

Celebrating your Wedding

At

St. Mary of the Lake Catholic Church

718 W. Buffalo St., New Buffalo, MI 49117

(269) 469-2637

St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church

28 W. Ash St., Three Oaks, MI 49128

(269) 756-2041

St. Agnes Catholic Church

5760 Sawyer Rd., Sawyer, MI 49125

(269) 756-2041

Pastor: Father Basker Lopez, MSFS



(Note: This is a “working copy” of our parish wedding handbook. It will continue to be updated as the need for that presents itself.

Thank you!)

Statement of Acceptance

I acknowledge that I have read the contents of the St. Mary of the Lake Church, St. Mary of the Assumption Church, and St. Agnes Church Marriage Guidelines booklet in full, and that I understand what has been stated. I agree to cooperate fully with St. Mary of the Lake, St. Mary of the Assumption, and St. Agnes staff, and I voluntarily agree to be bound by the policies expressed in this booklet.

Signature of Bride

Date: _____

Signature of Groom

Date: _____

(Please detach and return to our Parish Office. This will be placed in your marriage file.)

WE ASSURE YOU OF OUR PRAYERS AND SUPPORT DURING THESE EXCITING BUT HECTIC WEEKS. WE ARE READY AND WILLING TO HELP YOU IN ANY WAY WE CAN.

For Your Photographer

Please tear out and take this page with you and present it to your photographer.

- Videotaping may be done from the rear of the church or the side aisles or from the balcony. After the entrance rite, the video camera(s) must be stationary. Photographers are to avoid excess movements during the ceremony. Videotaping and photography are not allowed in the sanctuary during the wedding.
- No flash photography during the wedding ceremony. After the ceremony, photographs of the wedding party may be taken on the steps of the sanctuary. Members of the wedding party should remain standing for all photos. A sense of reverence is not fostered by sitting on the sanctuary steps, etc.
- Furnishings in the sanctuary area are not to be moved or used in any way. The altar is NEVER to be used as a table for photographic equipment, etc. Reverence by all is to be observed.
- Picture taking needs to be completed under the following time constraints:

11:00 a.m. Wedding

Access to Church: 10:00

Wedding: 11:00

Out of Church: 1:15

1:00 p.m. Wedding

Access to Church: 12:15

Wedding: 1:00

Out of Church: 3:00

Questions? Please contact St. Mary of the Lake Catholic Church at (269) 469-2637; St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church/St. Agnes Catholic Church at (269) 756-2041.



Some Necessary Cautions

1. **Alcohol:** There is to be no alcohol at your rehearsal or in use before the wedding. There is no smoking in the Church building.
2. **Appropriate Dress:** We expect the bride and groom and attendants to dress modestly, both for the rehearsal and the wedding. If you choose strapless or low-cut gowns for the bride and/or the bridesmaids, have a shawl, jacket, or shrug to wear in the Church.
3. **Food and Drink:** Please bring no food or drink into the Church building. The exception to this would be bottled water.
4. **Clean up:** Please remember to leave the Church building neat and clean.

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CELEBRATING YOUR WEDDING AT ST. MARY OF THE LAKE/ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION/ ST. AGNES

Weddings are a special and joyful time for brides and grooms, for their families, and for the parish community. The Church welcomes its members to celebrate their wedding in the context of our prayer as Christians.

Great care is taken to insure that the wedding ceremony is reverent, graceful, beautiful, and open to the movement of God's Spirit among us. We celebrate as a community, gathering our brothers and sisters in faith and asking for their prayerful support. In this spirit, our parishes provide the following guidelines.

Liturgy and Music

Catholic liturgy is expressed in signs, symbols, gestures, words, and music. It is sacred and communal. In weddings, it is the prayerful rejoicing in the couple's loving exchange of vows that is sacramental, i.e. a sign through which God works for the salvation of his people.

The readings and prayers, as well as any additional special liturgical elements such as family, ethnic traditions are chosen in consultation with the presider.

Liturgical music serves two functions. At times it **accompanies** a ritual action, such as a procession. At other times the **music is the ritual action**, calling for participation by all present, such as the singing of the responsorial psalm. Music for the wedding should be chosen carefully in consultation with and the approval of our organist, Greg Geyer (574) 298-1966 (St. Mary of the Lake) or Patty Daniel (269) 756-2041 (St. Mary of the Assumption/St. Agnes). Plan to contact him/her at least 8 weeks before your wedding.

