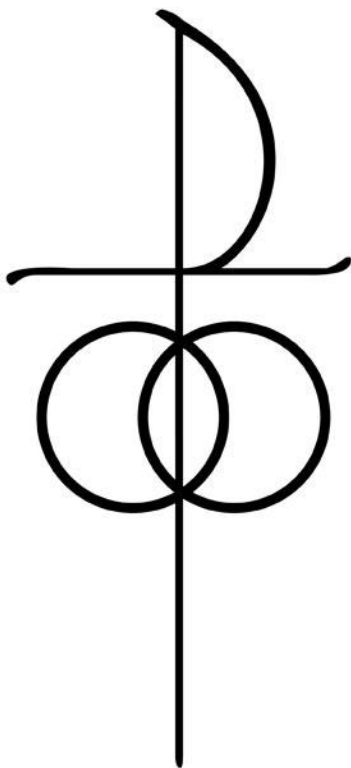


# *The Celebration of Marriage*



ST. ROSE OF LIMA CATHOLIC CHURCH  
Cincinnati, Ohio



## *Celebration of Marriage at St. Rose*

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The Parish Staff is happy that you are considering having your marriage, the most important event in your life to date, at our historic St. Rose Church. To make this important event truly meaningful, liturgically correct, and spiritually uplifting, we need your cooperation and your awareness of the following regulations, requirements, and considerations. At St. Rose Church, we have about 40 weddings each year. Our combined experience, which includes many years of preparing couples, planning ceremonies, leading rehearsals, and officiating weddings, has provided us with a wealth of information and resources. You will have the benefit of our experience as we assist you in your preparations. In the meantime, our pastor, our staff, and the people of St. Rose Parish extend to you congratulations and best wishes on your approaching marriage.

### *Important Considerations, Necessary Requirements, and Meaningful Suggestions*

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You must be a practicing Roman Catholic and 18 years of age and/or have legal permission to marry.

You **must not** have been previously married. If you were previously married, you must provide proof of your freedom to marry (e.g. the Tribunal number of your annulment document, a death certificate, etc.).

You are required to notify the Archdiocese of Cincinnati of your wedding **six months prior** to the date of the wedding ceremony. This ensures you will have time for a proper preparation period, which includes pre-marriage counseling, FOCCUS testing and evaluation opportunity for a PRE-CANA experience, completing the required forms for the diocese and the state, and planning the rehearsal and wedding ceremony.

You will need to provide the church with an updated copy of your **Baptismal Record**. This updated certificate should not be older than one year. This certificate will also list other sacraments you may have received. You will need to contact the parish where you were baptized to obtain this certificate. To aid you in contacting a parish, we have available in our office an Official Catholic Directory containing the complete addresses and telephone numbers of every parish in the United States, as well as the Military Ordinariate (in case you were baptized at a military base).

The priest assigned to your wedding will assist you in filling out the necessary forms and applications, as well as any dispensations that may be required. In addition to the Archdiocesan regulations, St. Rose, like many other parishes in the Archdiocese, has specific regulations that apply only to weddings taking place at St. Rose. Your priest and the parish staff will assist you in all of these areas. **It is important that you do not finalize your plans until they have been submitted and discussed with your priest and the parish staff.**

We will allow a priest in good standing, who is a brother, uncle, cousin, or friend of the bride or groom, to officiate at your wedding. He is required to contact the pastor or deacon for approval and delegation. The visiting priest is to ensure that all regulations are observed and that the Church donation and fees are given to the parish priest or deacon at the time of the rehearsal.

Regarding **mixed marriages**: If the bride or groom is not Catholic, the wedding ceremony is permitted but having a Mass (with Holy Communion) is not be permitted at St. Rose Church. There are good reasons for this. Usually, in such a case, the family and guests are a mixture of Catholics and non-Catholics; there is the possibility of many guests approaching Communion out of politeness, not being aware of the fact that it is restricted to only Catholics. Further, it is awkward when the bride or the groom receives Communion, but their respective partner does not.

In a marriage between two Catholics, it also may be advisable to not have a Mass if there are very few Catholics to be present or if the bride and groom have very little Catholic training. Your officiating priest will be the judge of this.

