



Saint Joseph Catholic Church
Fayetteville, Arkansas

Wedding
PLANNER

Sacred Scripture tells us in Genesis that God made the marriage of husband and wife a path to holiness and happiness. In the New Testament, Jesus raised the love of husband and wife to the level of a sacrament. In doing so, Our Lord assured us that He would be the central part of Christian marriage. St. Paul unpacked marital love even further by comparing it to the love between Jesus and His Bride, the Church. Spouses, therefore, have an exalted vocation: they are called to be living witness of Christ's love in the world today.

In asking to be married at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Fayetteville you are asking the priest or deacon (and those who will be present) to witness your commitment to love each other as Jesus loves us. This is the heart of marriage. A common cliché says, "The wedding lasts a day, but a marriage lasts a lifetime." If you want your marriage to last your whole life, and thereby witness to the love of Jesus, you must prepare well, understand what you are doing, and enter into marriage with all your heart.

The Church wishes to give you every opportunity to prepare well by inviting you to pray, discuss, listen, and

ask questions. The time and effort required for marriage preparation is very little when measured against a lifetime.

For our part, we will help you in every possible way and support you with our prayers, so that your wedding day will be the first day of a long, happy life together.

-The Priest and Deacons of
St. Joseph Church

TIME-FRAME FOR MARRIAGE PREPARATION

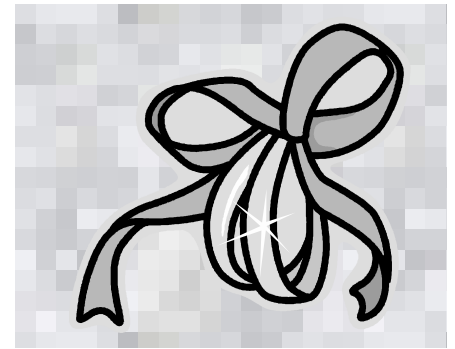
The Diocese of Little Rock requires 6 months of marriage preparation. **Once you have met with the priest, and he determines that there are no "impediments" (obstacles preventing you from marrying each other validly) you may set a wedding date.**

WEDDING DATES AND TIMES

Weddings are ordinarily celebrated on Saturdays, at 12:00 p.m., or at 7:00 p.m.

PRE-MARRIAGE COUNSELING AND NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

St. Joseph Catholic Church has two options for pre-marriage counseling: (1) "Sponsor Couple," offered by the parish, and (2) "Pre-Cana," offered by the Diocese of Little Rock. Your priest will help you choose



which works best for your circumstances.

The Sponsor Couple Marriage Preparation Program

consists of four sessions in the sponsor couple's home after the engaged couple has completed the FOCCUS, an evaluation tool designed to help you reflect, as a couple, on such topics as the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony, family of origin, communication, finances, love and sexuality, and parenting. Once you have met with the priest, Denny and Julie Crawford will contact you about taking the FOCCUS and scheduling the sessions with your sponsor couple. The fee for the program is \$40.00.

Pre-Cana is offered by the Family Life Office of the Diocese of Little Rock. It is a one-day retreat for engaged couples. During the retreat, married couples address the Sacrament of Marriage, communication, finances, love and sexuality, parenting and Natural Family Planning. In order to register, please call the Family Life Office at 501-664-0340 ext. 373 or visit their website: www.dolr.org/offices/familylife. The fee is \$50.00.

Natural Family Planning is also

part of marriage preparation. This program teaches couples how to cherish God's gift of human sexuality. The Church calls this "responsible parenthood," that is, planning when to have children according to God's timing. You may register for a local "NFP" course on-line at www.ccli.org. You can navigate through that website and register for courses offered here in Fayetteville, AR. The cost of the course is \$144; the parish will help cover some of that cost. (Please see the fee schedule on the last page.)

For more information, please contact Walter and Michelle Quinn at 479-839-8029, or at waltermichellequinn@juno.com.

PAPERWORK

In your first meeting with the priest, he will complete the required paperwork for your marriage. **The couple should bring the following items to that initial meeting:**

1. Catholics should bring a recent copy of their baptismal certificate. Please contact the parish where you were baptized and request a baptismal certificate, dated within 6 months.

