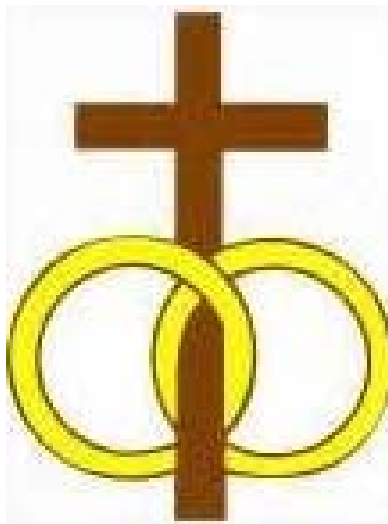


ST. JOSEPH'S

CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Sacrament of Matrimony

Wedding & Marriage Preparation Guidelines



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At first reading, you may be overwhelmed by the details and rules outlined.

Please know that the intent is to help you prepare for a very important and sacred moment in your lives. Diocesan regulations and local experience are summarized here to underscore the seriousness and sacramental nature of your marriage.



A Letter from our Parish...

Dear Engaged Couple,

On behalf of the parishioners at St. Joseph, congratulations on your engagement and upcoming wedding. We are happy to share this beautiful day as you celebrate the Sacrament of Matrimony with our parish family.

Marriage is a serious and sacred commitment. Through it, husband and wife are called on to draw closer to God and to each other in a life-giving community of love. As you begin this exciting process, we ask you to contemplate daily the importance of this Holy Sacrament. How does your love reflect Christ's love for his Church?

Marriage is also a great and marvelous adventure. It is an understanding that holds the promise of joyful years together. People enter marriage with high hopes of a beautiful future together. It is this atmosphere that brings out the best qualities of each person in marriage.

Nevertheless, it is a disturbing fact that today a large percentage of marriages end in divorce within five years. Although those marriages that end in suffering and humiliation begin with the same expectations as those that prove to be joyful and fruitful.

Today, more than during the immediate past, the Church has a grave responsibility to help our people enter into a marriage that gives promise of being grace-filled, happy and successful.

Our Parish, along with the Diocese, have established a program of marriage preparation so those couples who marry in the Church may be helped to understand the Sacrament, its vocation and its responsibilities.

The following pages contain the Policies and Guidelines for St. Joseph's Parish concerning your upcoming wedding. We ask you to read these pages carefully. Here you will find the answers to most of your questions.

It is our sincere hope and prayer that your marriage preparation and marriage will be filled with the grace and spirit of God. May the Lord bless you deeply.

*Sincerely in Christ,
St. Joseph Parish*



ARRANGEMENTS

Arrangements are to be made at least six months in advance. A marriage date should not be set until you, as a couple, contact the Parish Priest/Deacon. A date can be made over the phone. Call the Parish to verify your wedding date. The secretary will let you know if the date is open. (A date cannot be made when one of the parties has a case pending before the Diocesan Tribunal.)

Because of the Pastoral Planning Process, the Pastor will only celebrate one Wedding per day. Weddings are permissible on Fridays, however, if there is a wedding scheduled on Saturday, there is to be no wedding on the preceding Friday (as there will be a rehearsal on that day).

The pastor and the deacons of the parish are the ordained ministers who can officiate at weddings. Another Priest/Deacon who is a relative or friend can also be delegated to celebrate your wedding. Requests for a celebrant, other than the parish Priest/Deacon, should be made early to determine who will do the instructing and paper work in the process of preparing for your wedding. Ministers of other religions are welcome to participate.

If either party has been previously married, please disclose this immediately when setting a wedding date. If said party has already received an annulment through the Catholic Church, please disclose this information as well. If the party is unsure if an annulment is necessary, contact our Tribunal Advocate, Karan Maenle, and she will walk you through anything you need to be married in the Catholic Church.

LOCATION

Normally, the marriage is to take place in the parish of the bride. Regardless of home parish, the Catholic party is still required to contact Priest/Deacon.

MEETING WITH THE PRIEST/DEACON

You will have a series of meetings with the celebrant of your wedding. Usually 1 to 2 such meetings are scheduled.

A very useful tool to ascertain the perception of yourself and the person you are to marry is the FOCCUS Inventory program. FOCCUS (Facilitating Open Couple Communication, Understanding and Study) is designed to help engaged couples appreciate their unique relationship, learn more about themselves, and discuss topics important to their lifelong marriage. If the pastor chooses not to offer this, you are encouraged to go online and complete this on your own (www.FOCCUSinc.com).

