

Planning a Catholic Wedding

Our congratulations and prayers are with you as you prepare for your Christian marriage. We feel your marriage is not only a gift that you give to each other, but a gift celebrated in God, and therefore a gift to us as well. You are able to make this lifetime commitment of love and fidelity to each other because God has committed to you in love and fidelity first. In fact, it is in reflecting this love and fidelity of God that you share with us your gift of love.

Marriage is a sacrament of vocation in the Catholic Church. The sacrament holds deep religious meaning and must be entered into only after prayer, consideration and the conviction of God's presence in your relationship. It should be respected and revered.

In light of the above, we ask you to keep in mind that there are usually two important parts of your special day: the wedding ceremony and the festivities that take place afterward. The first takes place in God's house, which we acknowledge as holy ground; and the second at a facility meant for parties, receptions, etc. Please do not confuse the two. What is appropriate at the latter is not always appropriate on holy ground. Thus, modest dress and polite behavior are expected. The use of alcohol anywhere in the church or on church grounds or in the possession of any member of the wedding party or attendees is strictly prohibited.

We hope the following information will be helpful in the planning of your wedding. May God bless you in the days and years ahead.

Parish Policy

The Sacrament of Marriage is an important step in your faith life. To live your Catholic faith, you must be true to your commitment and obligation to regularly attend Sunday and Holy Day Masses.

One of or both the prospective groom or bride should be registered with All Souls or one of our feeder parishes (St. Ann, St. John, or St. James) for a minimum of one year to celebrate their wedding at All Souls. Active members are those who participate in parish life and attend Mass regu-

larly. Wedding date requests will not be considered until the parish has established your active participation in our parish.

An exception is if you grew up in our parish or one of our feeder churches and your family continues to be active members, then you may celebrate your wedding here. You must, however, provide a written statement from the Catholic parish where you are registered indicating you attend Mass regularly.

Days and Times

Weddings at St. Ann take place on Saturdays at 12:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. There are no Sunday weddings.

Nuptial Mass and Ceremony

The parish liturgist will assist you in preparing your wedding liturgy. Please feel free to ask any questions. If you have decided to print a wedding booklet, please have the parish liturgist review the order and selections you have chosen for accuracy.

Visiting priests and clergy of other denominations are welcome at All Souls once permission has been granted by the pastor. Please finalize all arrangements with the parish liturgist.

Music

Music enhances the wedding ceremony, but it is important that the music be appropriate for the occasion. Marriage in the Catholic tradition is a sacrament and is celebrated as a religious event. The music therefore must be religious and sacred in nature. The various hymns and instrumental music should also fit the meaning of their placement in the Marriage Mass or Ceremony.

All Souls is blessed with a wonderful music director and many talented cantors to provide the music for your wedding Mass or ceremony. In some cases

guest musicians are also welcome upon approval by the Parish Music Director.

The "Wedding Music Guidelines" booklet will provide helpful information and the music policy we adhere to in accordance with standards set forth in the General Instruction of the Roman Missal. All musical selections are finalized with the Music Director. Contact the parish liturgist and Music Director, Lori Moreland at the Parish Office three months prior to the wedding date to begin preparations for your music selections.

Documentation

Baptismal Certificate

Please contact the church where you were baptized to obtain an updated copy of your baptismal certificate. The copy must be dated no more than six months prior to the date of the wedding. Since the church of your baptism is notified of your marriage, this copy insures that you were baptized and also that you have not previously married in the church. If you have been confirmed, you should also obtain a copy of that certificate from the proper parish.

Affidavits

Affidavits for your marriage to take place in the Catholic Church are required in some circumstances. The parish priest will tell you if these are necessary.

Questionnaire

You will complete a prenuptial questionnaire with a parish priest during one of your marriage appointments. You should bring your baptismal certificate with you at that time.

Marriage License

Obtain your marriage license at one of four Cook County Clerk's Vital Records locations. The nearest to us is located at 16501 Kedzie, Markham, IL (708-210-4150)

Please visit www.cookcountyclerkil.gov/vital-records for required documentation and fees.

Both parties must be present.

Art & Environment Policy

The Sanctuary and Altar are decorated with banners and linens to reflect the liturgical season, which supersedes all other celebrations. As such, you are welcome to enhance the setting, but you may not replace or change it. This means the colors, plants, and other decorations in place may not be removed.

Flowers & Bows

Florists are given one hour prior to the wedding to set up and a half-hour after to remove arrangements. Please consult the Liturgist regarding placement of flowers.

Artificial plants and flowers are not permitted.

Bows may be placed on the ends of chairs and pews, provided they are attached with cloth ties or rubber bands. Wire, plastic, or adhesives (tape) are not allowed as they expose the furnishings to damage.

Aisle Runners

Runners are not permitted in our church for safety purposes.

Tossed Items

If you elect to have a flower girl, we only permit artificial/silk petals, as real petals stain the carpeting.

As a matter of safety, we do not permit throwing rice, birdseed, confetti, or balloons on the church property.

Wedding Rehearsal

The time and date are set by the parish, usually the Friday evening immediately before the Saturday wedding.

Due to time constraints, it is very important that your entire party is ready to rehearse at the time you are scheduled.

The readers of the Scriptures should attend the rehearsal. Please give them copies of the readings you have chosen so they may practice before the rehearsal.

Photography and Recording

Please have your photographer and/or videographer meet with the Presider and Liturgist officiating one half hour before the wedding for guidance in where they are allowed to stand in the church.

Please inform them of the following:

We allow for picture taking after the ceremony for 15 minutes.

We do not allow flash photography during the vows, exchange of rings, or consecration of the Eucharist.

Video companies should be aware that they are responsible for their own power-pack, sound, and other equipment.

Please be reverent and discreet when performing your duties. Remember, we are in God's house.

Photographers/videographers are NOT allowed to enter the Sanctuary area or the Music Ministry Area AT ALL.

Stipends, Fees and Gifts

Please bring the following to the parish office at least three (3) weeks prior to your wedding date in separate labeled envelopes, cash or checks payable to All Souls Parish:

- Stipend - \$700
- Cantor (if applicable) - \$100
- Music Consultation Fee (if applicable) - \$100
- Altar Servers (3) - \$10.00 cash each
- Personal monetary gift to officiant (optional)
- Marriage license
- Selection sheet from "Together for Life"

Celebrating Your Wedding



Information Guidelines Policy

3010 Ridge Road, Lansing, IL
708-895-6700
www.allsoulsatholicparish.com