

Guidelines for Celebrating the Sacrament of Marriage

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Revised 1/20/2024

A Note from our Pastor

Hello and thank you for taking an important step in creating the future you have always dreamed of. We are grateful that you would like our parish and team to be a part of it.

Your wedding day will always be one of the most memorable days of your life and in the lives of those who celebrate it with you. It is given even greater importance because on this day, through the sacrament, you make a covenant with each other and with God, in the presence of the clergy, your relatives and friends as witnesses.

At St. Francis de Sales, we want your wedding to be unforgettable and fully significant. Our wedding preparation program has been thoughtfully designed to assist you in planning and preparing not only your wedding Mass or ceremony, but also helping you to center your relationship as husband and wife around Jesus Christ. Take your time, read the guidelines and jot down your questions. Then give us a call. Be assured that we are sensitive to the fact that there may be special situations where exceptions to these wedding guidelines or the suggested stipends may be needed. Any exception should be discussed with and approved well in advance.

In the meantime, don't forget to have fun with the planning process and know that our team will be praying for you. May our Lord bless you in your decision for marriage in the Catholic Church and may holy St. Francis de Sales guide your path to unity in God's sacrament.

In Christ,

Fr. Dave Sizemore

1. Vin W. Sigamore

Pastor

Important Contacts

Saint Francis de Sales Church Parish Office

Address: 45 Granville Street, Newark, OH 43055

Contact: Nancy Buchanan - <u>nerkbucks@roadrunner.com</u> - 740-975-9232

Wedding Preparation

Fr. Dave Sizemore Fr. Mike Gentry Deacon Eric Wright

<u>frdave@stfrancisparish.net</u> <u>fathermike@stfrancis.net</u> <u>ewright@stfrancisparish.net</u>

740-345-9874 x202 740-345-9874 x205 740-345-9874 x 210

Wedding (Rehearsal and Wedding) Coordinator

Jacque Annarino Cathy Brill

Music Director

Music Selection and Accompanist

Matt Munhall, Director of Music and Liturgies

mmunhall@stfrancisparish.net Text him at: (614) 537-1933

Marriage License Bureau

Licking County Courthouse (downtown on the public square)

1 N. Park Place, Newark, Ohio 43055

The Licking County Probate Court – First Floor

https://lickingcounty.gov/depts/probate/marriage_license/applying_for_a_marriage_license.htm

** By Appointment Only ** Telephone: (740) 670-5624

Hours: 8:15 a.m. -4:30 p.m. Monday – Friday

Licenses are only valid for 60 days. Refer to the Bureau's website for information.

Fertility Education & Medical Management (FEMM)

Rhonda Campbell (740) 915-6748

Ladiesfirstfertility@gmail.com

Diocesan of Columbus – Pre-Cana Marriage Formation Day

Jason Spoolstra, Associate Director of Marriage and Family Life jspoolstra@columbuscatholic.org

Website: https://columbuscatholic.org/marriage-family/marriageprep/marriage-

formation-day-pre-cana-retreat

Before Planning Begins

Entering a Christian marriage relationship requires prayer and thoughtful preparation. Therefore, each couple is asked to consider the following guidelines developed by the St. Francis de Sales team in order to assist you in coming to this beautiful moment in your life.

Who May be Married at St. Francis de Sales?

At least one party to the marriage (bride or groom) must be an active-registered member of St. Francis de Sales Parish. Only the pastor can waive this requirement. Active-Registered Parishioners are defined as follows:

- o Someone who has been registered at St. Francis de Sales Parish for at least 6 months before the scheduling of the marriage.
- o Someone who regularly attends Sunday Mass.
- Someone who regularly gives to the offertory collection or fulfills a pledge to the parish.

Children of long-time active-registered parishioners are considered regular members for the purpose of marriage and may be married in the Church without being registered independent of their parents.

