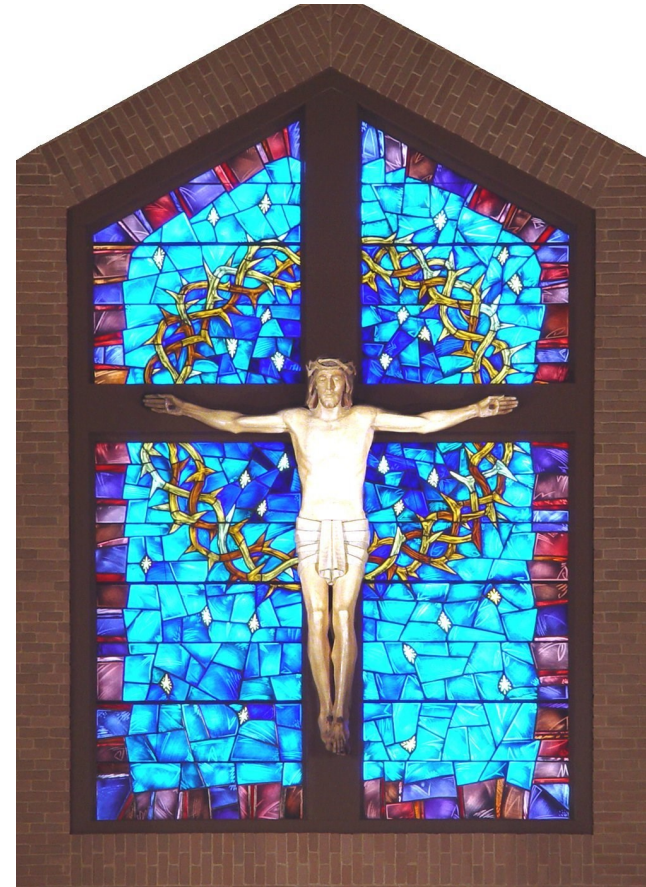


Wedding Guidelines

Prayer Before Marriage

Lord God,
Source of all love,
your providence has brought us together.
As we prepare for the sacrament of marriage
we pray for your grace,
that, strengthened by your blessing,
we may grow in respect for one another
and cherish each other with a sincere love.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

May the God of love and peace
abide in us, guide our steps,
and confirm our hearts in his love,
now and for ever.
Amen.



*St. Louis Church
64 S. Main St.
Pittsford, NY 14534*

*Phone: (585) 586-5675
Website: www.StLouisChurch.org*

(sample program)

Rite of Marriage

Consent and Exchange of Vows

Blessing and Exchange of Rings

Lighting of the Unity Candle

General Intercessions

Name of Reader

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Prayer over the Gifts

Preface

Holy, Holy

Memorial Acclamation

Great Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Nuptial Blessing

Sign of Peace

Communion

Communion Mediation

“When Love is Found”

Sung by Kim Evans

Prayer After Communion

Concluding Rite

Final Blessing

Recessional

Tocatta from Wieder Organ Symphony

(sample program)

Prelude

Seating of the Grandparents and Parents

Lighting of the Unity Candle by Mothers

“The Prayer”

Sager & Foster

Entrance Rite

Processional

Entrance of the Bridal Party

“Canon in D”

Entrance of the Bride

“Trumpet Voluntary”

(Please Stand)

Opening Prayer

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Tobit 8: 4b-8

Name of Reader

Responsorial Psalm

“This is the Day the Lord has Made”, Psalm 118

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 12: 31-13:8

Name of Reader

Gospel Acclamation

“Alleluia”

Gospel

John 15: 9-12

Homily

Name of Priest/Deacon

“Over all these virtues put on love, which binds the rest together and makes them perfect.” Colossians 3:14

Congratulations on your upcoming marriage!

We are delighted that you have chosen to celebrate your marriage at St. Louis Church, and look forward to helping you prepare for this sacrament.

In the Roman Catholic tradition, by including marriage among the seven sacraments, the Church is teaching and believes that you are called to be a holy sign of God’s love to each other, to your family, and together, to be a sign of God’s faithful love for the world.

