

Marriage

Planning and Preparation



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Congratulations on your engagement and up-coming wedding. Marriage is one of the seven sacraments that are so foundational to our Catholic faith, and we are excited to celebrate it with you. To help you prepare for your lifetime commitment to each other in marriage, there are a few steps we ask you to take with each other and with us. Please use this booklet as a guide for navigating your way through this Formation Process.

We hope that as you continue your journey toward the celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage your love for each other will deepen, your commitment to each other grow stronger, and your presence in our midst be a blessing to us!

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
115 Plymouth Street
Plymouth, WI 53073

Pastor: Fr. Subi Thomas
Director of Liturgy: Scott Dedlow
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Getting Started

Thank you for considering St. John the Baptist as the Church in which you'd like to celebrate your wedding. If you are not already a parishioner, we would encourage one or both of you to join the parish. If one of you is not Catholic, we will certainly try to answer any questions you might have about the Catholic Christian Faith as we guide you through the Formation Process.

*If you are looking at St. John the Baptist as the church venue for a "destination wedding" and neither of you is currently a parishioner here, and you will not be settling in the area after your wedding, you may find it more convenient to complete the marriage preparation process through the home parish of either party who is Catholic. We would also encourage you to consider inviting your home parish pastor or any other priest with whom you have a close relationship to officiate at you wedding ceremony here.

Setting your Date and Time:

Weddings can be celebrated on any day of the week except Sunday. The most common day of choice is Saturday. At St. John the Baptist, weddings are celebrated at 1:00 p.m., with the rehearsal conducted on the preceding afternoon or evening. Rehearsal typically takes one hour.

Contact the parish office at 920-892-4006 as early as possible, but at least six months in advance of your tentative wedding date to make sure the date is open with the church and to schedule to meet with the pastor. Together you and your priest will confirm the date. It is important to meet with the pastor **PRIOR** to making any arrangements with wedding vendors.

The Formation Process

To help the faithful grow in both human and Christian maturity.

Your engagement period is a time to plan your wedding and at the same time build a solid foundation for a lifetime marital commitment. To help you accomplish both of these purposes, we will guide you through a three-part process of Formation.

1. FOCCUS (*Facilitating Open Couple Communication, Understanding and Study*)

The FOCCUS inventory is an opportunity to help identify strengths and challenges in your relationship. A trained married couple from St. John the Baptist parish, or your priest will meet with you to discuss the results and help identify areas for growth.

2. Marriage Preparation

As part of the preparation process, engaged couples have the option of attending a Marriage Preparation Conference, a Marriage Preparation Day, a Catholic Engaged Encounter Weekend Retreat, or Marriage Preparation for Remarriage. You will receive more information at your initial meeting with the pastor.

3. Meeting with your Priest

After your initial meeting with your priest to select a date and begin the process, you may meet again to talk about your wedding liturgy, your spirituality, the growth of your faith, and what makes a strong Catholic marriage.

Catholic Wedding Essentials

Timeline and Checklist

Six Months before the Wedding

- Contact the pastor to establish a wedding date and rehearsal time.
- Schedule your initial meeting with the pastor.
- Schedule first meeting with the Director of Liturgy and Music.

Four Months before the Wedding

- Complete your FOCCUS assessment and meet with marriage mentors.
- Submit baptismal certificates and all other necessary church documentation.
- Register and attend the Archdiocese of Milwaukee Marriage Preparation Course.

Two months before the Wedding

- Finalize the wedding liturgy with celebrant and the Director of Liturgy and Music.
- Submit your Order of Worship booklet to the Director of Liturgy and Music for approval.
- Pay the wedding fee.
- If your marriage preparations are through your home parish, arrange for documentation to be sent to St. John the Baptist.

Day of Wedding Rehearsal

- Bring your marriage license with you and give it to the celebrant.
- Have everyone involved in your wedding liturgy attend the rehearsal and be ready to begin on time.
- Pay the musician fees.

Paperwork

- Baptismal Certificate / Certificates are obtained by requesting them from the church where the baptism was celebrated. For Catholics, this must be newly issued documents (not copies of the original).
- Pre-Nuptial Questionnaire / This questionnaire is completed with the pastor at your initial meeting.
- Affidavits / If necessary, an affidavit may need to be obtained from people who know you well and can testify that you are free to marry.
- Marriage License / This is available from the Sheboygan County Courthouse. For more information visit www.sheboygancounty.com/government/departments-a-e/marriage.

Fees

Wedding Fees:

Parishioners / \$350
Guest Couples / \$500
Pastor / None *

** Many couples choose to offer a gratuity with a personal note of appreciation.*

Musician Fees: Musicians are contracted and fees paid individually.