2. If one of the parties is non-Catholic, the priest will explain the need for a "Freedom to Marry" affidavit.

3. If the couple is already civilly married, they should bring a

copy of their civil marriage license.

4. If there is a previous marriage, the party with the previous marriage must bring an annulment decree. If you need an annulment and have not yet obtained one, we must postpone marriage preparation until the annulment process is completed.

5. If a former spouse has passed away, please bring a copy of the death certificate.

MARRIAGE LICENSE

Marriage licenses are available at the Washington County Clerk's office on Dickson and College. Please do not obtain the marriage license more than a month before the actual wedding; it has an expiration date.

MINISTER OF CEREMONY

The priests and deacons of the parish are available to officiate at weddings for parishioners. Other priests or deacons are welcome to officiate at a wedding, but must have permission from the Diocese of Little Rock, as well as delegation from the pastor.

WEDDING CEREMONY

When both parties are Catholic, the wedding ceremony is ordinarily celebrated within Mass. For marriages between a Catholic and a non-Catholic, you may choose the ceremony of

"Marriage Outside of Mass," to be sensitive to the faith of non-Catholics.

WITNESSES

There must be two witnesses for the wedding. Generally, the Best Man and the Maid (Matron) of Honor serve in this capacity. The witnesses need not be Catholic.

ALTAR SERVERS

If the couple chooses, the parish can provide altar servers for your wedding. If you would like relatives or friends to serve at your wedding, please let the Parish Wedding Coordinator know as soon as possible. The customary offering for each server is \$10.00

PARISH WEDDING COORDINATOR

Barbara Wragg (479-445-9003) is the Wedding Coordinator for St. Joseph. She will gladly assist you with the many questions associated with a wedding here as well as the rehearsal and wedding. The fee for the Wedding Coordinator is \$100. You may, of course, employ an outside Wedding Coordinator for functions not related to St. Joseph Chapel Center.

MUSIC

Our Organist and Director of Music, Beau Baldwin (479-841-4466) is happy to help you plan the music for your wedding. He is a gifted musician who can play either the organ or piano and understands the requirements of a wedding liturgy at St. Joseph. He can also help you find musicians (trumpeters, singers, strings, etc.) of the highest caliber in the local area. The Music Director's fee for playing the organ or piano is \$125.

If outside musicians are used, you must still contact the Music Director to discuss the music. All wedding music must be of a sacred nature, and the Music Director ensures for Fr. Antony that the music conforms to the wedding liturgy policies of St. Joseph. If outside musicians are used, the Director of Music's consultant fee of \$50 will be paid by the parish.

"PROGRAM"

A "program" or "order of worship" greatly assists the assembly to participate actively in the celebration. An order of service typically consists of an outline of the service, words, and music to those parts which the congregation is expected to sing and speak. It is the responsibility of the couple to secure the necessary copyright permissions (check

with the Music Director). **Printing of the Order of Service is also your responsibility.**

BRIDE & GROOM 'S ROOMS

A bride's room and a groom's room are available for the convenience of the couple and their attendants. Boxes, paper and personal belongings must be removed immediately after the ceremony. We are not responsible for lost or stolen articles. Church law prohibits the consumption of alcohol prior to the ceremony. Alcoholic beverages of any type are not permitted on church property on the day of the wedding.

CHURCH ETIQUETTE

Please remember that we consider the church and the buildings of our parish part of "God's House", and ask you to treat the premises with respect and dignity. Kindly avoid loud talking inside the buildings. Throwing flower petals, rice, confetti, or bird seed is prohibited in and around the church building.

ADDRESS FOR INVITATIONS

St. Joseph Catholic Church
1722 North Starr Drive
Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701

PHOTOGRAPHS

Please abide by the following guidelines for photographs and videotaping of the wedding. If you plan to have photographs taken or have the ceremony videotaped, you are asked to give the enclosed "Guidelines" to the photographers.

