



Wedding Guidelines

Assembled and written by:
Marriage and Family Life Ministries
St. Peter Catholic Church
125 East 19th Avenue
Covington, Louisiana 70433
(985) 892-9353

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The matrimonial covenant, by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership of the whole of life and which is ordered by its nature to the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of offspring, has been raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a sacrament between the baptized.

~ Code of Canon Law, Canon 1055

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St. Peter Catholic Church
Wedding Contact Information

Marriage Preparation Coordinator:

stpeterparish.com/marriage

985-892-9353 marriage@stpeterparish.com

Music Liturgy Coordinator:

stpeterparish.com/music-ministry-vocal

985-264-2374 music@stpeterparish.com

Rehearsal and Wedding Liturgy Coordinator:

stpeterparish.com/wedding-coordinator

985-892-2422 [wedding_liturgy @stpeterparish.com](mailto:wedding_liturgy@stpeterparish.com)

Prayer of an Engaged Couple



Lord, Jesus, to teach us to love one another, You became one of us, taking as a tabernacle the body of Mary. You said: "Be one in each other, even as I and the Father are one." You have desired that [name] and I should live in You as with a single life, like two branches of a single vine, which Your providence has entwined. Let our love pass through You, that it may realize a perfect union, not only of our hearts but also of our souls, and that, growing from day to day, it may likewise increase our life in You. Help us to bring to our home enough beauty, health, thrift, strength, purity, and ideals, to make it a model of the new world we wish to build with You, and to give you priests, perhaps, but certainly apostles. With all this, let us never forget that it is through us that Your kingdom must be established—in factories, offices, shops, in all the places we frequent, in our streets and houses...on earth as in heaven. Have pity on all those youths and maidens whose hearts are wounded and whose dreams are broken. Guard the promises which have been made according to Your Spirit. And may Your blessing soon give us to each other forever. Amen.

St. Peter Catholic Church

Wedding Checklist

Celebrant Meeting:

- ✓ Meet with the Priest or Deacon to complete the First Step to the Altar Form
- ✓ Groom's Current Annotated Baptism Certificate
- ✓ Bride's Current Annotated Baptism Certificate
- ✓ Pre-Nuptial Inquiry
- ✓ Permission from your parish if not a member of Saint Peter Parish
- ✓ Special Dispensation, if applicable
- ✓ Decree of Freedom to Marry, if applicable

Marriage & Family Life Ministries: Marriage@stpeterparish.com ➡ Page 8

- ✓ Bring "First Step to the Altar Form" in order to confirm date, time, and celebrant on Church calendar.
- ✓ Complete Parish forms "Wedding Information"
- ✓ Pay fees associated with use of the Church
- ✓ Complete Prepare Enrich Assessment. (You will receive a link via email)
- ✓ Participate in Marriage Preparation for engaged couple, at the directive of the celebrant. (In-Home Preparation Program or Engaged Encounter Weekend). Archdiocese Marriage Preparation Requirement.
- ✓ Participate in The Day for the Engaged with Family Life Apostolate. Archdiocese Natural Family Planning Requirement.
- ✓ All preparation is required by the Archdiocese of New Orleans to be completed no later than two months prior to the Wedding Date.

Wedding Liturgy Coordinator: WeddingLiturgy@stpeterparish.com ➡ Page 10

- ✓ You will be contacted by your Liturgical Wedding Coordinator to the details of your wedding ceremony. Please ask any questions that you may have about the St. Peter Parish Wedding Guidelines.
- ✓ Mail/Email your Wedding Rehearsal information sheet to the Rectory Office
- ✓ Request your Marriage License
 - sttammanyclerk.org/departments/personal-documents/
- ✓ Bring your Marriage License two weeks prior to the wedding.

Music Liturgy Director: Music@stpeterparish.com ➡ Page 28

- ✓ **You are responsible for contacting and setting up an appointment** to meet the Director of Music concerning music for your ceremony. Do not hire musicians before meeting.

Wedding Fee Schedule

CHURCH FEE:

Parishioners	\$ 500.00
Non-Parishioners	\$1250.00

Included: Building and utilities, Office of Marriage assistance with sacramental preparation, Prepare/Enrich Assessment fee and Rehearsal and Wedding Liturgy Coordinator.

Please make check payable to: **“St. Peter Church.”**

ADDITIONAL MUSIC FEES:

(These fees should be paid directly to individuals at the music planning meeting)

MUSICIANS	Music Planning Session fee:	\$25.00 (required)
	Organist:	\$200.00
	Soprano:	\$200.00

For trumpeters, string players, harpists, alternative cantors please see the Music Coordinators section on page 47.

SUGGESTED STIPENDS:

(Paid prior to the rehearsal)

PRIEST OR DEACON	Suggested Stipend:	\$150.00-\$200.00
ALTAR SERVERS	Stipends:	\$25.00 each

(Stipend is neither fixed nor required)

“When a man marries, he gets the finest thing he will ever have - a wife to help and encourage him.” Sir 26: 1

Marriage Preparation

GOD’S PLAN FOR CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE

“God himself is the author of marriage. The vocation to marriage is written in the very nature of man and woman as they came from the hand of the Creator... Since God created him man and woman, their mutual love becomes an image of the absolute and unfailing love with which God loves man. It is good, very good, in the Creator's eyes “And God blessed them, and God said to them: 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it.'” (CCC 1603, 1604).