Cantor / \$150
Organist / \$200
Additional Rehearsal / \$50 per hour
Additional Musicians / \$125-\$200 per person

Planning your Wedding Liturgy

For those getting married in the Catholic Church, the highpoint of the wedding day is the wedding liturgy, where bride and groom become husband and wife in the lifelong covenant of marriage (a sacrament for baptized Christians). ~ *United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*

Helpful Resource:

www.foryourmarriage.org

An initiative of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops



We are here to help

1. When you meet with your priest you will receive a booklet entitled Together for Life, which includes all the readings and prayers for your liturgy. Take time together to read the texts and decide which ones you would like to include in your wedding. A worksheet in the back of the book will help you keep track of your decisions.
2. Your priest and the Director of Liturgy and Music will walk you through the entire process and help you bring the details of your liturgy together.

Choosing Roles for your Family and Friends:

The only people *required* to be present at a valid Catholic wedding are the bride and groom, two witnesses, and your priest or deacon. Participation of others as liturgical ministers is an opportunity for family and friends to join in praising God for the gift of love.

Other Liturgical Ministries Include:

Ushers/Greeters welcome guests, assist with seating and distribute the order of worship.

Lectors/Readers proclaim the Word of God and read the general intercessions (petitions). Different people can read the first reading (from the Old Testament) and the second reading (from the New Testament).

Gift Bearers present the bread and wine. If your wedding is celebrated with Mass you will need two gift bearers.

Ministers of Communion assist with the distribution of Holy Communion if your wedding is celebrated within the context of Mass.

Music Ministers lead the assembly in song.

The Assembly consists of those who are gathered for your wedding. The assembly is called to actively participate by joining in song and prayer at the appropriate times. You can encourage the participation of the assembly through the order of worship.

** Liturgical Ministers should be those who are active in the practice of faith in their own parish or church.*

“Thoughtful, prayerful planning and participation in your Catholic wedding will bring many blessings to your married life.”

~ Pope Francis' Address to Engaged Couples in Rome, February 14, 2014

Catholic Rite of Marriage

The Church encourages couples to celebrate the sacrament of marriage within the Mass, especially if both people are Catholic, but sometimes it makes more sense to celebrate without a Mass. You will discuss your particular circumstances when you meet with the priest who will be celebrating your wedding with you.

The Catholic Church offers three different forms of celebrating the Rite of Marriage

- ◇ When two Catholics are marrying, the celebration will normally take place within a Mass.
- ◇ The second form, which does not include a Mass, is used when a Catholic marries another baptized Christian.
- ◇ A third form, also outside Mass, is celebrated when a Catholic marries someone who is not baptized. The second and third forms are structured around the celebration of the Liturgy of the Word.

Catholic Wedding Music

Contact Scott Dedlow, Director of Liturgy and Worship, at least six months before your wedding to start the planning process.

sdedlow@sjbplymouth.org
920-892-4006

- ◇ The Director of Liturgy and Music will walk you through the process and is the primary music coordinator at your wedding.
- ◇ St. John the Baptist Parish has musicians willing to provide music for your wedding. They are most familiar with the Catholic liturgy, music and our acoustical environment.
- ◇ A parish cantor is required and will ensure strong musical participation at your liturgy.
- ◇ Guest musicians are welcome and they will work directly with the Director to navigate the structure of the liturgy and to make sure your music is of high quality and appropriate content.
- ◇ Please review the list of suggested music provided on the following page and work with the Director to finalize your selections.

Music is a basic, central and integral part of Catholic worship and your wedding liturgy.

Choosing Music

Is it Prayerful?

The purpose of any Catholic liturgy, including a wedding liturgy, is to give glory to God and to sanctify (make holy) the worshipers. Your wedding music should reflect that purpose; in other words, it should help the assembly to pray and to give thanks to God for your love.

Secular love songs, even those with a spiritual theme, are usually considered inappropriate for use in a Catholic wedding ceremony.

Will it Encourage the Assembly to Sing?

Catholic liturgy calls on the assembly, those who have come to witness your wedding, to actively participate in the prayer of the Church, including its sung prayer. Doing so is one of the most powerful ways your friends and family can express their love and support for you and your spouse. One way to encourage the assembly to sing is by providing the music in a wedding program (order of worship).