For a marriage to be sacramental, two baptized persons, at least one being Catholic...

- < Freely enter into a vowed commitment of respect, reverence and love.
- < Make this promise for a lifetime.
- < Promise fidelity to each other.
- < Desire that their love be blessed with children and make the commitment to pass on the gift of faith to their children.

Thus, the Sacrament of Marriage is a way of life, not just a religious ceremony on the day of your marriage. God in Christ will be the center of your relationship “in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health,” because “God dwells in us if we love one another.” (1 John 4:12)

The following guidelines will help you as you make your plans.

Scheduling Your Wedding Ceremony

We schedule the wedding ceremony at the first meeting with the engaged couple. Weddings may be scheduled on Saturdays (except during Lent) at 11:00 AM or 2:00 PM.

We do not schedule weddings over the telephone or through an intermediary (for example, one of the parents of the bride or groom), but with the couple directly.

Pre-Cana

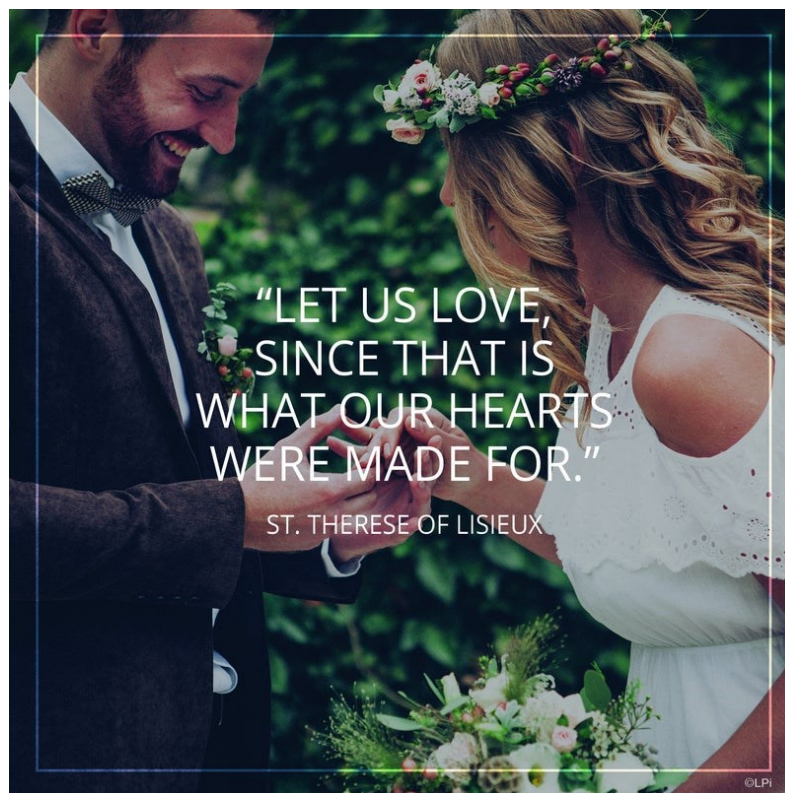
All couples preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage are required to participate in a Pre-Cana session. Please contact St. Louis Church to find our current Pre-Cana offering or visit <https://oec.dor.org/sacraments/matrimony/pre-cana-2> to see a list of Pre-Cana offerings for the Diocese of Rochester. Click on “In –Person Pre-Cana” to see the current schedule.

Please register for the Pre-Cana session at the Ministry Center at least one month before the session. The cost is \$75.

You may also register in any diocesan sponsored pre-cana or engaged encounter here in Rochester or in any Diocese in the country. You should give the minister here a copy of your certificate. You may look up the Rochester schedule of Pre-Cana sessions at www.dor.org.

FOCCUS/Fully Engaged Inventory

To help in the preparation process, you will be asked to complete an inventory for marriage preparation, called **FOCCUS**. This tool facilitates open couple communication, understanding a study in a variety of areas you may not have considered, laying a great foundation for your marriage. Once you have completed your inventory, it will be sent to the



Conclusion

These months of preparation for your marriage will be busy and exciting. If you find that there are ways in which the parish staff can be of help, please call.