Couples entering into an interfaith marriage are encouraged to meet with the Minister of the non-Catholic person to discuss any pre-marriage training that may be offered. This is not a requirement.

WEDDING TIMES

At St. Joseph, it is common for a couple to celebrate their wedding on a Friday evening or Saturday. The set time for Saturday weddings is 1:00 PM. You may request another time, however, no wedding on Saturday may begin after 2:00 p.m. Sunday weddings are permissible; however, the couple must use the readings from the Sunday Mass. Weddings on days other than Saturday may begin at a time agreed upon by the couple, the celebrant, and the calendar of events scheduled for the church.

The Church does not encourage weddings during the seasons of Advent or Lent. If either of these seasons is chosen, the couple should be aware that the Church decorations will be in keeping with the season and will



St. Joseph Catholic Church
Wedding & Marriage Planning Guide

NOT be changed for the wedding. During the Lenten Season, no flowers or plants are to be brought into the church so as to keep with the season.

ENGAGED ENCOUNTER

Part of your required preparation is participation in Catholic Marriage Prep Classes (previously known as Cana Conference, Marriage Preparation, Engaged Encounter, etc.)

Currently our parish does not offer these courses in house. For a list of Marriage Prep Classes go to ToledoMarriagePrep.org. It is possible to participate in the Marriage Prep program at another local parish, even one outside of the Toledo Diocese. Contact the Parish Office if you have questions or are having difficulty finding a course to participate in

You will receive certification of your participation upon completion. You will need to provide a copy of this certificate when you meet with the priest/deacon.

If a previous marriage has taken place between one or both of you, a Cana II is required. Please inform your celebrant immediately.

DOCUMENTS NEEDED

Catholic parties need a copy of a recent Baptismal Certificate (not more than 6 months old). If the marriage is taking place in the parish that a person was baptized, no baptismal certificate is necessary. Otherwise, these should be brought to your second meeting with the Celebrant.

Once you've completed the Marriage Prep Classes, you'll need to provide a copy of your certificate to the Parish Office.

To help ensure that things run smoothly, we request that the couple fill out a "Wedding Mass Planning Worksheet" which will provide details of the Wedding/Rehearsal arrangements. (See Parish Secretary if you haven't already received a Worksheet.) Please provide a completed copy of this worksheet to the priest at (or prior to) your Rehearsal.

If our priest is presiding at your wedding, all paperwork will be submitted to the Parish Secretary. If a deacon is presiding, all paperwork will be done with the deacon.

In some cases, a dispensation may be required; the Priest/Deacon and Parish Office will attend to this.

CIVIL MARRIAGE LICENSE

You must obtain a marriage license from the County Probate Court (located at the Putnam County Courthouse in Ottawa). If you are a resident of Ohio, the application must be made in the county where either the man or the woman resides. If you are not a resident of Ohio, but are getting married in Ohio, you must obtain your license in the county where the ceremony will take place.

A license issued in any county in Ohio is valid throughout the state for 60 days from the date of issuance. There is a charge for a marriage license. There is no waiting period, except in cases where the age or residence is in question.

Both parties must be present to complete the application. Both parties need to provide a driver's license (or some other valid form of Identification) and both parties' Social Security Numbers in applying for the civil license.



If you have any extenuating circumstances, please call the Marriage License Bureau before you go so that they can advise you of any documents you might need. The Bureau is located at the Putnam County Courthouse in Ottawa.

NOTE: This is a license to marry not a certificate of marriage. The Celebrant of your wedding is required by law to notify the court that the marriage in fact took place. Present the License to your Celebrant at the rehearsal. Include the court's return envelope.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Please consider spiritual preparation for the reception of this once in a lifetime sacrament.

Whether you're both Catholic or of different faith traditions, we encourage you to attend Sunday Mass together and become actively involved as a couple in our Parish Community. All Catholic persons are invited to receive the Eucharist for spiritual nourishment.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation certainly is in order as well as you make this important step in life. Periods of private prayer by each of you as well as praying together are encouraged. Remember, you are entering marriage with Christ.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

If either party is 18 years of age or younger, preparation will include consultation with an approved diocesan pre-marriage counselor and no date will be set until this process is completed with a positive response from that counselor. Parents/guardians may be included in this process.

