

Timeline - Preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage

First Step - Set the Date

Meet with Clergy

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

Pay Church Fee

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

9 - 12 months Prior

Attend an Engaged Retreat

Select one of the following three options:

Living God's Love Marriage Retreat - 651-291-4553
<http://www.archspm.org/departments/marriage/marriage-preparation.php>

Catholic Engaged Encounter Retreat - 651-587-7689
<https://stpaulminneapolis.engagedencounter.com/>

Christian Marriage Ministries Catholic Retreat for Engaged Couples 651-434-4294
<https://engagedcouples.wixsite.com/retreats>

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://ccli.org>

6 months Prior

Contact the Music/Liturgy Director

Meet with Music/Liturgy Director to select your readings, music, and discuss options. Bring this along to your final meeting with the Clergy.

1 - 3 months Prior

Meet with the Presiding Clergy

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) Newly Issued Baptism Certificates

(within 6 months of your wedding date)

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 a copy/snapshot of the original or a statement from their church of baptism*)

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 Course (NFP)

5) Completed Liturgy Planning Sheet

Readings and music selections, intercessions, ministers, etc. This is done as a part of your meeting with our Music/Liturgy Director.

Obtain Marriage License

After completing the pre-marriage retreat, the meetings with the mentor couple and the clergy, you may request a document that will give you a discount on your marriage license fee. Contact the parish office for this.

One Day Prior (Typically)

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/Worship Aids, 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, typically the evening prior)

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 the church office if you would like to make other arrangements.)*

Music - The music fee of \$250 is paid directly to the Music Director on your wedding day. 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 - The parish provides a stipend for the Wedding Coordinator.

Notes Regarding the Ceremony & Rehearsal:

Arrival Time on Wedding Day

On the day of your wedding you are welcome in the church three hours before the wedding liturgy. *(If your ceremony is at 2:00 pm, you may arrive no earlier than 11:00 am)*

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.

Worship Aid/Program

St. Joe's does not provide a worship aid/program for the liturgy. If you would like to provide one, samples of the format are provided in the wedding prep folder. Please bring a draft copy to your final meeting with the clergy to review it.

Aisle Runner

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

The Ceremony

You may request to have your ceremony livestreamed on our Facebook page. (*Please note this is offered as a courtesy and it is not a high level "professional" production.)

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

Clergy

Fr. Stan Mader · (952) 442-3700
frstan@stjosephwaconia.org

Deacon Greg Miller · (952) 442-3701
gmiller@stjosephwaconia.org

Music/Liturgy Director

Sean Barker · 952-442-3707
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Wedding Liturgy Coordinators

Virginia Gelhar · (612) 910-6358
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