enrich is administered and discussed
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pre-Cana workshop is completed
- \_\_\_\_\_ Marital dispensation is issued (if needed, speak to the Priest)

## Documents/Offerings:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Baptismal Certificate (dated within the last 6 months)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Marriage License
- \_\_\_\_\_ Parish Census information completed (back page of this booklet) and turned into the Parish Office
- \_\_\_\_\_ Offerings given (see “Church Offerings” for details)

## Liturgy:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Discuss and finalize the Mass plan with the Priest
- \_\_\_\_\_ Meet with the St. Joseph Musician and soloist about music
- \_\_\_\_\_ Readers are notified and practiced

## Other Details:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Flowers
- \_\_\_\_\_ Photographer
- \_\_\_\_\_ Videographer
- \_\_\_\_\_ Program *\*Optional* (If you chose to make a program, a template can be provided by the St. Joseph Musician and should be sent to the Priest to be proofed before printing)



## St. Joseph Parish Census Form

*Please complete this page and return to the Parish Office before your Wedding*

Groom's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle

Bride's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle

Have both of you registered at St. Joseph Parish as an adult? *If No, please explain.*

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Marriage: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Marriage: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address AFTER WEDDING will be:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Groom's Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Groom's Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Bride's Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Bride's Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Address of the Parish you will regularly attend after your marriage:

\_\_\_\_\_