If there is a pregnancy, this process is especially important, as is the diocesan regulation of a six-month waiting period for those 18 and under. If both parties are at least 19 years old, and if the decision to marry was made prior to the pregnancy (that is, there was a formal engagement), plans for the marriage are left to the discretion of the diocesan pre-marriage counselor and the Priest/Deacon of the wedding. All requirements must still be fulfilled, including the marriage preparation course.

A couple may be required to see a pre-marriage counselor for other reasons. Be aware that normal professional pre-marriage counseling is usually three sessions. Make arrangements as soon as possible so as not to delay your wedding.

FEES AND STIPENDS

The following scale is provided as a guideline for your planning. All fees are to be in the Parish Office one month prior to the Wedding.

We require a \$100 stipend with a separate \$50 deposit check for the use of the church (rehearsal & wedding). (The deposit check is shredded after the wedding if there are no damages to the church). You may consider tithing an additional amount if you wish. This fee goes to the Parish, not to the Priest/Deacon. A separate check should be made directly to the presiding priest/deacon and the amount given is between you and the officiant. (Typically \$50-\$100.)

Servers: \$15 each (usually two servers)



MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE

Upon request, the parish will provide you with a marriage certificate.

OFFICIAL WITNESS

The best man and maid-of-honor need not be Catholic, but they should believe and live according to Christian teachings regarding marriage.

PLANNING YOUR CEREMONY

Are you having a mass or a service? Find out before you plan. When both parties are Catholic, a Nuptial Mass is recommended, but this is the choice of the couple.

To avoid last minute stress, plan your liturgy early. The goal is to have a ceremony that reflects the sacredness of your marriage and the uniqueness of your relationship.

The Priest/Deacon or Parish Secretary will provide you with a copy of the wedding ceremony book, which you should use to select readings, prayers, blessings, and possible symbolic activities for your wedding. You will also be given a "Wedding Mass Planning Worksheet" to assist in mapping out your ceremony.

Our hope is that your family and friends will take an active part during the celebration of your wedding.

Readings:

You will choose two readings, one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament, which along with the Prayer of the Faithful, may be read by individuals of your choice.

You may ask one or more persons to help in this ministry (typically three Readers in total). This person(s) may be of any Faith. However be sure to give the reading to this person(s) early so that they may prepare themselves to proclaim the Reading/Prayer Of the Faithful.

Tip: Select readers who are good readers. An experienced lector would be an ideal choice.

Eucharist:

If you are planning a Nuptial Mass, you'll need to provide three Eucharistic Ministers.

If the marriage is inter-faith, the sensitivities of the non-Catholic party should be considered and the Eucharist would not be celebrated for two reasons:

1. The presence of many people from other faiths could make the celebration difficult.
2. Since a spouse of another faith may not receive Holy Communion, it may appear inconsistent with the ceremonial emphasis on uniting the couple.

Servers:

If planning a Nuptial Mass, you are responsible for providing two Mass Servers. (Fee: typically \$15 each) Upon request, the Parish will provide Servers for a wedding with Mass.



USAGE OF THE CHURCH

So long as there are no other activities scheduled at the Church prior to the wedding (ex. Funeral), the church will be open and available to your wedding party and guests at least one hour before the wedding and one hour after the wedding ceremony. All weddings are to start on time. For Saturday weddings, we ask that your party be out of the church by 4:00 because of the celebration of Saturday evening Mass.

After the wedding, it is the couple's responsibility to make sure that the Church and all other spaces used are clean and put back in order. Please be sure that all flower boxes, pew ribbons and bows, extra programs, hangers, etc... are removed. Please take your trash with you or place it in the dumpster behind church.

DRESSING ROOMS

The bridal party is welcome to use the Bride Room in the church. There are also restrooms available for use in the basement of the church. Please be sure to clean up all rooms after the wedding. Be sure that all flower boxes, pew bows/ribbons, extra programs, hangers ... are removed. There is a dumpster in the back of church or you may take your trash with you. Leave all rooms better than you found them. We cannot assume responsibility for any articles left in rooms before, during, or after the ceremony.

Smoking and/or alcoholic beverages are NOT permitted in the building.

DECORATION OF THE CHURCH

Check with the Parish Office to be sure there are no Funerals or other events scheduled the day of your wedding. If there are none, you may decorate the Church on Friday. You may also decorate before the rehearsal.

Aisle Runners are no longer permitted for Insurance reasons. Flowers/bows on the ends of the Pews are acceptable so long as they're removed after your ceremony.

Flowers:

If the wedding takes place during the seasons of Advent or Lent, Church decorations will be in keeping with the season and will NOT be changed for the wedding. During the Lenten Season, no flowers or plants are to be brought into the church so as to keep with the season.

