

Timeline - Preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage

First Step - Set the Date

Meet with the Priest

Call the Church Office to arrange a meeting with the priest to **set the date** and begin the process of marriage preparation. You will meet with the priest two times.

Pay Church Fee

This is due 30 days from reserving the date, or call to make arrangements.

9 - 12 months Prior

Contact the Music Director

Meet with Music/Liturgy Director to begin selecting music and discuss options.

Attend an Engaged Retreat

Select one of the following options:

Living God's Love Marriage Retreat - 651-291-4553
<http://www.archspm.org/departments/marriage/marriage-preparation.php>
OR
Catholic Engaged Encounter Retreat - 651-426-9248
<https://www.ceemn.org>

Meet with a Mentor couple

You will be assigned a mentor couple and they will contact you to set up the meetings. You will take a Pre-Marriage inventory as a part of this process.

6 - 9 months Prior

Complete a Natural Family Planning Course (NFP)

Register for this at:

The Couple to Couple League (CCL) - 612-721-3791
<http://twincities.ccli.org>

6 months Prior

Confirm Rehearsal Date

The rehearsal is held at 6:00 pm, typically one or two days prior to the wedding. Call the Church Office to confirm.

1 - 3 months Prior

Meet with the Priest

This is the final meeting in preparation for the ceremony. **All of the paperwork is required at this time.** It is preferred that the paperwork be turned in to the church office prior to this meeting. Following is a list of the paperwork needed:

1) Obtain Newly Issued Baptism Certificates

Please contact the Catholic parish where you were baptized and request that they send a copy of your baptism certificate to you, or directly to the St. Joseph Church office. (*Non-Catholic certificates can be photocopies of the original*)

2) Completed Freedom to Marry Forms

You will need to provide one for each, the bride and groom.

3) Certificate of Attendance at an Engaged Retreat

4) Certificate of Completion of a Natural Family Planning (NFP) Course

5) Completed Liturgy Planning Sheet

Reading and music selections, intercessions, ministers, etc.

6) Completed Parish Registration Form

If you will be residing in the area and are not officially registered at St. Joseph.

Obtain Marriage License

After completing the pre-marriage retreat, the meetings with the mentor couple, and the priest, you will be given a document that will give you a discount on your marriage license fee. (*The priest will give you this document at your final meeting with him*)

Thursday/Friday Prior

Wedding Rehearsal

Wedding party, lectors and other ministers participating in the wedding liturgy must attend the rehearsal.

Remember to bring: Marriage license, Music fee, Guest book, Programs, Presider gift, etc.

What time is the Ceremony held?

Fridays - 5:00 pm

Saturdays - 11:00 am or 2:00 pm

(The Rehearsal is held at 6:00 pm)

What are the Fees?

Church \$350/\$500 and **Music** \$250

Church

The church fee is \$350 for registered members and \$500 for those not registered but have family ties here. This fee is due within 30 days of reserving the date at the church. *(Please contact our accounting office if you would like to make other arrangements.)*

Music

The music fee of \$250 is paid directly to the Music Director. Our music director is required to be present at the ceremony. If you desire to have additional cantors and/or musicians you are welcome to arrange for them in addition to our music director.

Presider

If you would like to give a gift to the presider, the typical gift is \$150 and is given directly to him.

Wedding Coordinator & Altar Servers

The parish provides a stipend for the Wedding Coordinator and Altar Servers.

Notes Regarding the Ceremony & Rehearsal:

Arrival Time on Wedding Day

On the day of your wedding you are welcome in the church two hours before the wedding liturgy.

Photographer/Videographer

Pictures and videography are permitted during the liturgy provided they remain inconspicuous. Flash photography is not allowed during the liturgy.

Photos taken in church prior to your wedding should not exceed 1.5 hours before your wedding and be finished no closer than an half hour before your ceremony.

Aisle Runner

Keep in mind that our church is carpeted so a "Runner" is not permitted since this is a tripping hazard.

Throwing Rice

Throwing rice, bird seed, confetti or anything on church property is prohibited.

Decorations

Please keep your decorations simple as the St. Joseph Altar area needs only accents to enhance its beauty. Two arrangements, one on each side of the altar area is sufficient. You may want one arrangement placed near the ambo. You may decorate the pew ends with bows - attaching these with masking tape is acceptable. If used, bows are typically placed every third pew. There are 26 rows of pews.

The Rehearsal

The Wedding Liturgy Coordinator will arrive at the rehearsal 15 minutes early. She will show the bride to the bride's room. We also have a room for the groom and his attendants.

Parish Center

We will have tables set up for your use. Food & drink must be kept in the Parish Center. Alcohol is not allowed.

Clean Up

Couples must assign people to clean up after the wedding, including the Bride and Groom Rooms, Restrooms, etc. We will provide trash bags for your use. Please tie bags shut and leave outside the kitchen door.

Contacts

Pastor

Fr. Bennet Tran · (952) 442-2384
btran@stjosephwaconia.org

Music/Liturgy Director

Sean Barker · (952) 442-3707
sbarker@stjosephwaconia.org

Wedding Liturgy Coordinators

Jenny Peitz · (952) 442-2209
rpeitz1@aol.com

Virginia Gelhar · (612) 910-6358
vgelhar@stjosephwaconia.org

Church Office

Sandy Rosetter · (952) 442-2384
churchoffice@stjosephwaconia.org

41 East First Street
Waconia MN, 55387
www.stjosephwaconia.org