

Your Wedding Day



CHURCH PREPARATION

- ◆ Runners are not permitted (for safety reasons).
- ◆ Flowers are permitted but may not be placed on the altar table top. Pew decorations may be attached with rubber bands or ribbon; no tape.
- ◆ Rice, confetti, birdseed, bubbles and balloons are not permitted on the church campus.
- ◆ Food and drinks other than water (no alcohol please) are not permitted in the church.

YOUR WEDDING REHEARSAL

- ◆ Call the parish office approximately two months prior to your wedding to schedule your rehearsal date and time.
- ◆ Please be on time for your rehearsal. It will begin at the scheduled time, even if all wedding party members are not present. Your wedding Coordinator will guide you and assist you on your wedding day.

- ◆ If you have any questions please contact Sue Audette. at 248.693.0440 ext. 209 or email saude2@stjoelo.org.

YOUR WEDDING CELEBRATION

- ◆ The entire wedding party should be at the church one hour before the ceremony begins.
- ◆ A bridal room is located near the gathering area, where the bride and her attendants may gather before the wedding.
- ◆ Attire should be appropriate for church and align with “*The Policy for Appropriate Dress During the Wedding Ceremony*” recommendations.
- ◆ **Receiving lines should be held at the reception, not at the church.**
- ◆ Photos may be taken for one half-hour following your wedding.
- ◆ Please assign someone to clean up after your event and leave the church as you found it.
 - ◆ This includes all boxes, wrapping, flower stands, etc. any silk petals, loose programs or debris left in the pews please be sure they are removed from the church afterward.
- ◆ Limousines should be directed around the back of the church near the wide steps.

May your wedding day be a beautiful beginning to your marriage – the beginning of living the Sacrament of Matrimony. May you be to one another a living sign of God’s love, and together, a visible expression of God’s love in the world! God bless you!

-The Parish Family at St. Joseph Catholic Church



Catholic Church & School
ST. JOSEPH

LAKE ORION, MICHIGAN

Celebrating The Sacrament of Marriage

The Lord rejoices that you have invited Him into your Marriage. We, the clergy and staff here at St. Joseph Catholic Church, congratulate you on your upcoming wedding and marriage and express our joy and excitement as we begin to accompany you in the months leading up to your wedding. The ministries of the parish are here to assist you through the many practical preparations and planning necessary for your special day. Additionally and more importantly, we are here to guide you both as you embark on your journey of Christian Marriage and the lifetime covenant of the Sacrament of Matrimony. This booklet is presented to you in order to help guide you through the process of marriage preparation here at St. Joseph Catholic Church.



Marriage Preparation Steps

- ◆ Meet with the Priest or Deacon who will preside at your wedding **at least six months** prior to the desired wedding date to confirm availability and book the date for the wedding. **Do not book your hall, caterer, musicians, etc. until you have solidified this date.**
- ◆ Obtain a certified copy of your Baptismal records from your Parish or Church where you were Baptized **within 6 months** of your wedding date.
- ◆ You should arrange and attend an approved local marriage preparation seminar (See your wedding folder insert).
- ◆ Your presider will schedule you to complete a Pre-Marriage Inventory (PMI). The Bride and Groom should complete this online questionnaire separately. The results will be discussed with the Priest or Deacon who is performing your ceremony.
- ◆ You will be contacted by your assigned “Mentor/Sponsor Couple”. They will schedule three meetings with you (See your wedding folder insert).

Planning Your Day

- ◆ Attire for the wedding party should be appropriate for church. Please review and understand “*The Policy for Appropriate Dress During the Wedding Ceremony*” insert in your wedding folder.
- ◆ Using your “*Together for Life*” booklet, complete the “*Wedding Intake Form*”. (Contact Sue Audette at saude2@stjoelo.org for an electronic copy.)
- ◆ Meet with the officiating Priest or Deacon to review or assist your wedding ceremony selections no less than one week prior to your wedding day.
- ◆ **Any change of date must be approved by your presider. Should you need to cancel the wedding, be sure to call your Priest or Deacon.**
- ◆ It is highly recommended that children in the wedding party should be 4 years of age or older.
- ◆ A specially trained St. Joseph volunteer Wedding Coordinator will be assigned to coordinate and guide you through the ceremony and all the related proceedings surrounding this celebration here at church. If you hire your own personal Wedding Planner, please be aware that our Wedding Coordinator will direct all ceremonial activities here at church.
- ◆ Contained in your St. Joseph Wedding folder is a comprehensive Wedding Planning Check list to be used at your option.



Spiritual Preparation



God is overjoyed that you have invited Him into your Marriage. This joy is expressed by offering you the visible gift of Himself through the Sacrament of Marriage. Instituted by Jesus Christ, God will meet you in an external and spiritual way. The gift you will receive from Him is His Grace, His power coming into your lives to help keep the two of you one. Through this immense gift of love, He will increase the joy and happiness you will share in good times and will give you the power to endure sufferings in bad.

To be spiritually ready to receive all that God wants to give you it is essential that the Catholic Bride and Groom should receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation within the week prior to your wedding day.

You may attend any one of the regularly scheduled times for reception of this Sacrament at St. Joseph Catholic Church or you may call the office of St. Joseph's and schedule a time with one of our priests. Optionally, you may receive Reconciliation from another Catholic parish.

FAQs and Other Information

MUSIC FOR YOUR CEREMONY—Planning for the proper music can be a daunting task. St. Joseph's Music Director, Leszek Bartkiewicz, is immensely helpful at assisting you on your music selections. It is important that you contact him at 248.693.0440 ext. 204, well in advance of your date, to discuss wedding music, fees, etc.

If you wish to have additional musicians or vocalists to be part of your ceremony, approval is required. Please contact Leszek at the above number before making any arrangements.



MARRIAGE LICENSE—Arrange to obtain your marriage license by contacting your local county clerk's office. (Here, in Oakland County contact information is www.oakgov.com or 248.858.0571). The application cost is \$20. Payable by cash or charge. Generally there is a three-day waiting period and the **license is good for 33 days after it is issued**. You'll each need to bring a birth certificate

and driver's license when you apply for a license.

Bring your marriage **license to the church office one week prior to the wedding** so that it can be properly filled out.

PHOTOGRAPHERS AND VIDEOGRAPHERS—

Photographers and videographers are asked to check with the presider or Wedding Coordinator before the ceremony.

They will be asked to respect the sacredness of the place and of the liturgy, and to avoid distracting the wedding party and guests.

Additionally they are not permitted in the sanctuary or near the altar during the wedding liturgy.



WEDDING CEREMONY BOOKLETS—Wedding ceremony booklets are not mandatory but do help your guests to participate more fully in the ceremony.

- ◆ Allow sufficient time to compose your booklet. They can be printed professionally or done on a home computer.
- ◆ Booklet covers can be obtained through religious supply stores.
- ◆ Please contact Sue Audette at saude2@stjoelo.org if you would like to see or have sent to you electronic sample copies.

OFFERINGS AND STIPENDS—All fees and stipends should be turned in to your Wedding Coordinator at your rehearsal.

- ◆ An offering of \$500 (\$700 for non-parishioners) for use of the church, is suggested but this is at your discretion. Checks should be made out to St. Joseph Church.
- ◆ The Music Director's stipend of \$150 check should be made out to Leszek Bartkiewicz.
- ◆ A stipend for the Wedding Coordinator \$50 (cash) should be provided.
- ◆ You may give your presider an appreciation gift as well.