Flowers may be placed in front of, or beside the altar, but NOT on the altar. Flower in front of the altar should not be taller than the altar. Flowers in vases are considered a donation to the Parish and should not be removed after the ceremony. In addition, it is suggested that flowers in front of the altar be left as a donation if there were no flowers already in that place when first decorating the church. Nothing in the sanctuary area is to be moved or replaced for accommodating flowers.

We cannot be responsible for items that are to be returned to florists. Please instruct your florist to retrieve all rented items as soon as possible following the ceremony. It is your responsibility to let the florist know these regulations.

Because our Church is Air Conditioned, candles are not permitted due to the airflow.

Please call the Sacristan two months in advance to make arrangements. Make it a point to contact the Sacristan early in the planning process.

Kathy Fischer (286-2003) is the parish Sacristan at St. Joseph.



WEDDING/UNITY CANDLE CEREMONY

Unity Candles are no longer permitted by directive of the Diocese.

BALLOONS

Balloons may be used after a wedding. Rice, confetti, and bird seed may not.

FLOWER GIRL & RING BEARER

Though it is nice to have "little ones" participate in your wedding, caution should be taken not to have a child who is too young. "Little ones" should be of an age of maturity to insure participation in the ceremony and so as not to cause undue anxiety to the couple who has worked so hard in planning the ceremony.

REHEARSALS

Rehearsal time is to be set up with the presiding priest/deacon. Rehearsals are to last no longer than one hour, so we ask you to stress punctuality with your wedding party. Schedule the rehearsal for when you feel everyone in your party can get together at a leisurely time.

Please take note that music rehearsals are NOT scheduled during the wedding rehearsal. Musicians should arrange other times to practice.

Proper casual dress is expected at rehearsal.

Decisions made during the rehearsal will be made only by the bride, groom, and celebrant. Any other input should be made at least 3 weeks prior to the wedding to the couple.

INVITATION OF CELEBRANT TO RECEPTION/REHEARSAL

While in many instances a friendship between the engaged persons and/or their parents with the Priest or Deacon may exist or develop during the preparation of the marriage, this is not always the case. Therefore, the Priest/Deacon does not expect to be invited to the rehearsal dinner or reception if these are held. If you wish him to be present, please express this to him in writing during your time of preparation. Last minute invitations or presumptions that he will be present for either of these events will usually cause disappointment or misunderstanding.



RECEIVING LINE

Sometimes the receiving line takes longer than the wedding ceremony itself. Keep that in mind as you decide whether or not to have the line at church. It could also be at the reception, should you choose to have a formal receiving line. Another factor is that you are limited to the time available to use the church for pictures. Our strong suggestion is not to have a receiving line at church because a significant number of your invited guests may not come to the wedding ceremony.

INTOXICATING BEVERAGES / SUBSTANCES

Intoxicating beverages (substances) are prohibited both inside and outside of the church, including the sidewalks and parking lots. It is your responsibility to inform all members of your wedding party of the prohibition.

If anyone in the wedding party, this includes the groom and bride, consumes alcohol before the wedding, they will NOT be permitted to participate in the ceremony. It is your responsibility to be sure everyone is aware of this matter.

Did you know? Matrimony is the only sacrament not conferred by an ordained minister. Rather, the marrying couple confers the sacrament on each other; the priest or deacon is witness to their vows of mutual love. The ceremony is a public acknowledgement of their willingness to take on the responsibilities of marriage.

DELAY OF MARRIAGE

A Priest/Deacon *may* not deny witnessing the marriage of a parishioner who is free to marry. However, it is within the right of the Priest/Deacon to delay witnessing a marriage for a just cause, which would include:

- a) lack of minimum faith (marriage is a Sacrament and presumes Catholicity is present).
- b) severe faith conflicts (which would endanger the spiritual development of children).
- c) lack of readiness for marriage.
- d) refusal of the party to adhere to pre-marriage requirements. (Professional pre-marriage counseling usually three sessions.)

If the marriage is delayed or denied, the couple may appeal to the St. George Deanery, who represents the Bishop of the Diocese of Toledo.

VALIDATION OF MARRIAGE

Couples married in a way not recognized by the Catholic Church may wish to have that marriage validated by the Church. A proven period of stability (e.g., three years or more) is preferred and all the regulations listed in this brochure are to be observed where applicable (e.g., documents, marriage preparation course). The validation can be by way of a ceremony or through what is called a "Sanation", which is the renewal without consent. Permission from the Diocesan Bishop is required.