While your engagement, showers, rehearsal, reception and honeymoon are all significant parts of the celebration of your marriage, the Marriage Ceremony is seen as the center of the Christian celebration.

The prayers, scripture readings, the vows, the giving and receiving of rings, the music, the nuptial blessing - all of these, can be an expression of both faith in God and in each other. They will also express your confidence that the presence and love of God will strengthen and confirm your love for each other. May these days of preparation hold many blessings!

After the Ceremony

Having made the decision to be married in the Church, don't forget to follow through and register in the parish as a newly wed couple. Contact the Ministry Center at 586-5675.

Ongoing Support

The Catholic Church wants very much to be a presence in your lives as a couple. Please be attentive to parish activities, as there may be enrichment possibilities for you. Also, as you decide to start a family, please be in touch with the parish staff regarding baptism information and preparation.

Diocese to be processed and the priest/deacon will review it with you at your next meeting.

Ceremony

Couples may plan to be married at either a Nuptial Mass or a Nuptial Ceremony. Either celebration will be well planned by the couple, with the assistance of the priest or deacon who presides.

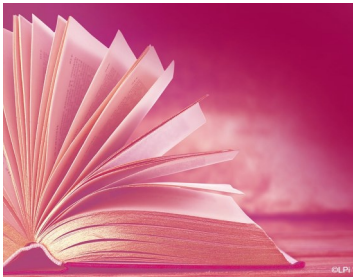
It is our hope that your wedding ceremony reflects the spirituality of your relationship. If the Eucharist is a significant part of your life, it follows that the Nuptial Mass would be the appropriate context of your wedding ceremony. If the Mass is not part of the way you pray, we would encourage the Nuptial Ceremony. Please talk this over with the priest or deacon who is presiding at your wedding.

If you wish to have a visiting priest officiate at your ceremony, you are welcome to do so. All other expectations would be the same. The marriage preparation would still be done with a Priest or Deacon from the St. Louis Staff. Marriage preparation may be done with the visiting priest upon the Pastor's approval. The wedding coordinator will facilitate the wedding scheduling and arrangements, and music is arranged with Stephanie Honz as the organist.

If one of you is of another faith and would like to have a minister or rabbi be part of the ceremony that would be most welcome. Please mention this at the time of your initial planning.



Planning the Liturgy for your Marriage



At the time of your initial interview with the priest or deacon, you will receive a book entitled TOGETHER FOR LIFE by Joseph M. Champlin. This book will be quite helpful in planning a ceremony with prayers and readings that speak to you and that you believe will be meaningful to your guests.

Some of the ways in which family members and friends can participate are:

- < Proclaiming the Scripture readings
- < Leading the Prayer of the Faithful/Intercessions
- < Bringing the gifts of Bread and Wine to the altar

Lector training can be held at the rehearsal or before the ceremony .

Baptismal Information

You must contact the Church where you were baptized and ask for a recently dated original copy of your Baptismal certificate. This original copy must be printed within six months of your wedding. Scanned copies of the original are not acceptable. Parishes are use to providing this and it can be obtained by a simple phone call to the parish secretary.

Normally, adult Catholics have celebrated all the Sacraments of Initiation -- Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist -- before marrying. We will assist you if there is a need to complete the process of initiation.

Contacts to schedule

Plan on approximately six contacts with the parish prior to the day of your wedding:

- a) Initial interview: To get acquainted, set your date and discuss diocesan and parish guidelines.
- b) Pre-Cana Session.
- c) Contact Stephanie Honz, the wedding music director and organist.
- d) Additional interviews with priest or deacon. One will cover the necessary information for the Marriage Register and Records. Once your Foccus materials are returned, a priest or Deacon from St. Louis will review this with you. They will also ask you to formally state your intentions for a permanent, faithful life-giving marriage and have you sign the appropriate paperwork. You may also schedule a meeting for assistance in planning the ceremony.
- e) Rehearsal: the entire wedding party should attend, including lectors, Eucharistic ministers, and parents.
- f) Please feel free to call our Wedding Coordinator, Rebecca Mitrousis, at (585) 586-5675 or e-mail her at Rebecca.Mitrousis@dor.org for any questions or concerns you may have.