This sacramental love for one another as husband and wife represents the mutual love of Christ for His bride, the Church, and the love of the Church for her bridegroom, Christ. The married couple is called to mirror that “absolute and unfailing love with which God loves man” - a love that is free, an act of the free will; total, sharing everything without reservation; faithful, exclusive of all others until death; and fruitful, cooperating with God in bringing new life into the world. (Humanae Vitae 9) This consent to emulate God’s love is affirmed in the vows the engaged couple pronounces on their wedding day and is completed in their marital embrace. These vows will be the blueprint for a happy, healthy and holy Christian marriage.

"The very preparation for Christian marriage is itself a journey of faith. It is a special opportunity for the engaged to rediscover and deepen the faith received in Baptism and nourished by their Christian upbringing.” (Familiaris Consortio 51) As engaged couples embark on this journey, they are encouraged to prayerfully seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit to recognize and accept the vocation to follow Christ and to proclaim and serve the Kingdom of God in the married state!

The Office of Marriage and Family Life, at the Directive of your Celebrant, will **enroll you in one of the following required Marriage Preparation Programs:** In-Home Mentor Couple program, Engaged Encounter , Archdiocesan Days for the Engaged, Online Preparation: (*military*), Special Marriage Preparation (*convalidation*)

*"And God blessed them, and God said to them:
'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it.' "* Gen 1: 28

THE MARRIAGE PREPARATION PROCESS

To ensure that engaged couples have adequate time to prepare for the sacrament in a meaningful way, they must **contact the Celebrant at least six months in advance of the wedding date**, and conclude a formal preparation process two months prior to the wedding. *Nine months to one year is ideal.* This preparation time is not just a “waiting period” for the ceremony, but rather an important, formative process in preparation for the lifetime journey on which the couple is about to embark. The guidance is designed to help the engaged couple evaluate their readiness to live married life, gain insights of themselves individually and as a couple, obtain a deeper understanding of the Sacrament of Matrimony, understand the mission of a married couple both in the Church and in society and develop a greater appreciation of their faith. (13.6.10.2) Once the engaged couple has scheduled an appointment with the celebrant, marriage readiness will be assessed, a marriage preparation process will be determined, documents necessary for a Catholic wedding will be reviewed and assistance with planning the Liturgy for the celebration will be forthcoming. A thorough review of this booklet will familiarize the couple with the various guidelines established for weddings at St. Peter Catholic Church. Our Wedding Coordinator looks forward to guiding the engaged couple through this process. The contact information, as well as other important phone numbers, may be found in the front pocket of this binder.

PLANNING YOUR FAMILY GOD’S WAY

NFP is a method for following God’s plan for achieving or avoiding pregnancy by using the physical means that God has built into human nature. “While reflecting the dignity of the human person within the context of marriage and family life, NFP promotes openness to life, and recognizes the value of the child. By respecting the love-giving and life-giving natures of marriage, NFP can enrich the bond between husband and wife.” (*Standards for Diocesan Natural Family Planning Ministry*, p. 23)

As part of the Marriage Preparation Process, **engaged couples are required to attend an Archdiocese of New Orleans Office of Marriage and Family Life approved Natural Family Planning Course.** The MFL offers several options: “Theology/Sexuality/Natural Family Planning Day for the Engaged Part B”, Northwest Sympto-Thermal, Creighton and Family Life of the Americas.

St. Peter Parish Office of Marriage and Family Life will provide the engaged couple with additional information about these and other classes. All courses are available through the Archdiocese of New Orleans Office of Marriage and Family Life.

*Wedding
Liturgy
Coordinator*

*The following attached documents are to be brought to the meeting with the Liturgical
Wedding Coordinator.*



Wedding Dates	Day	Date	Time
Rehearsal			
Wedding			

Contact Information	Bride	Groom	Celebrant
Name			
Home #			
Work #			
Cell #			
Email			

Other Contact Information	Florist	Photographer	Videographer
Name			
Phone #			

Music Contact Information	Organist	Cantor/Soloist	Other Musician
Name			
Phone #			

Wedding Ceremony Details	Yes/No	Special Instructions
Is the Wedding Ceremony in the context of a Mass?		Please list any information that the coordinator should know regarding the Bride's/Groom's parents and/or grandparents (i.e., divorced, step-parents, special needs, etc.)
If so, does your Celebrant want two altar servers?		
Are you taking flowers to the Mothers?		
Are you taking flowers to the Blessed Mother?		
Will the Grandmothers process in with music?		
Will there be programs?		
Will any flowers be left in the church?		
Will candelabras be used?		
Will pictures be taken after the ceremony?		
Will the groomsmen process in from the back?		
Number of guests expected to attend wedding:		
Processional Songs		

Grandmothers/Mothers	
Bridesmaids	
Bride	

Ushers	Name	Name

Wedding Procession	Name	Escorted By
Groom's Paternal Grandmother		
Groom's Maternal Grandmother		
Bride's Paternal Grandmother		
Bride's Maternal Grandmother		
Groom's Mother		
Bride's Mother		
Other		
Other		

Wedding Attendants	Order	Bridesmaids	Groomsmen
LIST THE WEDDING ATTENDANTS IN THE ORDER THAT YOU WISH THEM TO PROCESS	1		
	2		
	3		
	4		
	5		
	6		
Maid of Honor / Best Man			
Flower Girl / Ring Bearer			
Bride / Groom			

Mass Information	Number (from book)	Reader/Singer
First Reading		
Responsorial Psalm		
Second Reading		
Gospel		
Prayers of the Faithful		
Gift Bearers	Bread:	Wine:

Wedding Liturgy Coordinator

The Liturgical Wedding Coordinator for Saint Peter Parish is the official designated representative of the parish and is familiar with current policies and procedures. They will assist the families in assuring the sacredness of the liturgy by consistent and proper application of current parish and archdiocesan policies and procedures.

