

## GETTING MARRIED AT ST. HENRY CATHOLIC CHURCH

Congratulations on your upcoming wedding at St. Henry parish! We look forward to sharing the joy and excitement of your wedding with you and your families.

The fact that you have chosen to marry in the church suggests that you see your Christian faith as an important part of your loving relationship. Great! We do, too. Your love for each other is a sign of God's love for you. Your union is one that will bring you closer to God and His people. That's why it's a sacrament.

Your preparation for the celebration of this sacrament involves personal reflection, discussion between yourselves, and consultation with those involved in the ceremony.

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The information below will give you an idea of the nuts and bolts of getting married at St. Henry's.

#### ***How soon should I we call to schedule our wedding?***

Please give us a call at least six months in advance to begin the planning process. This time allows the priest or deacon to get to know you personally, and to complete pre-marriage counseling. You'll also need to meet with the Music Minister and the wedding coordinator to plan your ceremony and schedule the rehearsal. Our number is 937.434.9231.

#### ***What about marriage preparation?***

St. Henry Parish has had an in-parish program for over twenty years. We'll connect you with a sponsor couple based upon such things as interests, interfaith marriage, family size, etc. You will meet with the sponsor couple approximately four times. In the event that it is impossible or impractical to meet with a sponsor couple, the Archdiocese of Cincinnati also provides Marriage Preparation days through-out the area.

We also use a self-reporting instrument called FOCCUS to help identify important areas of discussion in the marriage preparation process. Most couples do the FOCCUS process with the priest or deacon who will preside at the ceremony.

#### ***What kind of documentation do we need?***

Catholic brides and grooms will need to obtain a recent (issued within the last 6 months) **baptismal certificate**. This is easily obtained from the parish where you were baptized. Don't know where you were baptized? Ask your mother.

Other baptized Christians will need to provide proof of their baptism. A letter from your church or other such documentation is fine. You'll also need a valid **Ohio marriage license**. This may be obtained from the probate court in the county in which you live. They are good anywhere in Ohio, but expire after 60 days. Remember, we cannot marry you without a valid license.

#### ***How much do you charge to get married at St. Henry's?***

We charge \$300 minus your last two years **recorded** contributions. This fee covers cost using the church and paying the wedding coordinators. It does not include music. Please settle all accounts prior to the wedding rehearsal.

This is not a gift to the priest or deacon. Any gift for the priest or deacon is at the discretion of the couple – always appreciated, but never required or expected.

***Who may preside at the ceremony?***

Usually, the parish priest or deacon would preside at the wedding. However, any Catholic priest or deacon in good standing who has a license to witness marriages in Ohio will be welcomed at St. Henry's.

***What if we are living out of town and coming to St Henry for our wedding?***

It is still necessary to fulfill the preparation process. You may do that in the parish where you live and have the certificates and other paperwork forwarded to St. Henry Parish.

***I am marrying a non-Catholic. Will we have a Mass?***

In our diocese, the Archbishop no longer allows interfaith weddings to include Mass. Your wedding will be a beautiful ceremony of lessons from God's Word, and moving prayers and blessings to mark the occasion. You won't be disappointed.

***What time may I have my wedding?***

The usual times for weddings are 10:00am, 2:00pm or 7:00pm on Saturday.

***What time is the rehearsal?***

Generally, the time is after 6:00pm on the Friday evening before the wedding. That will be arranged with the wedding coordinator at everyone's mutual convenience.

***May we use pew bows?***

Yes. They may be put on up to 90 minutes before the ceremony and removed immediately after the ceremony. Please attach them in such a way that there will be no damage done to the pews. Elastic bands and plastic clips work well. Please do not use tape or pins.

***What about a unity candle?***

The church provides a table for the unity candle. The side candles, family candles, are lit before the procession. The bride and groom will light the center candle after the exchange of vows and rings.

***What about a receiving line?***

We recommend that the receiving line take place at the reception. That would allow more time for visiting with guests. If there is a receiving line, there will be no time for pictures in the church after the wedding. Please consult the wedding coordinator.

***What if I have other questions? Whom should I call?***

Please do not hesitate to call or contact the church office. You may wish to speak with the wedding coordinator or pastoral support person. They often can answer your questions. If not, they will know whom to contact for assistance.

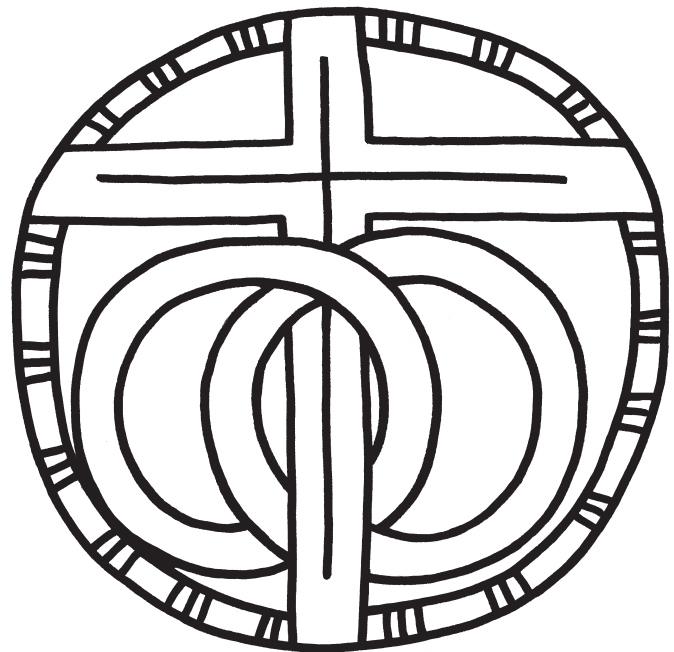
WWW.STHENRYPARISH.COM  
WWW.STHENRYMUSIC.COM