Previous Marriages

Both parties must be free to marry in the Catholic Church before a date can be set for the wedding. If one or both parties have been married before, they are only considered "free to marry" if the Church has declared their marriage invalid and an annulment has been granted. This applies to all previous unions, including those between two non-Catholics. If you are divorced and have not yet received an annulment, you cannot schedule a wedding until one has been granted. If you are unsure of your status, or on how to proceed, please speak to the priest or deacon preparing you for marriage as soon as possible.

Mass or Ceremony

Ordinarily, the Rite of Marriage takes place in one of two contexts:

- 1. The Mass both bride and groom are Catholic. Lasts approximately 1 hour including the processional and recessional.
- 2. Ceremony Catholic marries a non-Catholic or unbaptized person. Lasts approximately 45 to 50 minutes including the processional and recessional.

Officiating Clergy

Our pastor or deacon usually performs the weddings here at St. Francis de Sales. If you want another <u>Catholic</u> clergyman to perform your ceremony, he must be <u>licensed by the State of Ohio</u>

and either he or his parish will assume responsibility for all necessary paperwork and pre-marital interviews and counseling. Please discuss this at your first visit with our team as delegation by the pastor of St. Francis de Sales will be necessary for another clergy to marry you at our parish. Please contact the Secretary of the State of Ohio for information pertaining to the civil license necessary for an out of state priest or deacon to marry you. Any priest or deacon is welcomed to concelebrate; however, this request should be approved in advance.

Frank LaRose, Ohio Secretary of State

Minister Licenses

https://www.ohiosos.gov/records/minister-licenses/general-information/

Toll Free: (877) 767-6446 or (614) 466-2655

Murphy Hall Rental

Couples wishing to rent Murphy Hall (45 Granville Street, Newark, OH) for rehearsal dinner or wedding receptions should contact the parish office after their first appointment with the Priest/Deacon and the wedding has been scheduled. The hall will comfortably accommodate 100 guests.

Steps in the Marriage Preparation Process

Use this checklist to ensure tasks are completed on time for a wedding at our parish.

One Year to Six Months Prior to Wedding

Contact the Parish Office

The first step in your wedding preparation is to contact the parish office to give your initial information so that the first appointment with a priest or deacon can be scheduled to discuss your wedding here at St. Francis.

Meeting with the Priest/Deacon

All couples must meet with the parish priest or deacon. At your first meeting, the clergy will discuss the process of preparation for marriage with you and answer any questions you may have. He will provide you with a helpful and easy to use marriage checklist to review the paperwork necessary for your wedding. Your formal church application for marriage will be completed at this time and a tentative date will be confirmed. He will also inquire about any special circumstances surrounding your marriage and any questions you may have about them. You will then be given a questionnaire to complete called *Fully Engaged*. *Fully Engaged* is a tool created to help engaged couples prepare for married life in a very practical and spiritual way, in accordance with the principles and traditions of our Catholic faith. Following this meeting, you will have 14 days to return your wedding agreement.

Scheduling Your Wedding Day

Weddings are celebrated on Saturdays at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Rehearsals are arranged by appointment only with the wedding coordinator (see wedding rehearsals on page 8) but are usually held the night before the wedding at 5:00 p.m. Your date cannot

be reserved until after your initial meeting with the priest or deacon and your deposit is received at the parish office.

Saint Francis Parish Mentor Program

Engaged couples will answer questions on the *Fully Engaged* survey. Once your answers are scored, you will be assigned to a married couple in our *Marriage Mentor* preparation ministry. As facilitators of the *Fully Engaged* program, the mentor couple will guide the engaged couple through consideration of the major categories of married life. This usually occurs over several meetings between the couples. One-on-one marriage mentoring offers the best possible marriage preparation today.