VIDEO

A video of your wedding can be a lifetime treasure. If you decide to have your wedding videotaped, the video person should be aware of several factors. One is that there are specific locations in the church for taping: anywhere in the rear of the church or side aisles. If the wedding has the celebration of the Eucharist, the video person is not permitted to set up a tripod in the side aisles. The sanctuary may not be used. Have the video person speak with the celebrant before the wedding for further clarification.

Be sure to give a copy of the "POLICY FOR VIDEO AND PHOTOGRAPHY FOR WEDDINGS" (last page of this document) to your video person to inform them on the regulations.

PHOTOGRAPHY

The use of cameras is welcomed before, during, and after the ceremony. Professional photographers are asked to be discreet and professional. Photography should not distract the ceremony. Processions are not to be slowed or interrupted for taking pictures.

The church is not a photography studio. Extra lighting, ladders, and other such equipment may not be used during the ceremony. For Saturday weddings, please be out of the church by 4:00.

It is your responsibility to inform your photographer regarding the regulations. Have the photographer speak with the celebrant or Parish Office before the wedding for further clarification.

Be sure to give a copy of the "POLICY FOR VIDEO AND PHOTOGRAPHY FOR WEDDINGS" (last page of this document) to your photographer to inform them on the regulations



MUSIC FOR YOUR WEDDING

It is of growing concern that the celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage is becoming something that does not reflect a Church or Sacramental celebrating. Music choices should not reflect secular or "popular" music selections, rather selections that are recognizable as that which belongs to the community of the church.

All selections of music for your wedding may be subject to review by your Celebrant. No "popular" or "secular" music may be used before, during, or after the wedding ceremony. These could be played at the reception. As a general rule of thumb: If you would play a certain song at your reception, it is probably not appropriate to be used during the ceremony in the Church.

Tips for planning a wedding liturgy music:

1. Select musicians who are experienced in liturgy and wedding music.
 - a. Contact musicians as soon as the wedding date has been set.
 - b. Engaged couples are strongly encouraged to select musicians from the parish where they will be married.
 - c. Never use recorded music.
2. If possible, select songs that relate to the readings.
3. Allow the music minister or organist to assist in music selections.

It is important that you contact your Organist/Musicians as soon as possible after your first meeting with your Celebrant. They will be happy to help you in matters relating to planning the music for this special event.

If a program will be prepared for the wedding, it would be wise to include the song numbers that the community will be expected to sing. Be sure to obtain permission from the music publishers, and acknowledge the copyright in the program. It's illegal to print the words of the ceremony or of the hymns unless copyright permission has been obtained.

Fees are arranged between you and the musicians, not the parish. Don't be afraid to ask the musician or soloist how much they charge.

St. Joseph Musicians:
Joyce Gasser 286-2989

OUTSIDE MUSICIANS: PRACTICE TIME

Approved musicians desiring to practice in the church prior to the wedding date must do so when the building is not being used for other activities. Please call the parish office to check available times. Please note that all musicians must follow the above regulations.



OUTLINE OF MUSIC PROGRAM

There are various options for music that can be adapted for a wedding *ceremony* with or without a Mass. The following is a list of times in the Nuptial Mass at which music *may* occur.

Prelude - Music before mass or service begins; sets the tone for the entire wedding liturgy. The purpose of music at this time, as in *any* liturgical function, is to help draw the assembly into an attitude of prayer in order to experience more fully the sacred nature of the sacrament to be celebrated. Instrumental and vocal music would best serve in this capacity.

- Suggested time: 15-20 minutes

Processional- Entrance of the wedding party processing down the aisle to the altar. (Lohengrin Wedding March ("Here comes the Bride") discouraged). This can be followed by a gathering hymn sung by the assembly.

Responsorial Psalm - verses sung by the vocalist/cantor with the assembly joining in the singing of the response. Selection to be taken from the psalms.

Gospel Acclamation - announces the proclamation of the gospel - Alleluia or acclamation appropriate to the season. This is always sung.

Lighting of the Unity Candle – Unity Candles are no longer permitted by directive of the Diocese.

