

SAINT JOSPEH ~ SAINT RAPHAEL PARISH

MARRIAGE POLICY

The marriage of people is both a human and a sacred event. For Christians marriage is an image of the union between Christ and His Church. The ceremony of marriage according to the Rite of the Roman Catholic Church is a religious celebration of this belief.

It is our hope to help each celebration of matrimony to be both a joyful and holy event. In order to avoid misunderstanding we want to make clear the following elements of the celebration of marriage at St. Joseph and St. Raphael Churches.

CEREMONY:

The religious character of the Rite of Marriage should be kept in mind. The participant liturgical season (i.e. Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and Ordinary Time) must be respected. So, for example, we would expect in the season of Lent few decorations or flowers.

Generally the Eucharist is celebrated in the marriage of two practicing Catholics. If the bride or groom are either Non-Catholic or a Non-Practicing Catholic the Eucharist is usually not celebrated. The Eucharist may not be celebrated if one of the parties is a Non-Baptized person.

Weddings are celebrated on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and at 6:00 p.m. or 6:30 p.m. Weddings may be celebrated between Monday and Friday with the time to be arranged with the officiating minister. Weddings are not celebrated on Sunday.

MUSIC:

Music in Catholic Ceremonies is intended to be a form of prayer. The couple is asked to keep this in mind. Music that is not Liturgical or that is purely Secular is best used at the reception.

The couple must contact the Parish Music Director to plan the music for the wedding. Mrs. Suzanne Grote at 937-767-7911. All aspects of music performed in church are under the direction of the Parish Music Director. Payment of fees for the music is handled directly between the Music Director and the couple.

DECORATIONS:

Simplicity rather than extravagance is encouraged as suitable to enhance the wedding ceremony. (NOTHING IS EVER PLACED ON THE ALTAR). If the Church already has extensive floral arrangements such as at Christmas or Easter seasons additional flowers would not be necessary.

Candelabra are not permitted in the sanctuary. Candles along the pews are permitted. Globes must be used with the lighted candles. We ask that “non wax” candles be used. The aisle of St. Joseph Church is 96 feet long; the aisle at St. Raphael is 50 feet long. The use of an aisle cloth is permitted. However, they often cause tripping and difficulty for walking and we discourage their use.

If the florist has not decorated in St. Joseph or St. Raphael before, he or she should contact the Parish Office concerning decorations in the church. Some florists may encourage couples to seek extra expense for a “unity candle”. This is not part of the Rite of Marriage of the Church. It seems to some to be a redundant gesture and therefore discouraged from the religious ceremony. However, if the couple wants to use this in the wedding ceremony, this must be approved by the celebrant prior to any discussion with the florist.

PHOTOGRAPHY:

To preserve the prayerful and religious character of the ceremony only one professional photographer is permitted to take pictures. We ask that this made be clear to family and friends in attendance. No one else is to take pictures during the ceremony.

The photographer is to contact the celebrant prior to the celebration for instructions and is required to follow the photography policy.

Video taping is discouraged. If it does take place, only one video camera may be used. It is to be placed on a tripod in the balcony of the church. It is to remain stationary during the ceremony.

Family and group photographs are permitted prior to and after the ceremony. All should respect that the church is not a photography studio but a sacred place of worship. In order to attend to your guests we encourage the taking of pictures prior to the ceremony. After the ceremony the photographer is limited to 30 minutes. The steps of the sanctuary may be used for photographs. However, no one is permitted in the sanctuary proper. No sanctuary furniture is to be moved.

OTHER CONCERNS:

The receiving line is to be done at the reception hall, not in the church. The throwing of rice, birdseed, confetti, etc, is not allowed inside or outside of the church.

The suggested offering to the parish is \$100.00. The fee for non-parishioners using St. Joseph or St. Raphael Churches is \$200.00 which must be paid no later than one month prior to the wedding date. Normally non-parishioners must secure the services of their own celebrant.

Non-Parishioners must first make contact with their proper parish. Your proper pastor would be the pastor of the parish you currently live in. You might call a Catholic Church in your area to find out what territory you live in.

You and your fiancé then need to make an appointment with the pastor and begin marriage preparation. At that point you should explain to him that you are requesting marriage at St. Joseph or St. Raphael Churches. He must give Pastor Father Caylor permission for that.

The fee for St. Joseph or St. Raphael Churches is \$200.00. When the pastor has given permission we request a \$50.00 payment to hold the date. The remaining \$150.00 is to be paid one month prior to the wedding date. The fee is fully refundable should for any reason the wedding is cancelled.

So, your first step is to make contact with your local parish. The pastor will work with you and your fiancé for marriage preparation. The pastor should write to Pastor Father Caylor that he is giving permission for the marriage to be celebrated at St. Joseph or St. Raphael Churches.

The celebrant does not receive a stipend for the celebration of weddings. A personal gift is appropriate. If the parish provides servers a \$10.00 offering is suggested for each server.

The consumption of alcohol on St. Joseph or St. Joseph property before, during or after the rehearsal of wedding is not permitted. If any member of the wedding party is known to have been drinking or using drugs they will be asked to leave immediately and not be permitted to participate. If this applies to the bride or groom the wedding ceremony will be cancelled.

The above information has been offered to you as you prepare for marriage. Some of it reflects some unfortunate past experiences. Some of it reflects the religious importance we place in the wedding ceremony. We hope that all of it will help to make your wedding a celebration of your loved blessed and united by God.

May Christ, who was a wedding guest at Cana, be the guest of honor in your heart and your home.