Diocese of Columbus Marriage Preparation

Engaged Couples are asked to participate in a Marriage Formation Day (Pre-Cana Retreat). The retreat is the on-site experience for engaged couples from all around the diocese to begin their formal marriage preparation process. The day includes a series of talks and activities such as: Marriage as the Sacrament, the Vows, Prayer, Sexuality in the marriage as God planned it to be, Natural Family Planning, and more. To register, click on this Register Link which includes available dates and locations. There is a \$125 fee per couple for this retreat. If you have any questions about this retreat, email Jason Spoolstra at Jspoolstra@columbuscatholic.org.

The <u>Catholic Diocese of Columbus</u> has a lot information and resources on their website related to Marriage Preparation.

Fertility Education and Medical Management (FEMM)

For Natural Family Planning (NFP), contact Rhonda Campbell RN, Certified FEMM Teacher at: ladiesfirstfertility@gmail.com – (740) 915-6748.

- Introduction to NFP/FEMM: (Mandatory for all couples.) This is an overview of NFP, which covers the many different methods of NFP and provides information on how to decide which method is right for you, and how to find on-line and in-person classes. It also provides an introduction to Fertility Education and Medical Management (FEMM). Certificate of Completion provided. (\$50 30 minute "live" on-line course.
- **FEMM Classes** Couples learn how women can identify and chart their hormonal biomarkers as signs of health and fertility. This model of Natural Family Planning (NFP) is based on science and medicine and is consistent with Catholic teaching.
 - Free Introduction to FEMM (not required if you have already taken Introduction to NFP/FEMM, but you are welcome to attend.)
 - FEMM and Your Health: Learn how hormones influence health and to chart your hormonal activity. (\$50 1-hour session)
 - FEMM Expert: Learn to identify healthy patterns or health problems. ((\$50 1-hour session)
 - FEMM Family Planning: Learn to manage your fertility, ((\$50 1-hour session)
- The 3 sessions will be offered quarterly over a 3-month period. Rhonda is willing to conduct additional in-person or "live" on-line classes to meet your scheduling needs.
- Rhonda is consulting with a Catholic FEMM trained physician, Dr. Lindsay Baird Rerko, D.O. Dr. Rerko has a Family Medicine/OB-GYN practice in Westerville and

conducts in-person and telemedicine visits. Contact Dr. Rerko at columbus@femmhelath.org.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Marriage is a beautiful sacrament of the Church and the beginning of a new way of life. It should be received while in the state of grace in one's relationship with Christ. Therefore, Catholics are asked to make a good confession of their sins in the Sacrament of Reconciliation regularly, but definitely prior to their wedding. Please consult the parish bulletin or website for celebration times.

Three Months Prior to Wedding

Wedding Coordinator

The Saint Francis Wedding Coordinator assists each couple in preparing for the wedding Ceremony. She will coordinate rehearsals, work with the florist and photographer to ensure proper protocol is followed and assists the wedding party and clergy on the wedding day. Your assigned wedding coordinator will contact you 90 days prior to your ceremony, or she may be contacted directly to answer your wedding questions at any time once your wedding has been scheduled with the Parish office.

Sometimes a couple will choose to employ a bridal coordinator to assist them in the finer details of preparing for their marriage and reception. St. Francis de Sales welcomes these outside coordinators in their role of providing support for the couple; however,. The St. Francis de Sales wedding coordinator is responsible for adherence to the liturgical guidelines of the church and will conduct the rehearsal for that purpose.

Music and Video Production

Matt Munhall is our Director of Music and is familiar with the appropriate music. He has first right of refusal for music for weddings, so it is important to contact him before reaching out to other musicians. If you wish to use outside musicians or soloists (e.g., friends of the family) again, please contact Matt to coordinate the music as all selections must be liturgically appropriate. He can also coordinate a video production of your ceremony. (See Facility Fees and Stipends).

Evening Prior to Wedding

The Wedding Rehearsal

The rehearsal time must be scheduled with the wedding coordinator. The rehearsal is generally scheduled for the Friday evening before the wedding. The wedding coordinator will be conducting your rehearsal. You will do a "walk through" of the Ceremony so that everyone will be familiar with his or her role. It is extremely important that everyone involved in the wedding liturgy be present. Occasionally, there is more than one rehearsal or event scheduled for the same evening. In order to avoid interfering with other rehearsals or events, please be sure that you and your wedding party are on time.