*Keep
wedding
simple
Christ
centered*



Please inform them that they are to check in with the priest or deacon before the ceremony to make sure that there is an understanding of the rules governing their activity during the wedding.

REHEARSALS

A rehearsal for the wedding familiarizes all participants with the wedding ceremony and their respective roles. **Please make every effort to begin the rehearsal on time.** Either the priest or the Deacon and the Parish Wedding Coordinator will conduct the rehearsal. Please contact Barbara Wragg, the Parish Wedding Coordinator at 479-445-9003 for questions.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

We highly encourage Catholics to receive the sacrament of Confession prior to the wedding. A sincere confession will open your heart to receive all the graces that God wants to give you on your wedding day.

RECEPTION

If you choose to have your reception at St. Joseph, please refer to the Building Use Policy.

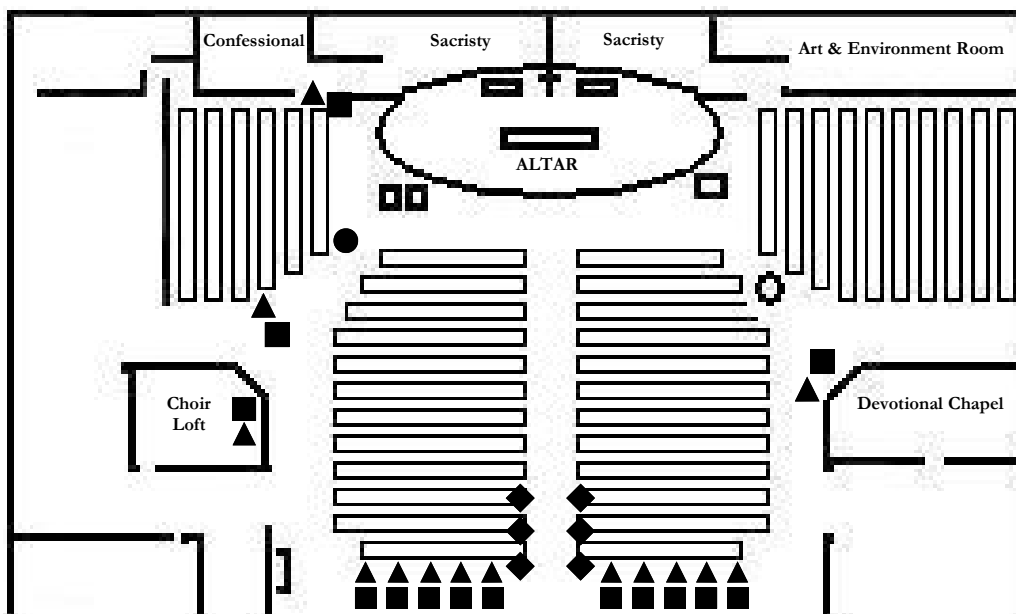
PHOTOGRAPHERS AND VIDEOGRAPHERS

IF YOU PLAN TO HAVE PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN, OR HAVE THE CEREMONY VIDEOTAPED, YOU ARE ASKED TO GIVE THE PHOTOGRAPHER AND VIDEOGRAPHER A COPY OF THE ATTACHED POLICY.

The following is a copy of the policy:

1. If any part of the ceremony is to be videotaped, the camera must be stationary and fixed in a pre-determined place. Please consult the drawing below for the acceptable positions of this equipment.
2. Still photographs of the procession may be taken from a designated place as diagrammed. The bridal party is not to be instructed to stop at any time during the procession for the benefit of the photographer.
3. During the ceremony, photographs may be taken from the rear of the church and from designated places near the sanctuary. Photographers and videographers **will not be allowed on the altar during the ceremony.**
4. Group and individual photographs may be taken up to 30 minutes prior to the ceremony or after the wedding. Please limit pictures taken after the ceremony to 45 minutes.
5. The priest or deacon are available for any photographs with the wedding party, but, because of their schedule, please arrange for these to be taken immediately after the ceremony.
6. Photographers and videographers should dress in a manner befitting the occasion.
7. If you have any questions regarding these guidelines, please contact the Parish Wedding Coordinator anytime before the ceremony.