WEDDING MINISTRIES

THE ASSEMBLY

At the wedding liturgy, family and friends gather to celebrate and witness your wedding. Unless they are encouraged to participate, they will be an audience instead of participants. The focus of your wedding liturgy preparation is to encourage full and active participation of all.

THE COUPLE

1. The two of you are the ministers of the Sacrament of Marriage in the Catholic wedding liturgy. You give yourselves to one another in marriage. The priest or deacon serves as the Church's official witness.
2. Since much focus will be on the two of you, if you enter into the prayers and singing, your invited friends and family will be more inclined to participate.
3. It is not recommended that you take on another ministry during the liturgy, such as that of lector or Eucharistic minister. These ministries are best served by others in the assembly.
4. For brides- Modesty should be a priority when choosing both your gown and the gowns of your attendants.

THE PRESIDERS

1. A priest will preside or officiate at most wedding liturgies. When the wedding is celebrated without a Mass, a deacon may officiate.

2. Priests or deacons from outside St. Peter Parish may preside at weddings with delegation from the pastor.
3. If you are marrying a non-Catholic and would like a non-Catholic minister to participate, please share your desire with the priest/deacon before extending the invitations. The presider will advise you in this matter. If planned in advance, it can be a beautiful and significant sign of the ecumenical dimension of your marriage.

THE WITNESSES

1. Every member of the assembly at your wedding is important because each one is a witness to your marriage.
2. At the same time, three particular witnesses have a designated role in the liturgy. The church's official witness is the priest or deacon. The best man and the maid/matron of honor are also witnesses. They need not be Catholic to fulfill this role.

THE USHERS

1. More and more, this ministry is being referred to as the hospitality ministry, because this title gives a better understanding of the role of these ministers. The main responsibilities of the ushers are to greet those arriving at the church and to assist them in finding a seat.
2. Please encourage your ushers to seat your guests near others and to introduce them to each other. Inviting those gathering to sit toward the front is another sign of hospitality.
3. If you have a printed pamphlet for your wedding, an usher may be asked to hand it to those gathering, or this can be another role for a friend or family member. As a sign of hospitality, "Welcome to _____ wedding," may be said.
(Couple's first names)
4. Another gracious sign of hospitality as your family and friends arrive is to have greeters outside of church doors saying, "Welcome to St. Peter Church." At some weddings, the parents of the groom and/or bride choose to greet those gathering for the celebration in the vestibule. This is another option for you.

5. If you have a friend/family member with special needs attending, please let the liturgical wedding coordinator know so that special instructions may be given to an usher at your rehearsal.
6. To avoid seating delays, it is recommended that you have at least one usher for every fifty (50) guests. Since some family and friends will arrive early for a wedding, it is also recommended that your ushers arrive at the church at least 45 minutes before the ceremony begins.

THE LECTORS

1. Much care should be given in choosing the lectors. These lectors should be able to proclaim the Word so that those gathered may clearly understand. It is not a ministry that should be assigned to people just because they are good friends or family members who need a part in your wedding. **During a Eucharistic celebration in the Catholic Church, the readings are to be proclaimed by a Catholic. (Directory for the Application of Principles and Norms on Ecumenism, June 8, 1993, para. 133)**
2. It is preferable that you have three lectors, one for the first reading, the second reading, and the prayers of the faithful.
3. The text for the readings you have chosen should be given to your lectors as soon as possible so that they can practice. Lectors are encouraged to attend the rehearsal.
4. It is important for female lectors to take great care in choosing clothing that is modest. Dresses and skirts should be “at” or just above the knee. Dresses and blouses should not be low-cut and strapless dresses should not be worn.

THE ALTAR SERVERS

1. It is preferred that at least two altar servers assist at the Mass. Altar servers from our parish are ideal because they are familiar with our parish procedures. **It is the policy of St. Peter Catholic Church to have male altar servers.**
2. The parish wedding liturgy coordinator can assist in getting servers for your wedding.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

1. These are prayers that are prayed for the needs of the world, the church, our communities, and a variety of other needs. You may choose someone to read the intercessions, if they are not sung. The person who will read the first or second reading may pray the prayers, or another person may be chosen. Normally, during a Eucharistic celebration in the Catholic Church the readings are to be proclaimed by a Catholic. (Directory for the Application of Principles and Norms on Ecumenism, June 8, 1993, para. 133)
2. You may choose to write or give suggestions for specific intentions to be included in the general intercessions, but these **must be pre-approved by the presider**. For example, you may choose to pray for deceased relatives or sick friends/family members who are not able to attend. You may include a prayer for your godparents, parents or others who have touched your lives. Needs of the world should also be included: for example, you may pray for the poor, the homeless and the unemployed.

GIFT BEARERS

(Rite of Marriage during Mass)

1. The gift bearers are two people who come forth from the assembly to bring forward the gifts of bread and wine. This can be a special role for godparents or for other significant people in your lives.
2. Ideally, you want to choose people who are not fulfilling any other ministry in the Mass.
3. Some couples are choosing to have the gifts of bread and wine handed to them, and they hand them to the presider. *This option is not permitted at St. Peter Parish.*

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

(Rite of Marriage during Mass)

1. In ordinary circumstances, only Extraordinary Ministers that have been delegated by the Archdiocese of New Orleans and commissioned for St. Peter Parish may serve as Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist.

2. It is important to remember that the National Conference of Catholic Bishops in 1986 developed written guidelines for the reception of Communion. The guidelines are written in the front cover of our missalette. A copy will be given to you when you meet with the wedding liturgy coordinator. **St. Peter Parish adheres strictly to these guidelines.**
3. The parish wedding liturgy coordinator may serve as an Extraordinary Minister for your wedding, if needed.

