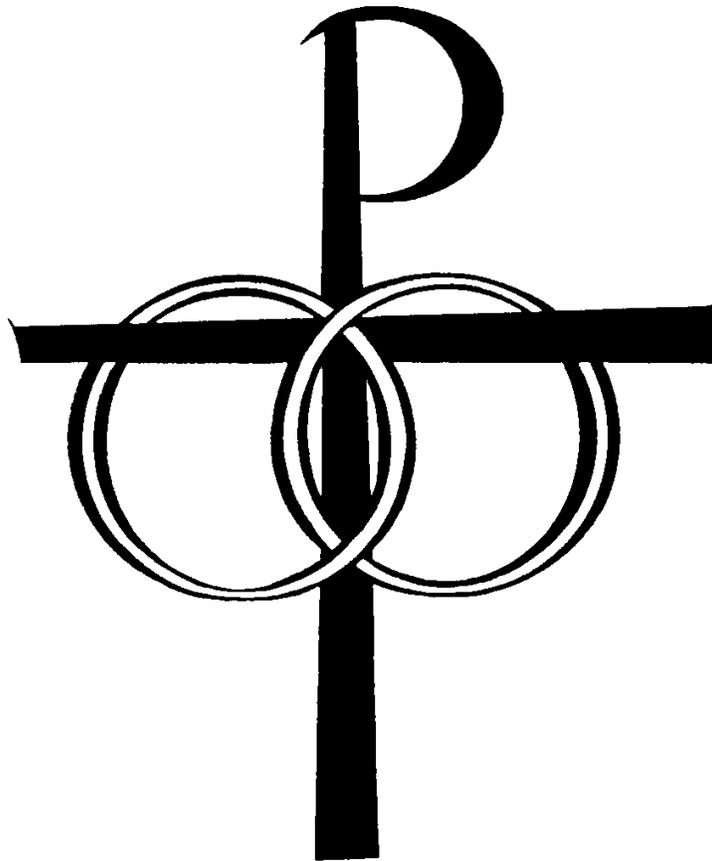


One In Christ

St. William Catholic Church
929 Gunter Avenue
Guntersville, AL 35976

Wedding Guidelines



SETTING A DATE:

- * You are required to contact the parish no less than six months in advance of your desired wedding date.
- * It is also important that you speak with the parish priest before setting a date for your wedding or making arrangements.
- * Contact one of the church wedding coordinators immediately upon setting a date.

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This Guide relates to every aspect of your wedding day and we offer it to you to enhance your wedding celebration.

Wedding preparation for each wedding must begin at least six months prior to the intended date. NO wedding will be put on the church calendar until the couple has met with the parish priest. Should a visiting priest be the celebrant of the wedding , the couple must contact the pastor to make specific arrangements.

TIME AND DAY: Our available times for wedding celebrations are Saturdays at 2:00 pm. We will make exceptions for weekday celebrations in rare circumstances.

MUSIC: Music for weddings is under the direction of the music coordinator at St. William. Following contact with a priest, you are expected to set up an appointment with the music coordinator. The music Coordinator will assist you in the selections of music . It is suggested that you DO NOT wait until the last minute to meet with the coordinator.

Music is the essence of our sacramental celebrations. ALL music must be appropriate music since the celebration of a wedding is part of our worship. Please do not contact other musicians before meeting with the music coordinator.

PICTURES: Photographs and videos are permitted provided they do not distract the wedding party, the celebrant, musicians, singers or the congregation. For this reason flash or extra lighting is not permitted during the ceremony. The liturgy takes preference over photographs and videos.

We ask that you use one designated photographer and /or videographer. The photographer is allowed as far as the first church pew. The videographer should locate in the choir loft.

Photographs may be taken in the church before and/or after the ceremony, for a period not to exceed 45 minutes.

Modesty protects the mystery of persons and their love. It encourages patience and moderation in loving relationships; it requires that the conditions for the definitive giving and commitment of man and woman to one another be fulfilled. Modesty is decency. It inspires one's choice of clothing. It keeps silence or reserve where there is evident risk of unhealthy curiosity. It is discreet. [Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 2522]

DRESS: Every bride wants to look beautiful on her wedding day, and every bridesmaid hopes to wear a dress that is both fashionable and flattering. Beauty, after all, is one of the attributes of God, and women in a special way bear witness to the power of beauty to attract our attention. But part of the allure of beauty lies not only in what it reveals, but also in what it conceals, and this is where the meaning of modesty comes in.

Modesty means dressing in a way that is attractive but does not draw attention to one's sex appeal or arouse sexual desire in another person.