Documents Checklist

This is a checklist which helps ensure all diocesan paperwork is in order prior to your wedding date.

Wedding Agreement

The Wedding Agreement (Page 18) must be signed by the bride and groom and returned to the parish office within 14 days of your initial meeting with the priest or deacon.

Marriage Checklist Items

All items listed on the Marriage Checklist, provided by the priest or deacon at your initial meeting, must be complete and submitted to the parish office as soon as possible.

Baptismal Record

Depending on your background, the requirements vary. Hard copies are needed to fulfill diocesan obligations.

- Catholic A <u>new</u>, certified copy of your baptismal certificate is required (if baptism occurred at another parish). This certificate is sent to St. Francis de Sales from the parish where you were originally baptized.
- Non-Catholic Christian A copy of your original baptismal certificate is required.
- o Non-baptized person No document is required.

Marriage License

The civil license for marriage is to be presented to the wedding coordinator at the wedding rehearsal. Although there is no waiting period, applicants for a marriage license are strongly encouraged to apply for the marriage license no less than ten (10) days prior to the scheduled wedding. Wedding licenses are good for 60 days.

Application for license must be made under oath by **BOTH** the bride and groom to the probate court of the county in which either party resides. See Important Contact Info on Page 3. Our staff will file the completed paperwork with the court after the Mass or ceremony.

Church Etiquette

So that your wedding guests are comfortable, and our parish maintains its character, we have the following guidelines regarding décor and behavior:

- Alcoholic beverages are not permitted on church property before or after the wedding.
- Only water is permitted in the church or bridal dressing room.
- Smoking is not permitted on church property.
- Furnishings and fixtures are not to be moved under any circumstances.

- For security purposes, all belongings of the wedding party and guests are to be removed from the bridal dressing room prior to the start of the Mass or ceremony.
- Use of bubbles and bells are permitted <u>outside</u> only, however no rice, flower petals, birdseed, or balloons may be used as part of the wedding celebration inside or outside of the church.
- To prevent damage to the pews and other surfaces in the church, we ask that nothing be attached to the pews that would mark or scratch (no tape, metal, or plastic clips). Bows may be attached to the pews using elastic bands or ribbon.
- All pew decorations and belongings of the wedding party/guests **must be** removed from the church immediately following the Mass or ceremony.
- If the wedding is during Lent, plans should respect the special nature of this liturgical season and should refrain from too much pomp or display. Advent, Christmas, Lenten, and Easter decorations **may not** be altered in any way.
- The altar cloth may not be changed. The cloth reflects the liturgical season and will remain this way for weddings.
- Nothing is to be placed on top of the altar table.
- Candles in the floral bouquets or on the pews are not permitted for safety reasons. Any
 use of candles beyond the amount needed for the liturgical purposes are the responsibility
 of the couple. Candle placement must be cleared well in advance with your wedding
 coordinator.
- Outside decorations are permitted only on the existing door hangers on the front of the church.
- Due to space limitations, receiving lines inside the church or row by row dismissals are not permitted.

Programs

Programs, which are an optional wedding element, are a brief outline of the order of the Ceremony to be followed, the features presented and the persons participating. The program helps everyone gathered to participate more fully in the wedding liturgy. It is the responsibility of the couple to provide a program; however, if you have questions regarding the format, please contact the wedding coordinator. Sample programs for a wedding celebration both outside and during Mass are included found on page 11 and 12.

Sample Program – Wedding Ceremony (Priest or Deacon)

Seating of the Mothers

"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" (Bach)

Processional

Presentation of the Wedding Party

"Canon in D" (Pachelbel)

Presentation of the Bride

"Trumpet Voluntary" (Clarke)

The Liturgy of the Word

Old Testament Reading

Song of Songs 2:8-16 (*Insert Reader's Name*)

Responsorial Psalm (Insert Vocalist's Name)

Psalm 145:8-18

The Response is "The Lord is compassionate to all his creatures."