Some things to consider when planning your wedding...

1. May the father of the bride accompany her down the aisle?
Answer: The procession to the altar then takes place in the customary manner (OCM 46). Among the rich variety of customary forms experienced at weddings in this country, the option of a procession with a cross, servers, preside, bridesmaid and groomsmen and groom and bride (perhaps accompanied by their parents), would be commendable.
2. Is it permissible to use readings other than those in The Order of Celebrating Matrimony?
Answer: Whether celebrated within or outside Mass, the Readings must always be taken from Scripture. On those days when the Ritual is celebrated, the scriptural readings are to be selected from the OCM.
3. May Couples write their own vows?
Answer: OCM offers two forms of Consent (vows) and two methods for saying them. No other forms for the Consent are permitted.
4. To whom may the Bride and Groom extend the Sign of Peace?
Answer: To those closest to them and their parents.

"His scripture says, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and unite with his wife, and the two will become one.'"

Eph 5:31



WEDDING ATTENDANTS

BRIDESMAIDS AND GROOMSMEN

1. It is the Church's requirement that you be married in the presence of a priest or deacon and two witnesses; the state requires a licensed minister and two witnesses.
2. It is understandable that you will want significant family members/friends to be bridesmaids and groomsmen. However, because of standing and seating arrangements, our parish recommends a maximum of six bridesmaids and six groomsmen. Please consider this when choosing your attendants.

RING BEARERS AND FLOWER GIRLS

Very young children are many times uneasy about walking in front of large numbers of people and do not understand liturgical worship. When you are choosing ring bearers and flower girls, the children's ages should be considered so that their presence will add to and not detract from the joyful celebration. For this reason, children between **five and ten years of age** are recommended.

Environment

Flowers are symbolic of our joy in Christ and express our thankfulness for the beautiful gifts of nature God has given to us. Many couples choose flowers for the church because they enhance the spirit of celebration and hospitality. Our parish has developed guidelines to assist you in creating the most beautiful and appropriate liturgical environment for your wedding.

FLOWERS, PLANTS OR TREES

1. Flowers, plants or trees are particularly apt for the decoration of liturgical space, since they are part of nature, always discreet in their message. **No artificial flowers, plants or trees are to be used in decorating the church.** *There are no exceptions.*
2. Decoration(s) should neither impede the approach to nor the circling of the altar or any of the ritual movements or actions. In most liturgical spaces, decorations can be appropriate and enhancing. A copy of the guidelines will be provided for you to give to your florist; however, placement of all floral arrangements in the sanctuary is to be approved by your wedding liturgy coordinator. All green plants already in the church are available for your wedding, but are not to be removed from their original places (with the exception of the plants on the columns next to the center mosaic and crucifix).
3. Plants/flowers may be placed outside between the front doors. Garlands, bows and/or flowers may also be used on the hand railing and are a beautiful sign of hospitality to your invited friends and family. No wreaths or other decorations will be allowed on the front doors because of the possibility of damage to the doors.
4. If flowers and bows are used to decorate the ends of the pews, they are to be placed at regular intervals along the aisle. String, ribbon or large rubber bands may be used. Tape, wire, nails or tacks may **not** be used. Such decorations should not be limited to the first several pews to serve as floral “reserved” signs. Please inform the liturgical wedding coordinator of the number of pews you wish to reserve.
5. To avoid any potential safety hazards, flower girls are to refrain from tossing petals in the entrance and recessional procession.



6. If your wedding is celebrated during the Advent, Christmas, Lenten or Easter Seasons, you are asked to consider the nature of these special times in our Catholic tradition. Please respect the community's environment during these times since the church encourages special décor for various seasons of our liturgical calendar. You are welcomed and encouraged to use any of our décor. For example, in the Advent Season, our Advent wreath is part of our environment. The Lenten Season calls for a barren environment. **If you are choosing your wedding date during the Lenten Season, flowers/greenery may be used, but we ask that all décor be kept to a minimum because of the nature of the season.** Since our plants are removed from the church during the Lenten Season they are not available for weddings. Your wedding liturgy coordinator will be able to assist you with your wedding liturgical environment.
7. We welcome any floral arrangement(s) you may wish to leave in the church as a gift to our community after the celebration of your wedding. Your flowers would continue to enhance our parish worship space. We also respect your plans to bring these arrangements to your reception, if you prefer. Please let the Liturgical wedding coordinator know your desire at least one month in advance.

CANDLES

1. The use of candles is an option for you, but spring-loaded candles are preferred. Drip-less candles may be used. However, even if spring-loaded or drip-less candles are used, the air-conditioning vents cause problems; therefore, a clear protective floor covering is required under all candles.
2. Candles are allowed in the sanctuary. They are allowed in other areas of the Church by special permission only.

UNITY CANDLES

Because the Unity Candle is not part of the Catholic Wedding Rite, **the use of a Unity Candle is strictly prohibited at St. Peter Parish.** *There are no exceptions to this rule.*



AISLE RUNNERS

Aisle runners can be very unsafe; this is true even if a cloth aisle runner is used. Because of this safety factor, **aisle runners are not permitted.**

USE OF RICE, BIRD SEED OR CONFETTI

To avoid a safety hazard, the throwing of rice, birdseed or confetti is not allowed.