Preparation of the Altar and Presentation of the Gifts – (mass only) sung or instrumental - should not extend beyond the action of preparation

Eucharistic Acclamations - (mass only) Holy, Holy, Holy; Memorial Acclamation; and Great Amen always sung by the entire assembly

The Lord's Prayer – Must be recited. Many non-Catholics attend weddings, and the only prayer with which they could be totally familiar is the Our Father. Since many musical versions of this prayer exist, the odds of everyone knowing the one the couple selects is very slim

The Sign of Peace - instrumental music preferred

Lamb of God - sung or recited

Communion Procession - (mass only) familiar hymn sung by assembly preferred. (Instrumental or vocal solo could be an option.)

Flower to Mary / Holy Family- (optional, this is not an official part of the marriage rite) appropriate instrumental or sung selection.

Recessional - As all are leaving the church, instrumental music best expresses the joy and festivity of the occasion.

MUSIC - NOTES/QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED:



BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT

Our St. Joseph Parish Community would love to prayerfully share in your joy! Please email the Parish Office with the information that we should include in an announcement in our Sunday bulletin. Samples have been included below. Please be sure to note how you would like the names of your parents listed (including any notes regarding deceased parents, if you'd like step parents listed with your parent, etc).

If you have any questions, please contact the parish office at stjoeparishofc@bright.net.

Sample Bulletin Announcements:

- Congratulations to Bride & Groom. _____(Groom)_____, son of _____(Father)_____ and _____(Mother)_____ and _____(Bride)_____ daughter of _____(Father)_____ and _____(Mother)_____ completed the sacrament of Holy Matrimony on January 1st in our Parish Church. We Congratulate Jack and Jill on their marriage and pray that God will grant them many happy, holy years together. Best wishes from the Catholic Community in Fort Jennings.

Sample of announcement with step parents and deceased parent:

- Congratulations to Jack & Jill Smith. Jack Smith, son of Mary (Doe) and the late John Smith and Jill White, daughter of Bill White and Jennifer and Fred Jordan. Jack and Jill completed the sacrament of Holy Matrimony..... etc.

AFTER THE WEDDING

If you are planning to stay at St. Joseph, please call the rectory and register as a Parishioner.

After the wedding festivities, when it's time to settle into the business of daily married life, be sure to set aside Sunday as a day of rest and renewal, and make Mass a priority in your lives. The graces and blessings you'll receive as a couple are immeasurable, a source of strength to meet the challenges of daily married life.

Plan to get involved in your parish community together as a couple. Your marriage is a vocation and a call to loving service. Always remember that your marriage is a sign of Jesus' unending love for his people. May your marriage always be blessed by his presence.

We are thrilled that you have chosen to celebrate your wedding here at St. Joseph. Marriage is a lifetime commitment. Our goal at St. Joseph's Parish is to assist you in any way we can to help you make Christ a part of your marriage.

Congratulations again!
May God continue to bless you and your family.



Notes/Questions:



Policy for Video and Photography for Weddings

We welcome you to St. Joseph's. You have been asked by the couple whose marriage you will video or photograph to help them remember this special day.

While photographs and video recordings of a wedding can provide a wonderful record of the beauty of this memorable event, they can also serve as distraction if the photographer or videographer does not observe proper church etiquette.

Because of this, you are asked to respect the rules set up for you.

- 1) Photographs can usually be taken before the wedding; contact the Parish Office to see if there is anything scheduled in the space prior to the wedding.
- 2) All "set up" pictures of the wedding party need to be completed at least 20 minutes before the beginning of the wedding ceremony. As the photographer, you have more knowledge of how long it will take to complete these pictures. Inform the couple so that they will have everyone present at the needed time.
- 3) Only the official photographer(s) may use flash photography, as additional flash photography may distort the images taken by the official photographer.
- 4) Extra lighting/flash equipment, ladders, and other such equipment are NOT permitted during the wedding ceremony. Photographers/Video person are asked to be discreet and professional.
- 5) Video/picture-taking should not distract the ceremony.
- 6) Processions are not to be slowed or interrupted for taking pictures/video.
- 7) There are specific locations in the church for filming/picture taking:

It's acceptable to use the rear of the church and, to some extent, the middle/side aisles may be used.

Generally speaking, videographers/photographers can work from anywhere until the bride reaches the steps to the altar. After that point, videographers/photographers must back off to the 4th pew in the center aisle and to the 1st pew on the side aisles.

- 8) You are NOT permitted on the stairs or in the sanctuary during the ceremony.
- 9) Because of the time scheduled for parish Mass on Saturday evenings, please be out by 4:00.

Video and photos of a wedding are a lifetime treasure. We want to work with you, however, please be mindful that when we gather for a wedding that it is first and foremost a prayer-filled ceremony.

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