Please check with the parish office on what is and is not permitted.

Couples **MUST** use the church organist and cantor. Contact Greg Geyer (574) 298-1966 or Patty Daniel (269) 756-2041 ASAP to secure date and discuss what is and is not permitted.

Fees are due in our parish office two weeks prior to the wedding rehearsal. A check should be made payable to our parish in the amount of \$795 for Parishioner Fees or \$1,475 for Non-Parishioner Fees.

*A security deposit of \$150.00 is charged to each couple. This also serves to hold your wedding date/time. This deposit is returned to you after the wedding when it has been determined that the facilities you have used were cleaned up and the room(s) left in the same condition they were in before they were used.

PLEASE BRING STATE OF MICHIGAN MARRIAGE LICENSE TO THE REHEARSAL.

"Parishioner" means:

1. Come to Mass.
2. Use contribution envelopes regularly.
3. Find some role of service in the parish.



Fees

Parishioner:

Organist	\$150.00
Cantor	\$150.00 each
Presider	\$150.00
*Security and Date Deposit	\$150.00
Buildings Use Fee	\$250.00
Sacristan	\$ 75.00
Altar Server	\$ 20.00 each

Non-Parishioner:

Organist	\$250.00
Cantor	\$250.00 each
Presider	\$250.00
*Security and Date Deposit	\$150.00
Buildings Use Fee	\$600.00
Sacristan	\$100.00
Altar Server	\$ 25.00 each

Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion may be selected by the couple in accordance with church guidelines. Although it is not necessary to use altar servers at weddings, if your wedding is a Mass, you may select qualified altar servers.

Use of Facilities

The Church building may be used prior to and after your wedding according to the following schedule. This schedule also applies to taking pictures.

11:00 a.m. Wedding

Access to church 10:00
Wedding: 11:00
Out of church: 1:15

1:00 p.m. Wedding

Access to church 12:15
Wedding: 1:00
Out of church: 3:00

Photography and Videotaping

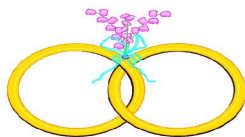
Posed pictures may be taken before or after, but not during the wedding. The official photographer may take pictures during the wedding as long as he/she remains at the periphery and does not interfere in any way. No flash photography is allowed during the liturgy. Videotaping is permitted provided the camera(s) remain unobtrusive. No photographers or videographers are allowed in the sanctuary during the wedding. Videotaping may be done from the rear of the church building or the side aisles or the balcony. After the entrance rite, the video camera(s) must be stationary.

Preparation rooms are available in the church basement or hall for dressing and must be cleaned and vacated immediately before the wedding. **No alcohol or smoking are allowed in the buildings.** St. Mary of the Lake, St. Mary of the Assumption, and St. Agnes are not responsible for purses or valuables left unattended in the preparation rooms. Please secure your own valuables before the ceremony begins.

Sanctuary furnishings are not to be moved. All rented items, such as candelabras, are to be removed immediately after the wedding. Before you leave the church grounds, all rooms and the church itself should be cleaned. This includes flower boxes and all debris that accumulates as you get ready for the wedding. Dumpsters are available behind the church in which to place trash.

Musical instruments in the church are for the use of the wedding musicians only. These instruments and microphones should not be moved without the approval of our organist. They should be treated with great care.

For a variety of reasons, no rice, birdseed, confetti, or any other items may be thrown inside/outside the church building. No balloons may be released.



Environment

In the Diocese of Kalamazoo, marriages must take place in a parish church. Liturgies are not permitted in homes, gardens, parks, etc. The environment within the church changes periodically depending upon the church season. The décor is expected to remain during weddings, although some adaptation may be permitted. Flowers may be added to the existing décor, but cannot be placed directly on the altar or obstruct its view or that of the pulpit. The use of tape to attach ribbons or other pew decorations is not allowed. Elastic fasteners, rubber bands, pipe cleaners and non-marring holders should be used to attach flowers and/or ribbons to ends of the pews. The use of an aisle runner is not allowed.

The flower petals strewn in the path of the bride are to be artificial. They **must** be picked up and disposed of after the wedding.

Wedding Rehearsal

Most often the rehearsal is held the evening before your wedding. This rehearsal is for all members of the wedding party. Readers are also invited to attend this rehearsal. All members should be present five minutes before the rehearsal is scheduled to begin. Rehearsals are normally one hour long. **Reminder: Reverent behavior and modest dress are expected of all present.**