*"Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,
that he might sanctify her..."*
Eph 5: 25-26

Guidelines Handout for Florist

ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH
COVINGTON, LA

Bride's Name: _____ Phone: _____

Groom's Name: _____ Phone: _____

Date of Wedding: _____ Time: _____

WEDDING ENVIRONMENT

Flowers are symbolic of our joy in Christ and express our thankfulness for the beautiful gifts of nature God has given to us. St. Peter Parish has developed guidelines to assist in assuring the most beautiful and appropriate liturgical environment for weddings. Please adhere to the following guidelines-

1. No artificial flowers, plants or trees may be used for decorations inside or outside St. Peter Church.
2. Placement of arrangements in the sanctuary is to enhance the spirit of the celebration yet not impede in any way the movement of the priest or other ministers. Positioning of the floral arrangements in the sanctuary is to be approved by the liturgical wedding coordinator.
3. Sometimes, and often depending on the liturgical season, the sanctuary has large plants that may be moved with permission and under the following circumstances: a. the family is responsible for moving or securing someone else to move the plants to the Divine Mercy alcove; b. the family takes full responsibility for any damage that may occur during the moving of the plants; and c. the family is responsible for securing people to move the large plants back to their original spot following the wedding ceremony. If you would like to move large plants that are in the sanctuary at the time of your wedding, please discuss this with the liturgical wedding coordinator.
4. If flowers and bows are used to decorate the ends of the pews, please consider placing them at regular intervals along the aisle, enhancing the whole worship space and the assembly that fills it. String, ribbon, or

- large rubber bands may be used. Tape, wire, nails, or tacks may **not** be used.
5. Flowers or green plants may be used in the entrance gathering (vestibule) as a sign of hospitality. It is important however, that sufficient space is available for the entrance of those gathering and the bridal party.
 6. On the outside of church, decorations may be placed on the hand railing. Plants or flowers may also be placed on the steps close to the railing and/or between the front doors. No decorations are allowed on the doors.
 7. Deliveries of plants and/or flowers are to be scheduled no earlier than one hour before the wedding. If extra time is needed, please check with the parish office for availability of the church. Pick-up must be immediately after the ceremony. Please consider this time frame when booking the wedding.
 8. We welcome any floral arrangement(s) that the couple may wish to leave in the church as a gift to our community. We also respect their plans to bring these arrangements to their reception, if they prefer.
 9. Aisle runners are very unsafe because they squirm and slip underfoot due to the type of flooring in St. Peter Church. This is true even if a cloth runner is used. Because of this safety factor, **aisle runners are not to be used.**
 10. The use of a Unity Candle is strictly prohibited at St. Peter Church.
 11. If we can be of further assistance to you, please call the Saint Peter Parish Wedding Liturgy Coordinator 985-892-2422
- .

(Please distribute this guideline to your florist when planning.)

Photography and Videotaping

It is understandable that you may desire to record your wedding celebration in order to preserve the memories for many years to come. However, to ensure the sacredness of the liturgy for all gathered, we ask that you, your photographer, and your videographer observe our parish guidelines. Copies of the guidelines with diagrams should be given by you to your photographer or videographer. Therefore, it is your responsibility that both the photographer and the videographer clearly understand and agree to adhere to these guidelines. **There are no exceptions to these guidelines.**

1. The diagram included in the handbook indicates positions from which photographs and videos may be taken.
2. Photographers and videographers are expected to keep movement around the church to a minimum during the liturgy so that the prayer of those gathered is not disturbed.
3. Because flash photography can be distracting to the couple, priest, and those gathered, there is to be no flash photography after the entrance procession; flash may be used again only during the recessional.
4. No additional microphones may be attached to any sanctuary furniture.
5. Pictures taken of the arrival of the bride and wedding party should not delay the beginning of the ceremony.
6. The church will be available to you for the taking of photographs or videos, both before and after the celebration, but with respect for the schedule of other weddings or parish Masses. **Pictures following the ceremony should not exceed twenty minutes.**

*Guidelines Handout for
Photographers and Videographers*

ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH
COVINGTON, LA

Bride's Name: _____ Phone: _____

Groom's Name: _____ Phone: _____

Date of Wedding: _____ Time: _____

PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEOTAPING HANDOUT

The wedding liturgy is a **sacred** celebration of rejoicing in prayer, song, and gesture. While we understand the desire to record the celebration to preserve the special memories, St. Peter Parish guidelines must be observed. **There are no exceptions to these guidelines.**

1. The diagram of St. Peter Church indicates positions from which photographs and videos may be taken.
2. Photographers and videographers are expected to keep movement around the church to a minimum during the liturgy so that the prayer of those gathered is not disturbed.
3. Because flash photography can be distracting to the couple, priest, and those gathered, there is to be NO flash photography after the entrance procession; it may be used again during the recessional.
4. No additional microphones may be attached to any sanctuary furniture.
5. Pictures taken of the arrival of the bride and of the bridal party should not delay the beginning of the ceremony.
6. The church will be available to you for the taking of photographs and videos both before and after the celebration, but with respect for the schedule of other weddings or parish Masses. Pictures following the ceremony should not exceed 20 minutes.
7. If we can be of further assistance to you, please call the Saint Peter Parish Wedding Liturgy Coordinator 985-892-2422

(Please distribute this guideline to your photographer/ videographer when planning arrangements.)