New Testament Reading

Colossians 3:12-17 (*Insert Reader's Name*)

Gospel

Matthew 22:35-40 (Insert Priest/Deacon's Name)

Homily (Insert Priest/Deacon's Name)

Rite of Marriage

Exchange of Vows

Blessing and Exchanging of Rings

Prayers of the Faithful (*Insert Reader's Name*)

Lord's Prayer and Nuptial Blessing

Presentation to the Blessed Mother (Optional)

Final Blessing and Benediction

Recessional

Prelude to the "Te Deum" (Charpentier)

Sample Program – Wedding Mass (Priest)

Seating of the Mothers "Ave Maria" (Schubert)

Processional

Presentation of the Wedding Party
"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" (Bach)
Presentation of the Bride
"Trumpet Voluntary" (Clarke)

The Liturgy of the Word

Old Testament Reading – Genesis 2:18-24 (Insert Reader's Name)
Responsorial Psalm – Psalm 103:1-2, 8, 13, 17-18a (Insert Vocalist's Name)
The Response is "The Lord is kind and merciful."
New Testament Reading – 1 Corinthians 12:31 - 13:8a (Insert Reader's Name)
Gospel – John 15:9-12 (Insert Priest/Deacon's Name)
Homily – (Insert Priest/Deacon's Name)

Rite of Marriage

Exchange of Vows
Blessing and Exchanging of Rings

Prayers of the Faithful (Insert Reader's Name)

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Presentation of the Gifts (*Insert Gift Bearers Names*)
Eucharistic Prayers
The Lord's Prayer and Nuptial Blessing
Invitation to the Sign of Peace
Communion

Presentation to the Blessed Mother (optional)

Final Blessing and Benediction

Recessional

Prelude to the "Te Deum" (Charpentier)

Fees and Stipends

Facility fees are due to the Office as soon as possible. Please pay by cash or check. If paying by check please make checks payable to **St. Francis de Sales Parish**.

| Fees | Amount | Due | Due Date |
|-----------------------------------|----------|---|-----------------|
| | | Due at 1 st meeting with clergy – to | |
| Non-Refundable Fee | \$100.00 | reserve wedding date and for parish prep | |
| | | fees | |
| Non Active Designand | | \$100 deposit due at 1st meeting with | |
| Non-Active Registered Parishioner | \$350.00 | clergy. Balance due at least 1 month prior | |
| Parismoner | | to wedding. | |
| | | \$200 deposit due at 1st meeting with | |
| Non-Member | \$650.00 | clergy. Balance due at least 1 month prior | |
| | | to wedding. | |

Ceremony Stipends must be given to the Wedding Coordinator the night of rehearsal. Please pay by cash or check. If paying by check please make checks payable to **each individual**. Contact the wedding coordinator for names.

| Ceremony Stipends | Amount | Due | Due Date |
|---|----------|---|-----------------|
| Parish Priest/Deacon | \$200.00 | Due to Wedding Coordinator at rehearsal | |
| Director of Music | \$200.00 | Due to Wedding Coordinator at rehearsal | |
| Wedding Coordinator | \$150.00 | Due to Wedding Coordinator at rehearsal | |
| Saint Francis Video Production of Ceremony | \$500.00 | Due to Wedding Coordinator at rehearsal | |
| Soloist (if different than Director of Music) | \$100.00 | Due to Wedding Coordinator at rehearsal | |

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Florist & Flower Guidelines

You may use any florist you wish. Many brides choose to coordinate colors with the current liturgical seasons. During festive seasons, especially Christmas and Easter, floral decorations may be a complement to, not a substitute for, decorations already in place for regular parish celebrations. During Lent, plans should respect the special nature of this liturgical season and should refrain from too much pomp or display. The following are a few guidelines to share with your florist while making plans for your décor and flowers for your wedding at St. Francis de Sales:

- The number of flowers to be used at the wedding is at the discretion of the couple, but floral arches or other extravagant arrangements may not be used.
- Flower delivery should be 1-2 hours prior to the Wedding Ceremony.
- Upon arrival, please consult with the Wedding Coordinator.
- If the florist will not be servicing the wedding, all corsages/boutonnieres must be labeled clearly and distributed by a person appointed by the couple.
- Flowers may not be placed on the altar.
- When placing arrangements on the floor in front of the altar, the top of the arrangement may not breach the top of the altar; therefore, they must be less than 38" in height.
- Florists should check with the Wedding Coordinator regarding placement of arrangements in the church.
- When multiple weddings occur on the same day, some couples have chosen to share in the expense of flowers. Consult with the Wedding Coordinator to coordinate.
- Flowers donated to the church after the Wedding Ceremony are greatly appreciated.
- If flowers will not remain in the church, they must be removed immediately following the Wedding Ceremony.
- The cost, care, and return of rented items are the sole responsibility of the couple.

| Date | |
|-----------------|--|
| | |
| | |
| Name of Engaged | |

This signed form must be submitted to the parish office at least one week prior to the wedding.

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Photographer/Videographer Guidelines

We welcome photographers and videographers, both professional and amateur. However, the following guidelines must be observed. Marriage is a sacred rite of the church. It is important for all involved to help establish this atmosphere. The church itself is not a studio, but a sacred place in which a community of believers celebrates common worship. Care on the part of the photographer and videographer will protect the beauty of the Ceremony and achieve the desired pictures and video. The following are a few guidelines to share with your team while making plans for your wedding at St. Francis de Sales:

- Upon arrival, please consult with the wedding coordinator.
- No flash photography is permitted after the processional and before the recessional.
- No floodlights of any kind are permitted during the Ceremony.
- Once the liturgy has begun, please be as inconspicuous as possible.
- During this time, a photographer **may not** enter the altar area or the area between the altar steps and front pews.
- Once the Ceremony has begun (when the bride reaches the altar), you **may not** be any closer than the first pillar closest to the altar.
- Stationary video cameras are permitted in the choir loft of the church.
- Do not create a distraction for the musicians in the choir loft.
- Please store all equipment out of sight.
- Studio equipment is not to be set up in the church and no furnishings are to be moved for photos.
- The Blessed Sacrament Chapel is OFF LIMITS for photographs.

Time allowed for picture taking:

- Church doors will be open two hours prior to the wedding start time.
- Photo taking in the sanctuary prior to the wedding must end at least 45 minutes prior to the start of the Ceremony.
- Photo taking in the sanctuary following the wedding must end and the sanctuary must be vacated no later than 3:45 p.m.

<u>Please note</u>: A photographer or videographer who does not follow the guidelines stated above, will not be permitted to photograph/video tape weddings at St. Francis in the future.

| Photographer | Date | |
|--------------|-----------------|--|
| Videographer | | |
| | Date | |
| | | |
| | Name of Engaged | |
| Couple | | |

This signed form must be submitted to the parish office at least one week prior to the wedding.

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Wedding Agreement

This agreement indicates that you have read and agree with the guidelines set forth and confirms the date and time of the wedding as arranged at your initial meeting with the clergy. St. Francis de Sales reserves the right to cancel any scheduled wedding when these wedding guidelines are not observed or if it is determined that the marriage is in any way contrary to the teachings of the church.

Time: 10:00 a.m. or

2 p.m.

Date of Wedding:_____

| Bride's Printed Name: | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Bride's Signature: | Date: |
| Groom's Printed Name: | |
| Groom's Signature: | Date: |
| | |

This signed form is to be completed and submitted to the parish office within 14 days of initial clergy meeting.