Suggested Catholic Wedding Music

Instrumental Processional/Recessional):

Air (Handel)	Largo (Handel)
Air on the G String (Bach)	March (Handel)
Allegro Maestoso (Handel)	Ode to Joy (Beethoven)
Canon in D (Pachalbel)	Trumpet Tune (Purcell)
Hornpipe (Handel)	Trumpet Voluntary (Clarke)
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring (Bach)	

Presentation Hymns:

Be Thou My Vision (Slane)
Best Are They (Haas)
Faith, Hope and Love (Haas)
Glory and Praise to our God (Schutte)
God is Love (Haas)
I Have Loved You (Joncas)
One Lord (Soper)
Only a Shadow (Landry)
Seek Ye First (Lafferty)
Sing to the Mountains (Dufford)
The Summons (Kelvingrove)
Ubi Caritas (Taize)
We Praise You (Daigle)
You Have Called Us (Farrell)

Solo Music

Ave Maria (Schubert)	By My Side (Porter)
Come and Journey with Me	Covenant Hymn (Cooney)
God the All-Holy (Cotter)	God in the Planning (Bell)
He Has Chosen You for Me	Hear us Now, Our God the Father
Love Grows Here (Besig)	In Love We Choose to Live
Love is the Sunlight (Cotter)	We Will Serve the Lord (Haas)
Not Two But One (Nelson)	When Love is Found (O Waly)
Parent's Prayer (Davis)	Where There is Love (Hass)
Where There is Love (Hass)	Wherever You Go (Hass)
A Nuptial Blessing (Joncas)	
Blessing the Marriage (Bell)	

Responsorial Psalms:

Psalm 1: Happy Are They Who Hope
Psalm 19: Lord, You Have the Words
Psalm 25: To You, O Lord
Psalm 33: Let Your Mercy Be on Us
Psalm 34: Taste and See
Psalm 85: Lord, Let us See your Kindness
Psalm 98: All the Ends of the Earth
Psalm 103: The Lord is Kind and Merciful
Psalm 118: This is the Day
Psalm 126: The Lord has Done Great
Psalm 128: Blest Are Those
Psalm 145: I will Lift Up Your Name
Where there is Love

Communion Hymns:

Behold the Lamb
Bread of Life (Cooney)
Bread of Life (Farrell)
Eat This Bread (Taize)
Gift of Finest Wheat (Kreutz)
I Am the Bread of Life (Toolan)
O Sacrament Most Holy (Fulda)
Lord, You Have Come (Cabarain)
See Us, Lord, About Your Altar (Elgar)
Seed, Scattered and Sown (Feiten)
Taste and See (Moore)
The Eyes and Hands of Christ
The Supper of the Lord
We Have Been Told (Haugen)

Additional music suggestions are available from the Director of Liturgy and Music.

Church Decorating and Facility Information

If you choose to bring in decorations, please consider the following:

Keep the focus on liturgy

The prayers of the Church for your marriage are the key element in your wedding; you don't want to distract from the words and actions of the liturgy with decorations that block the assembly's view or get in the way of people involved in the wedding. As with other decorations, flowers should not be placed in a way that interferes with the liturgy.

Respect the Church Environment

Keep the existing church environment and decorations in place. St. John the Baptist Parish is specifically decorated for special events and seasons within the Liturgical Year. You may add to the environment, but you may not rearrange church furniture or décor.

Your wedding is a religious ceremony in a sacred space. Please be quiet and respectful.

Photography and Videography:

Professional photographers and videographers are welcome to capture the special moments of your wedding liturgy and should strive to respect the sacred and prayerful nature of the liturgy.

Photographers and videographers are not allowed in the sanctuary or in front of the first row of pews.

Once the ceremony has begun, flash photography is prohibited.

Microphones may not be attached to any church furniture or existing church microphones.

Facility Facts:

- The church seats 900.
- There are 15 pews down the main aisle.
- The main aisle is 75ft long.
- A brides room is available.

Church Environment Guidelines

- ◇ Use only ribbons or specially designed pew clips to secure bows and flowers to pew ends. Tape, tacks and nails and other similar adhesives are not permitted.
- ◇ Rice, birdseed, flower petals, confetti, etc. may not be used inside or outside of the church property.
- ◇ Aisle runners are not allowed.
- ◇ Use only dripless candles.
- ◇ Place flowers only where there will be no water damage or other stains. No flowers or decorations may be placed on top of the altar, or in such a way as to obscure it. Nothing is to be placed on top of the musical instruments.
- ◇ The wedding party and guests may not use alcohol or tobacco at church. Offenders will be asked to leave. If the bride and groom are involved, the priest has the right to postpone the marriage.
- ◇ Proper dress and behavior is expected.
- ◇ Cellular phones must be set to silence.
- ◇ Leave all areas of the church and building clean.
- ◇ For Saturday weddings the church must be vacated by 2:45pm.