ST. PETER CHURCH
125 EAST 19TH AVENUE
COVINGTON, LA 70433
(985) 892-2422

SANCTUARY

Altar

Steps

#1 Iron gate

Sacristy

Baptismal
Font

Pulpit

Closet

Mary
Statue

#2

#3

P
e
w
s

P
e
w
s

VESTIBULE

Porch & Steps

Photographer and Videographer

1. Not ever allowed in the sanctuary
2. Stay behind areas #1, #2 and #3
3. May take photos from choir loft

JEFFERSON AVE SIDE OF CHURCH



Rehearsals

1. As soon as your wedding is scheduled, it is required that the rehearsal day and time be approved to avoid possible conflicts.
2. Please make every effort to ensure that all members of the wedding party (parents, ushers, attendants, lectors, etc.) are present for the rehearsal **and on time**. The wedding rehearsal is to begin promptly since the church may have other scheduled activities or the priest and/or coordinator may have other appointments. Please allow thirty minutes to one hour for the rehearsal.
3. It is also requested that you remind the wedding party that since the wedding rehearsal is in church, proper reverence must be shown at all times. Thus, proper dress, attitudes, and actions are expected. The drinking of alcoholic beverages prior to the rehearsal and wedding is strongly discouraged, and the drinking of alcoholic beverages in or around St. Peter Church is strictly forbidden! There will be time for merriment at the rehearsal party and at the reception.
4. The rehearsal allows the members of the wedding party to become familiar with the environment of our church building and with the roles they will assume in the liturgy. The celebrant and/or liturgical wedding coordinator will give a brief overview of the liturgy to help all concerned understand the prayerful nature of the celebration. You will do a “walk through” of the ceremony so that everyone will be familiar with it.
5. All readings, prayers, music, etc. must be turned in prior to the rehearsal. The rehearsal itself is not the time for discussion and decision making.
6. Your marriage license must be submitted to the rectory no later than **two weeks prior to the rehearsal** in order for all forms to be typed.
7. Please respond to contact from your wedding liturgy coordinator at soon as possible so that the two of you may know best methods of contact, exchange important information, etc.
8. The following “Wedding Rehearsal Information Form” and copies of your readings must be delivered to the wedding liturgy coordinator at least **two months** prior to the rehearsal. See back of folder for the form.



Music Coordinator

Music Coordinator

PLANNING YOUR MUSIC

As soon as your wedding is booked with the Church, please contact the Vocal Director of Music to arrange for music at your wedding:

Vocal Director of Music,
music@stpeterparish.com

Once you establish contact with the director, a meeting will be scheduled with you to discuss the music selections you would like to have at your wedding. At that meeting a “Wedding Music Planner Form” will be completed, so you will have all the information you need for those involved in the planning process.

SELECTING YOUR MUSICIANS

It is our policy that your wedding music is provided by the musicians and vocalists at St. Peter Church. Exceptions to this policy should be discussed with and obtained through the Vocal Director of Music.

Music adds much joy and sacredness to the celebration of your wedding. Please remember that music’s primary purpose in the liturgy is to help people pray and worship. The music that you choose for your wedding must be sacred music, fitting for the occasion, and such that enables assembled family and friends to pray with you and for you. We do not allow secular music, show tunes, secular love songs, operatic wedding songs etc. – these are not considered appropriate for your wedding ceremony. Save them for the reception!

Your wedding music coordinator will be Anne Simpson. Upon the submission of the wedding date to Anne, a meeting will be scheduled to plan all of your music. Song selections will be played or sung through and chosen at that time. A fee of \$25 is due at the time of the meeting. This is the coordinator fee.

We musicians want to guide you and insure that your wedding is a true, sacred, holy Liturgical celebration. Therefore, we require that you use only the organists and cantor/vocalists on our music staff. In addition, any other instrumentalists will be chosen from St. Peter Parish’s approved list. This

is to ensure the integrity, sacredness, and joyfulness of the Liturgical celebration.

Please note that organists receive an additional \$50 rehearsal fee for any extra rehearsal required with outside singers or outside musicians of any kind (other than a brief run-through right before the wedding). Our musicians are familiar with the wedding music repertoire listed below and a rehearsal for that music is not necessary.

Please remember our cantors must be used for the liturgy. Outside singers may only sing prelude music, keeping in mind the directives listed above. If you plan to retain the services of an outside vocalist besides a cantor, they should provide an original copy of the music they will sing in the key suited to their voice to the accompanying organist.

Fees are due to all musicians (cantors, instrumentalists, organist) one month prior to the wedding. Checks should be made payable to the individual musician and sent in one envelope.

Everyone at St. Peter Parish is committed to helping to make your marriage ceremony a spiritual and meaningful celebration through music and prayer. If you have further questions, please don't hesitate to call me personally.

The following attached documents are to be brought to the Meeting with the Music Director. A cantor will be available to sing through selections. The music director will be present to answer any questions and to play through all of the music. Do not hire musicians on your own! See attached guidelines.



MUSICIANS

All weddings at Saint Peter Catholic Church must have an organist/pianist and a cantor. As the norm, your organist will be Bro. Ken Boesch, and your cantor will be Mrs. Anne Simpson. Should one or the other not be available please indicate here the cantor/vocalist and/or optional instrumentalists that you would like to have hired for your ceremony. Note that fees will apply for each musician hired. The contact person for your wedding is Anne Simpson. Her phone number is 985-264-2374 and email is music@stpeterparish.com. Upon receiving your requests, musicians on the approved list will be hired on your behalf.

- ORGANIST: _____
(BROTHER KEN IS THE PRINCIPLE ORGANIST AT ST. PETER PARISH. IF HE IS NOT AVAILABLE, CHOOSE FROM THE ATTACHED LIST BELOW.)

- CANTOR/SOLOIST: _____
(CHOOSE A VOCALIST FROM THE ATTACHED LIST.)

Optional:

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> TRUMPET | <input type="checkbox"/> VIOLIN | NOTE: HIRED BY YOU |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FLUTE | <input type="checkbox"/> STRING TRIO | |

MUSIC FOR THE MASS/CEREMONY

PRELUDE - If you have selections that you would like performed prior to Mass, please note them here and we will endeavor to comply with your request(s). Otherwise, musicians will choose music and begin playing as guests arrive. *This may be the best option to choose as instrumentalists, keyboardists & soloists have an extensive repertoire of music that is appropriate for your wedding.* If you have a guest singer, they may perform one selection here.¹

MOTHERS PROCESSIONAL – (chose one song from the “Bridal Party” section below)

¹ Additional fee of \$50 per rehearsal will be charged to rehearse with outside musicians.

