

Wedding Policies

Those wishing to set a wedding date will meet with the priest/deacon to review and understand our policies before booking a date in the Church calendar.

We make arrangements and set dates with the bride and groom, not parents or others. This is your wedding ceremony and you are responsible to follow any and all policies set forth.

At least one of the parties must be a baptized Roman Catholic who is practicing their faith by attendance at Mass on a weekly basis. As a member of the parish you must be personally registered and practicing for at least six months before setting a date. If your parents are registered and you are not, then you must obtain a letter of permission from the pastor of the parish where you are registered noting that you are a practicing Catholic. This must be done before any date can be set. As a Catholic you are seeking to receive a Sacrament of the Church, Matrimony. And the requirement for the reception of any Sacrament is that you are practicing your faith on a weekly basis and are in the state of grace. You need to be attending weekly Mass and regularly receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The Diocese of Joliet requires a minimum preparation period of six months. During this time, you will participate in the approved Marriage Preparation program of the parish and will work with a priest, deacon or one of the parish staff to complete the required paperwork.

Please be aware that when a Catholic is marrying a non-Catholic, your marriage will be celebrated with a wedding ceremony that does not include the reception of Holy Communion. In these cases, a Deacon may be assigned to preside at the celebration of your wedding ceremony. If both of you are Catholic, you are encouraged to have a wedding Mass, and receive Holy Communion.

In a Roman Catholic Wedding ceremony the vows and the wedding rings are the sign of the Unity you are celebrating (in the case of a Wedding Mass, Holy Communion is obviously the sign of our unity as People of the Church.) Thus, we will only use the liturgical elements of the Catholic tradition set forth in the Wedding Ritual. You may have seen some other elements at other weddings and may wish to include them at your wedding reception if they have particular meaning to the two of you. Within the Church ceremony, we will ONLY use the approved rituals and traditions of the Church. The Deacon or Priest will help you in planning these rites.

“Liturgical services are not private functions, but are celebrations of the Church, which is the Sacrament of Unity, namely a holy people united and organized under the bishops. Therefore, liturgical services pertain to the whole body of the Church. They manifest it and have effects upon it, but they concern individual members of the Church in different ways.” (Vatican II, Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, #26)

Wedding hostesses are assigned to assist with all the details of your wedding ceremony. They will be orchestrating the Wedding Rehearsal. Please make sure that everyone is there at the arranged time. Both the rehearsal and wedding ceremony/mass will begin at precisely the arranged time. Please respect this out of courtesy.

Your photographer and/or videographer will need to check in with the wedding hostess on the day of the wedding before the ceremony. At a Saturday wedding, the photographs must be concluded, and the wedding party must leave the church by 3:25pm, as the Sacrament of Reconciliation begins at that time, and silence must be respected.

Anyone **under the age of three will NOT** be allowed in the wedding party. This is for the sake and the dignity of the Wedding ceremony. There will be no exceptions.

Monetary fees for Weddings will be discussed with the priest when scheduling your wedding. There are fees for the following:

- **The use of the Church.**
- **Pianist**
- **Soloist**
- **Instrumentalists**
- **Priest**
- **Altar Servers**

We are pleased that you have chosen to profess your love for each other in the presence of the Church's minister and this community. It is a blessing to the Parish, and we will help in any way possible to make it memorable for everyone.

I have received and will adhere to all wedding policies as set forth in the guidelines for the Sacrament of Marriage at Holy Spirit Catholic Church. I understand that we are guests in this sacred place and the church is holy ground.

Bride

Groom

Date

Priest or Deacon

6/25/2025