**Below are some special instructions for your photographer and videographer, and for your florist and decorator. They are printed on separate pages so you may distribute them to your provider of services.**

### ***PHOTOS & VIDEOS***

We know you want your wedding to be a prayerful and dignified occasion. We do, too. Please share the information below with your photographer and videographer.

- Photography and videotaping should not interfere with the beauty or the flow of the ceremony.
- The wedding party and photographer may access the church one and a half hours before the wedding. The church will also be at their disposal for one half hour after the wedding.
- Flash pictures are permitted during the opening procession and recessional only. All other videotaping and photography will be with existing/natural light only. Please include this in your program or worship aid.
- The photographer and videographer must remain behind the first pew at all times during the ceremony. Photos may be taken from the center aisle during the entrance and recessional only. The flow should not stop for photos.
- Remote cameras and wireless microphones are not permitted.
- The clergy area is not available for photos at any time.
- Sanctuary furniture, decorations, or flowers may not be moved by the photographer, videographer, or family members. No standing on or placing of equipment on any church furnishings.
- The church is a sacred space and should be respected and treated as such.
- We ask photographers and videographers to introduce themselves to the wedding coordinator before the wedding. If there are any questions, please direct them to the wedding coordinator.

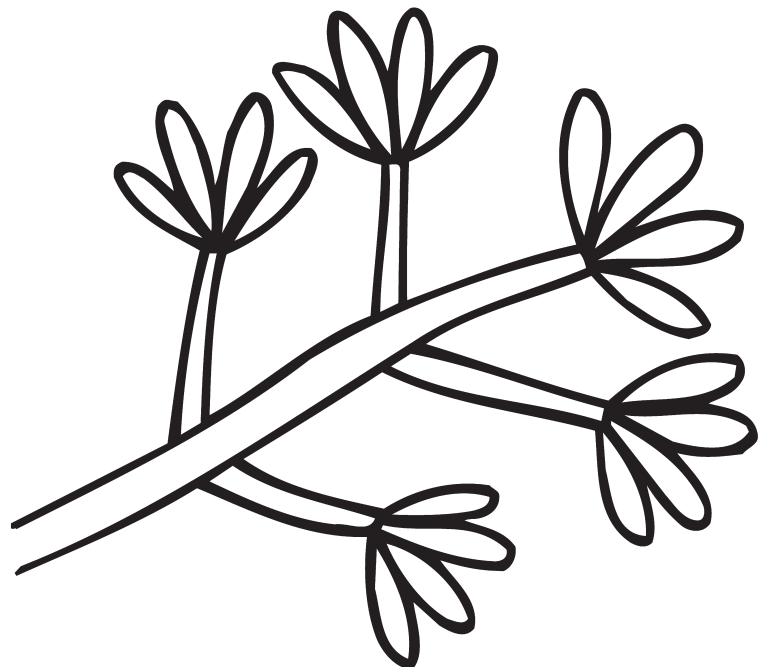


## **FLOWERS & DECORATIONS**

We welcome your efforts to beautify the worship space for your wedding at St. Henry Parish. Please share these guidelines with those assisting with the flowers and decorations.

Special planning goes into the environment for worship. During seasons such as Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter the worship space is prepared in a seasonally appropriate manner. These decorations will add to the beauty of the others decorations that you may choose to add.

- Floral decorations should be in good liturgical taste.
- Please do not place any decorations on the altar. Please consult with the wedding coordinator for appropriate placement.
- Candelabras are not permitted.
- Roping is not permitted.
- Due to the risk of fall or injury and the need for cleanup, we do not permit the throwing of confetti, birdseed, rice, or flower petals inside or outside of the church. The same pertains to the use of aisle runners.
- Floral set-up and decorations may be placed one and one-half hours before the wedding. Please be sure that all other church services have concluded before placement begins.
- St. Henry Parish is not responsible for any florist items left in the building or on the grounds at the conclusion of the wedding.



# CHECKLIST

This checklist is provided to help you keep track of all those pesky little details that can so easily get away from you. Feel free to add your own reminders.

- A copy of your baptismal records, with notations, that has been issued within six months of your wedding date.
- Marriage license
- Met with wedding coordinator to plan “choreography” and set date and time for rehearsal
- Completed FOCCUS instrument
- Completed meetings with sponsor couple for in-parish PreCana
- Contacted the Music Minister to select music and review program/worship aid
- Met with presider to select prayers and readings
- Shared guidelines with
  - Photographer
  - Videographer
  - Florist