BRIDAL PARTY PROCESSIONAL – Selections that may feature the addition of optional trumpet(s) are marked with an asterisk. Most selections will sound great with all other instruments noted on the attached sheet. Please choose one selection for the mothers/grandmothers processional and another for the bridal party processional. You may use the same selection for both if there are less than three bridesmaids. Please indicate your choice(s) here, by inserting the number 1 in the appropriate box for the mothers/grandmother’s selection and the number 2 in the box for the bridal party (if using two pieces).

- Canon in D* * J. Pachelbel
- Meditation from Thais* Massenet
- Spring (first movement: Allegro)* * Vivaldi
- On this Day o Beautiful Mother*, Lambilotte
- Arioso (from Cantata No. 156)* * Bach
- Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring** J.S. Bach
- Largo* George F. Handel
- Air (from Water Music)* Handel

BRIDE PROCESSIONAL – Selections that may feature the addition of optional trumpet(s) are marked with an asterisk. Please choose one selection for bride’s processional.

- Trumpet Voluntary** J. Clarke
- Trumpet Tune** H. Purcell
- Prelude to the Te Deum** M. Charpentier
- Joyful, Joyful** L. van Beethoven
- Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring** J.S. Bach
- Rondeau** J. Mouret

RESPONSORIAL PSALM – The psalm between the two readings is sung by the cantor and the congregation.

All of the choices are appropriate for other instruments to join in. Please choose one of the following:

- Psalm 33.
REFRAIN: “The Earth is Full of the goodness of the Lord.”
- Psalm 34.
REFRAIN: “Taste and See, the Goodness of the Lord.”
- Psalm 103.
REFRAIN: “The Lord is Kind and Merciful.”
- Psalm 112
REFRIAN: “Happy are those who do what the Lord commands”
(Gelineau)

Psalm 128.

REFRAIN: "Blest are Those Who Love You." (Haugen)

Psalm 145

.REFRAIN: "I Will Praise Your Name, My King and My God." (Haas)

Psalm 148

REFRAIN: "Let all praise the name of the Lord" (Gelineau)

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS - This music occurs after the General Intercessions in the Mass. If there is **no** Mass, **do not** select from this category.

Solo selections: (choose one)

Bist du bei mir. Johann Sebastian Bach Panis Angelicus. * Franck

Bridal Prayer. Roger Copeland

The Gift of Love. Hopson Wedding Prayer. Dunlap

OR congregational hymn: (choose one)

When Love is found G628 Wherever You Go G630

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace Wherever You Go G635

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

OR choose one selection from Mothers/Bridal party selection list above:

My selection from the "Bridal Party Processional" list above is:

OR musician's choice: (If this option is chosen, all musicians will choose an appropriate selection) _____ I prefer this option

COMMUNION HYMN: (skip if you are not having a full Mass) - A congregational hymn with a refrain is appropriate here. A vocal solo would also be a possibility as well. Please choose one:

Congregational Hymn:

- Taste and See. You satisfy the hungry heart
- Eat this bread
- One Bread, One Body

OR

Vocal Solo:

- Panis Angelicus. Cesar Franck
- When Love Is Found. English Tune
- Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring J.S.Bach
- Ave Verum Corpus W.A. Mozart

MEDITATION TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (optional)

- ___ Yes, we are planning to visit and honor Mary, our Blessed mother.
- ___ No, we will not be visiting Mary's altar.

If you plan on making a visitation to Mary's altar, it will take place after the final blessing. Music during this moment is usually a setting of the Ave Maria or other appropriate hymn to Mary. If you answered "yes" here, choose one.

- Ave Maria. Franz Schubert Holy Is His Name Talbot
- Ave Maria. Bach-Gounod (select vocalists only)
- Ave Maria. Gregorian Chant (select vocalists only)
- As I Kneel Before You Ave Maria Laurence

RECESSIONAL - This is usually the wedding liturgy's most festive and joyous of musical expressions. Pieces that may feature the addition of optional trumpet are marked with an asterisk. Please indicate one choice here.

- Rondeau* J Mouret *Prelude to the Te Deum** M. Charpentier
- Water Music: Hornpipe* G F Handel *The Rejoicing* Handel
- Joyful, Joyful* L van Beethoven *Rigaudon* Campra
- Now Thank We All Our God* J.S. Bach Wedding March* F Mendelssohn

NOTES:

ALL CANTORS/SOLOISTS AND/OR INSTRUMENTALISTS REQUESTED BY THE BRIDE WILL BE NOTIFIED AND CONFIRMED BY MUSIC COORDINATOR. PAYMENT FOR ALL MUSICIANS MUST BE FORWARDED TO **MUSIC COORDINATOR**, WITH SEPARATE CHECKS PAYABLE TO RESPECTIVE MUSICIANS, AT LEAST ONE MONTH PRIOR TO WEDDING DATE.