Photographers and videographers choosing not to follow these guidelines may lose the privilege to work at St. Joseph Church.



CHURCH LAYOUT

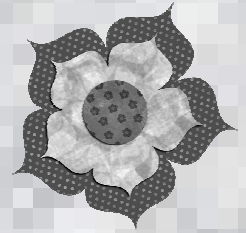
- ◆ Designated areas for photographs of the bridal party in procession.
- ▲ Designated areas for video cameras.
- Designated areas for still photographs.
- Organ.

FLOWERS & DECORATIONS

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lowers and plants reveal the beauty of God's creation and have a special place in the Church's celebration of her liturgies. They enhance the sacred areas where the Mysteries of God are celebrated and can serve as means of lifting up the spirits of those gathered for worship, praising God for the work of his hands.

1. Flowers and greenery must be beautiful and presentable for Church, whether natural or artificial.
2. Flowers and greenery may be placed alongside the altar, in front of the altar, around the tabernacle, and at other places in the sanctuary which are NOT utilized by the ministers or the bridal party.
3. Candelabra may be used, but you will need to provide the beeswax or steric candles (you can find those at Hobby Lobby), white or off-white only. Paraffin wax drips too much and with our HVAC vents overhead can either blow out or melt quickly.
4. You can use 'pew bows' which hang on the pews with a clip/hook (Do not use stick-on hooks please; the only tape you are allowed to use is gaffer's tape).
5. We discourage you from using "pew candles" which attach to the pews. If you choose to use them, the candle may only be battery operated. The length of the middle aisle is 92 feet. There are 24 rows of pews. The church seats approximately 550 people.
6. The aisle of St. Joseph is carpeted. No aisle runner is to be used.
7. No flowers, natural petals, rice, bird seed, or confetti may be thrown on the church grounds.
8. You are welcome to donate your flowers to the church, however, all items belonging to the florist should be picked up no later than the Monday after the wedding; the parish will not be responsible for them after that time.
9. The liturgical seasons of Advent and Lent are not festive seasons, and so big celebrations are discouraged. Liturgical decoration in the sanctuary and throughout the church have a permanent place over wedding decorations during these seasons, as well as at Christmas and Easter.



If you have any questions, please contact the Parish Wedding Coordinator.

FEE SCHEDULE



Fees should be paid directly to the church office at the time of scheduling the wedding date.

1. “Non-St. Joseph parishioners” are required to pay \$500.00 (in addition to the fees listed below) at the time of scheduling the wedding.
2. “St. Joseph parishioners” pay ONLY the following fees at the time of scheduling the wedding:

MARRIAGE PREPARATION PAPERWORK	\$50	
(if chosen) SPONSOR COUPLE PROGRAM	\$40	
PARISH WEDDING COORDINATOR	\$100	
(if required) NFP COURSE	\$50	(parish will cover remaining \$94)
(if requested) ORGANIST	\$125	
(if requested) CANTOR	\$100	

- If the couple desires to use outside musicians, they will need to consult with the Director of Music. In that case, the fee of \$50 will be covered by the parish.
- If the couple chooses to use the parish organist, he will be present for the wedding rehearsal.
- The total cost of NFP is \$144, of which the parish will cover \$94, and therefore, we ask the couple to pay \$50.

CHECKLIST ✓

Important Dates:

Priest: Date _____ Time _____
Music Director: Date _____ Time _____
Parish Wedding Coordinator: Date _____ Time _____
Wedding Rehearsal Date _____ Time _____
Sacrament of Marriage Date _____ Time _____

Documents:

	Bride	Groom
Baptismal Certificate (if Catholic)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Freedom to Marry affidavit (if non-Catholic)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Civil License (if already civilly married)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Annulment decree (if previously married)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Death Certificate of Former Spouse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

To Do:

- Schedule Wedding & Rehearsal date and pay fees
- Register for Sponsor Couple Program or Pre-Cana
- Register for NFP Course (if required)
- Select Music
- Give florist guideline sheet
- Give photographer and videographer guideline sheet
- Turn in Marriage License to the parish office