## *Time of Your Wedding*

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Weddings may be scheduled on Friday evenings, between 6:00 and 7:30 p.m. They may also be scheduled to begin on Saturday mornings no later than 10:00 a.m. or on Saturday afternoons at 4:30 p.m. We cannot schedule any weddings on Saturday after 4:30 p.m. (Weddings are not scheduled on Saturday evenings because there is a parish-scheduled evening Mass at 7:00 p.m.) We do not schedule weddings on Holy Days, Holidays, or on days when we might be having a special parish celebration. It is important to notify the parish secretary several months prior to your ceremony to make certain that your date and time is available and that no other wedding has been scheduled on that date. Wedding dates are reserved on a first come basis.

## *Rehearsals*

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Rehearsals are usually scheduled the day before the wedding, between the hours of 4:30 and 7:00 p.m. Any exceptions must be arranged beforehand with your officiating priest. A well-planned rehearsal should not last longer than 45 minutes, at the most. Much time can be saved by getting your wedding party to the church on time and by matching up the men and women attendants who will be in procession ahead of time. Musicians do not attend wedding rehearsals.

If you are using young flower girls and young ring bearers, be certain they are old enough to understand what they are to do and that they are docile enough to do what they are told. Many weddings have been interrupted or delayed by unruly, or just plain scared, young children.

## *Church Expenses*

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The donation for the use of St. Rose Church has been set at \$1,000. This offsets the costs of heating, air conditioning, and the beautiful sanctuary and altar lighting display (which consists of 147 bulbs) and includes other incidentals. This will be, in most cases, the cheapest expense of your wedding. We ask you to put down a **\$250.00 non-refundable deposit** when we reserve the Church for you. You should bring the remaining balance with you to the rehearsal.

Our parish music director is the organist for all weddings; guest organists are not permitted. The basic fee for an organist is \$250.00, which includes one music planning session, rehearsal and preparation, and the wedding ceremony. A cantor is required for a wedding Mass and ceremonies with vocal selections. St. Rose maintains a roster of highly accomplished, professional singers. The music director will select a cantor for your wedding from this roster; guest vocalists are not permitted. The basic fee for a cantor is \$200.00, which includes one rehearsal and the wedding ceremony. Additional musicians (trumpeter, violinist, etc.) may be hired at the family's expense. If additional musicians require organ accompaniment or separate rehearsal sessions, an additional fee may be due to the organist. The fees for the organist and the cantor are to be paid directly to St. Rose Church no later than **three weeks prior** to the wedding. You should pay any additional musicians on the day of the wedding at least 45 minutes prior to the start of the ceremony.

If you are having a Mass, the priest will arrange to have a server or servers to assist him during the wedding. We only use **men** for serving and Eucharistic ministering at St. Rose. If you have a young boy server in the family, let your priest know ahead of time. It is customary to give the server or servers a small gift of \$5.00 each after the ceremony. The best man usually does this.

The donation for the church, the fee for the organist (and cantor in most cases), and a gift for the server (if there is a Mass) will ordinarily be your only expenses at St. Rose Church. A gift for the officiating clergyman is always appreciated but is not required.

## *Music*

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Our parish music director, Trevor Kroeger, is responsible for overseeing the music at each wedding and for all decisions in these matters. Throughout the next couple of months, he will assist you with everything concerning music—selecting musicians, choosing music, planning the ceremony, etc.

To ensure the music performed at your wedding is of the highest quality and in line with our standard of musical excellence, **we do not permit guest musicians of any kind (including organists, singers, or instrumentalists) under any circumstances.** The music director is solely responsible for selecting, hiring, and booking all musicians for your wedding.

**It is important that you carefully review the information and documents we've provided online at [strosecincinnati.org/wedding-music](http://strosecincinnati.org/wedding-music) prior to completing any music planning.**

Online you will find the “Wedding Music Planning Form.” Use the detailed planning information found under “Liturgical Planning for Weddings” and the “Wedding Music Repertoire” lists to assist you in completing the planning form. **Please only choose music from the provided repertoire lists.** Most of these musical selections can be found on [spotify.com](https://www.spotify.com) or [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com). Write your desired musical selections on the planning form. Please return the completed planning form to: St. Rose Church, Attn: Trevor Kroeger, 2501 Riverside Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45202. You may also email the form to [music@strosecincinnati.org](mailto:music@strosecincinnati.org) or fax it to 513-871-2851. Please return the form **no later than six weeks prior** to your wedding or sooner if you are able.