**St. Peter Catholic Church
Wedding Musicians List**

Organists Who May Play for Your Wedding

Brother Ken Boesch, FSC, Music Director and Principal Organist at St. Peter
Taylor Baumgartner
Michael Piazza
Watson Copeland
Sharon Scharmer
\$200

Approved Cantor/Vocalists & Fee Information

Anne Simpson, Vocal Director of Music at St. Peter
Hailey Bereziuk
Karista Filopoulos
Lindsey Piattoly
\$200

Kitty Cleveland
\$500 – You can hear Kitty's voice at www.kittycleveland.com

Trumpet, Flute or Violin
\$200

String Trio (flute, violin, cello)
\$600

Harpist
\$300

*"Love never ends."
1 Cor 13: 8*

WEDDING PROGRAM

(optional)

1. A wedding program can greatly enhance the participation of those gathered for the celebration. It is suggested that you include the outline of the liturgy, the text for the music and the directions for sitting and standing. This is especially helpful for those who are not familiar with our Catholic worship.
2. The program will encourage full participation in the liturgy and serve as a beautiful remembrance of your wedding. (OCM 28)
3. You are to finalize your choices of prayers and readings with the priest/deacon before they are printed in your program. All music must be finalized with the music director.

"I love you just as the Father loves me; remain in my love."

John 15:9

SAMPLE PROGRAM

St. Peter Parish
Celebrates the Marriage of
Mary Catherine Dalton and James Thomas Lee, jr.
November 20th, 1993

PRELUDE

ENTRANCE RITE

ENTRANCE PROCESSION (stand)

Trumpet Voluntary Purcell

GREETING

GATHERING SONG**

*Gather Us In** Marty Haugen
(repeat words and music here)

OPENING PRAYER

Response: Amen

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING (sit)

Ecclesiastics 3: 1-15
Response: Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PSALM 148: 1-12
Response: (reprint words here)

SECOND READING

1 John 4: 7-12
Response: Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Cantor: Alleluia
All: Alleluia
Cantor: (reprint alleluia verse here)
All: Alleluia

GOSPEL

John 17: 20-26
Response:
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

HOMILY (sit)

RITE OF MARRIAGE

INSTRUCTION/STATEMENT OF INTENTIONS

CONSENT AND EXCHANGE OF VOWS

ACCLAMATION**

Cantor: Alleluia

All: Alleluia

BLESSING AND EXCHANGE OF RINGS

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS (stand)

Response: Hear Us O Lord

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS (sit)

If all sing:

(reprint words and music here)

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

All: (reprint words and music here)

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

All: (reprint words and music here)

GREAT AMEN

All: (reprint words and music here)

THE LORD'S PRAYER (stand)

THE NUPTIAL BLESSING

SIGN OF PEACE

THE BREAKING OF BREAD

All: (reprint words and music here)
(Lamb of God)

COMMUNION PROCESSION

Taste and See Marty Haugen
(reprint words and music here)

POST COMMUNION**(sit)

If all sing:

(reprint words and music here)

FINAL BLESSING (stand)

[SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS] (sit)

Ave Maria

Schubert

FLOWERS TO MARY] (optional)

If all sing:

(reprint words and music here)

RECESSIONAL (stand)

Rondeau

Mouret

**Need copyright permission for all reprinted words and music
**optional*

OUR SINCERE APPRECIATION TO:

Presider: (Names)

Cross bearer:

Altar Servers:

Readers:

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist:

Gifts of Bread and Wine:

Music:

Hospitality:

Greeters:

Bridesmaids:

Maid (Matron) of Honor:

Groomsmen:

Best Man:

Flower Girl:

Ring Bearer:

Ushers:

Prayer for Married Couples

Glory and praise to You Almighty God and Father, for it is from You that every family in heaven and on earth is named. Bless our marriage and awaken in us a deeper appreciation for this Sacrament of Your love. Enkindle in us anew the freshness of our first love that our lifelong covenant may never grow cold. Grant that through the bonds of Holy Matrimony we may work out our salvation day by day. May we grow in forgiveness, patience, perseverance, compassion and selflessness. May we confirm our vows of fidelity and heartfelt love by the way we treat one another each day. By Your example, may we be slow to anger and rich in loving kindness and faithfulness. For You, O Lord, love us in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, whether we be rich or poor. May we return to You that endearing and enduring gift through a lifetime of courageous self-emptying love. By Your grace showered upon this most precious relationship, may we learn to love without condition and gain the humility needed to receive unconditional love.

In a time when so many counterfeits to authentic marital love surround us, may we recall the true inner meaning of our exclusive loving embrace. Grant that we may imitate the beauty of that sacrificial love that exists between Christ and His beloved bride, the Church, and so consecrate us in that perfect love that abides in the heart of Your Trinitarian mystery. May we rejoice both in our affectionate sentiments, and also in each loving sacrifice. Bless our desires making them pure and chaste, that we may always wish to make a complete self-gift to one another of our hearts, minds and bodies. May we cooperate with Your life-giving designs for our marriage and always be open to any new life that You choose to author. By Your presence at the center of our unified lives, may we be a convincing sign to the world of Your faithful love lived out in the indissoluble bond of true sacramental marriage. Amen.



Checklist for after your Wedding

- ✓ Register as a family at the parish church where you will grow in your faith together.
- ✓ Talk to your insurance agent and banker to make appropriate name changes on all insurance policies and securities.
- ✓ Advise employers of your change of marital status and check to make sure the two of you have full medical benefits.
- ✓ Apply for a corrected Social Security number in the bride's new name if necessary.
- ✓ Insure all wedding gifts from the time of receipt. Be sure all household items are insured.
- ✓ Put a complete and detailed list of items in a safe and secure place.
- ✓ Notify your voter's registration office of any name changes.
- ✓ Write or rewrite necessary wills and designate joint ownership of property.
- ✓ Store records such as the marriage license and birth certificates in a safety deposit box.
- ✓ Change names on all appropriate financial accounts.
- ✓ Make a list of all credit cards with account numbers and contact numbers in case the cards are lost or stolen.
- ✓ Sign up for the next marriage enrichment in your parish or annual retreat.