Planning Your Celebration

Marriage License

Bring your marriage license to the rehearsal. The priest or deacon will make certain the license is completed and signed, and will mail it back to the issuing office (village, city, town).

Rehearsal: PLEASE BE ON TIME!

The rehearsal will be led by our wedding coordinator. The rehearsal will be scheduled the night before the wedding, typically at 3:45 p.m., 5:45 p.m., or 6:45 p.m. This is scheduled at the time when the wedding is arranged.

Ordinarily the rehearsal will last about 45 minutes. All members of the wedding party and the readers should be present. This rehearsal is for the ceremony only, not for the music.

Please give your wedding license and any programs to the wedding coordinator at the rehearsal.

We need to call the following to your attention: All guests and members of the wedding party must refrain from smoking, consuming alcohol, and using illegal drugs anywhere on the Church premises both at the rehearsal and on the day of the wedding.

Music

Please contact the parish music director, Stephanie Honz (W-586-5675, ext.251; H-381-6688, shonz@rochester.rr.com). Stephanie will assist you in selecting appropriate music for the wedding ceremony. You will find these selections on our website: (www.stlouischurch.org/marriage).

According to our parish policy, Stephanie is the organist for weddings.

We encourage the use of a cantor at your wedding. We have a number of excellent cantors available to you. Please consult with Stephanie in making this choice. If you choose to provide your own cantor, you are welcome to do so. He or she would need to be familiar with our liturgy and be comfortable in leading others in song.

Flowers

You are welcome to purchase flowers to decorate the church for your wedding. We are grateful if they are left in church afterwards, but you may take them with you to the reception, if you choose. Please keep in mind:

- Because of its usual beauty, St. Louis Church does not require a lot of additional decoration.
- Flowers may not be placed on the altar table or in the sanctuary in a way that would restrict movement or block the vision of the congregation.
- Pew decorations are permitted, but no adhesives may be used in attaching decorations to pews or other surfaces. Please remove these after the ceremony is over.

Please let your florist know **the church is available for decoration one hour before the scheduled time of your wedding.**

Aisle Runner

The use of an aisle runner is not permitted in St. Louis Church for safety reasons.

Candles

In recent years, some couples have chosen to use a “unity candle” as part of their celebration. This is not an official part of the ritual of the Church, which already contains many symbols of unity in its sacrament of Marriage: the content of the scriptures and prayers, the vows and exchanges of rings, and, when it is celebrated, the Eucharist itself. If you decide to use a unity candle, you must purchase the candles yourself; you may borrow unity candle stands from St. Louis Church for the ceremony, however, these stands are church property and not for you to keep.

We Regret to Inform You...

- We do not make ANY arrangements with an outside wedding planner, if you have hired one. All details, from arrival at the church to departure from the church, are arranged between the couple and our staff.
- The practice of throwing confetti, bird seed, rice, or flower petals inside or outside the church is not permitted. Neither is the use of balloons, soap bubbles, butterflies, or any similar practice permitted inside or outside the church.

Church Offering

The fee for weddings at St. Louis is \$575. This fee includes: the organist, Stephanie Honz (\$225); the wedding coordinator (\$150); the processing cost for the Foccus Inventory (\$25); and the offering for the Church (\$175).

The stipend to the Presider is whatever you wish it to be.

If you are not a member of the parish and do not contribute to the upkeep of our beautiful facilities, please consider doubling the current offering (\$175) for the Church.

The fee for Cantors and any other Instrumentalists (such as String Quartet, etc.) is paid directly to them at least a week before the ceremony.

A deposit of \$200 payable to ‘St. Louis Church’ is due when you reserve the date. After that deposit is made, you can be assured that the date for your wedding is firm.

The balance of the fee is due at the Ministry Center one month before the ceremony.

Photography

Our church is beautiful and we want your celebration to be beautiful also. Instruct your photographer and videographer to remain on the sidelines and in no way obstruct your ceremony.

You may remain in Church for photos after your celebration. If your wedding is scheduled for Saturday afternoon at 2:00PM, keep in mind that **all photography must conclude at 3:30PM**, no later.