If you wish to engage additional instrumentalists, such as strings or trumpet, please indicate this on the form. The earlier a request for additional musicians is made, the better.

Do not make any final decisions concerning musical selections or musicians until your completed form has been returned and approved. If you would like further assistance in completing your planning, a meeting may be scheduled with the music director. He can be reached by email at [music@strosecincinnati.org](mailto:music@strosecincinnati.org) or by phone at 513-871-1162 ext. 112.

## *Decorations*

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If you would like to use the following decorations, it is your responsibility to furnish them. With the exception of the Unity Candle, we don't keep any of these decorations on hand.

### **AISLE COVERING**

If you are going to use a white aisle covering, the center aisle at St. Rose Church is **90 feet long**. If you get an aisle covering that's too short, it will roll up behind the bride's train as she goes down the aisle.

### **FLOWERS**

We have a limited supply of stands and stools that can be used. Traditionally, the flowers used at the altar are left there after the ceremony for use by the church. However, if you are taking your flowers with you, please notify the priest in charge so he can rearrange the altar flowers for the parish Masses. If you are using flowers or greenery on the pews along the aisle, please use an elastic band or ribbon that will not cause damage to the pews and that can be easily removed after the ceremony. No flower petals are allowed to be dropped down the aisle.

### **UNITY CANDLE**

The Unity Candle ritual is no longer performed at St. Rose.



## CANDELABRA

If you use candelabras, it is imperative that they be dripless candles and that your florist provides a **protective covering** underneath the stand to protect the wood flooring. Be sure to remind your florist to bring floor covers on the day of the wedding.

## *Photographers*

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It is your responsibility to hire a photographer. We do not permit photographers to enter the **sanctuary area**. Because it is distracting, we urge photographers to avoid using flash, especially while the bride and groom are exchanging vows. The photographer is not to interfere, in any way, with the movements of the wedding party, especially during the procession down the aisle at the beginning of the ceremony. Your photographer should meet with your priest before the wedding for any additional instructions. A few group photos may be taken after the wedding, but no later than a half-hour after the ceremony. The altar lights will be turned off then. A majority of the single shots can and should be taken before the wedding. The best photographers do their work well before and during the ceremony, not afterwards. They are "invisible." They are never in the way, and they never block someone's view. The best photographers are aware of the **solemnity** of the occasion and **where** they are located during the ceremony.

## *Cleanup*

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We do not have a janitorial service on weekends. Please assign someone in your family or wedding party to clean up the preparation rooms, remove the aisle covering, flower boxes, pew decorations, and other debris from the lobbies, restrooms, and sacristy. Have your florist make arrangements to remove any of the equipment used as soon as possible following the ceremony. This applies to the photographer as well. The church is closed after the last ceremony of the day, so please be certain that personal items, purses, dresses, shoes, cameras, etc. are

removed from the church. We cannot guarantee that they will be there the next time you come. **No rice, no bird seed, no flower petals, nor any other similar material may be used or thrown in or on church property.** Such material can be extremely slippery on tile, carpets, and polished floors. Serious injury can result to your guests and our parishioners if they fall. Further, if you are hiring a horse and carriage for the occasion, please insist that the company provide proper cleanup and a receptacle for any droppings that fall on church property.

## *Conclusion*

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When you come to rehearsal, please bring with you the following:

- Your civil marriage license
- The balance you owe to the church
- Your planning sheet for the ceremony

We do our best to make your wedding a great event of your lives—one you can look back upon with fond memories. Communication with each other and communication with all those involved at the parish will ensure that your wedding will be the truly meaningful, liturgically correct, and spiritually uplifting event you want it to be.

FATHER BARRY WINDHOLTZ  
and the St. Rose Parish Staff

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