When planning a wedding, it is important to take into consideration the fact that many bridal fashions today are much more revealing than in the past, and are not always appropriate attire for church, which is a holy place — the house of God. In this regard, St. William take their cue from the dress code that is strictly enforced at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, which specifies that clothing should cover the shoulders, back, and knees for both men and women.

If we apply this standard to wedding attire, it means no plunging necklines, backless dresses or dresses that fall way above the knee. And while the majority of wedding gowns and bridesmaids' dresses are strapless, it is possible to find some that are not, and most bridal shops are able to add sleeves or wider straps to any of their offerings.

An alternative is to accessorize with an attractive wedding bolero, shrug, shawl or jacket, which can easily be found on websites like Etsy and Pinterest.

ENVIRONMENT: It is most important that the environment in the church be keeping with the liturgical guidelines. We call to your attention the following areas:

UNITY CANDLE: The unity candle is not a traditional part of the Catholic marriage ceremony. While it is not forbidden we do not encourage its use. If you desire to have a unity candle, the stand is provided by the church. You are required to purchase the candles from St. William.

FLOWERS: You are permitted to have two free standing floral or green arrangements near the tabernacle, one small arrangement in the niche and an arrangement in front of the altar (cannot exceed height of the altar).

FLOWER GIRLS: Due to potential slipping hazard we do not allow loose flowers or silk petals. The girls may have flowers in a basket, but no petals are to be thrown.

PEW MARKERS: No candles are allowed on pew markers.

AISLE CLOTH: Because an aisle cloth creates a hazard, no aisle cloth may be used.

OUTSIDE THE WORSHIP AREA: Decorations (such as flowers, bows, etc.) within reason are allowed to be used on the outside of the doors and Church Hall.

RICE AND BIRD SEED: Nothing, (no rice, no bird seed, no confetti, no bubbles, no glitter) may be thrown or scattered anywhere on premises.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES: NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES are to be consumed by members of the wedding party at any time prior to the wedding rehearsal or ceremony. Any member of the wedding party appearing inebriated will not be allowed to participate in the ceremony.

Ritual

WEDDING COORDINATOR: For each rehearsal and wedding, a coordinator from our Parish will be present. Coordinator duties include setting up for the wedding and leaving the church in order for the weekend liturgies. Our coordinator will be available from the beginning of the wedding planning to help with church details. She will also function as a coordinator during the rehearsal and wedding to guide you through the details, including providing guidance to the florist, photographer/videographer, wedding party, family members and others who will be taking part in the ceremony as well as troubleshooting if necessary. In order to assure the integrity of the sacrament of marriage, additional coordinators will work under the direction of the parish coordinator.

Available Parish Coordinators:

Ann Lester 256-738-7935

Susan McKinney 256-558-1983

REHEARSAL TIMES: The Rehearsal will usually be held at 6:00 pm the evening before the wedding and will begin promptly. Rehearsal will not be delayed because of absenteeism. The rehearsal time is limited to one hour. Respectful quiet in church at all times is a long standing Catholic tradition. The place of worship should be honored with special conduct. We ask you and your wedding party to observe this reverence during and after the rehearsal and wedding ceremony.

REHEARSAL REMINDERS: PLEASE MAKE SURE WE HAVE A COPY OF YOUR AFFIDAVIT OF MARRIAGE. Instruct **all** attendants to be present and on time.

DUE ONE MONTH IN ADVANCE OF WEDDING:

- Liturgy/Ceremony Outline
- Baptismal Certificate issued within the last six months
- Engaged Encounter Certificates
- Flower decoration plans for the church
- Music Coordination plan

DEPOSIT: A non refundable deposit of \$300.00 is required to reserve the date for the church, the balance is to be paid three months prior to the wedding.

FEES: You are requested to have the following fees into the church office no later than one month prior to the wedding:

MAINTENANCE AND UTILITY FEES :

- Contributing Parishioner with envelopes: \$300.00
- Non Contributing Parishioner and non Parishioners: \$800.00

Above fees payable to St. William Catholic Church

- Music Coordinator \$100.00
- *Wedding Coordinator* *Included in Maintenance fee*
- Organist Fee Set by Individual
- Instrumentalist Fee Set by Individual
- Soloist/Cantor Fee Set by Individual
- Celebrant Voluntary

Above fees payable to individual

We are happy you choose to celebrate your wedding at St. William Church. These guidelines will assist in making your wedding experience a holy and memorable event.

Congratulations on your marriage! Thank you for asking us to be a part of your wedding day. God bless you as you begin this journey of love together.