

PLANNING YOUR WEDDING
at

St. Paul Church

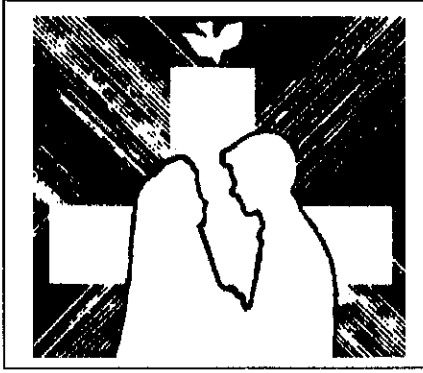
1223 Church Rd

St. Paul, MO 63366

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Your Wedding is a Sacrament



The celebration of a wedding in the Catholic Church recognizes elements, which add to the festive occasion. Such elements are dresses, tuxedos, flowers, pictures and music. The Catholic Church, however, strives to celebrate marriage not simply as the “couple’s day”, but also as it relates to Faith and to Prayer, to the Church community and to the presence of God.

To do this our church strives to create an atmosphere of communal prayer, one in which all who attend are seen less as an audience or “guests” and more as participants in the celebration of Word and Sacrament. And at all times to be aware of the fact that the church is the house of God and respect should be shown accordingly at all times, before, during, and after the ceremony. All the other elements are judged appropriate only as they contribute to this atmosphere.

It is our hope and intention that the following information will be of some help as you plan your wedding.

Officiating Celebrant

The Priest or a Deacon of St. Paul Parish is available to officiate at weddings of parishioners or of their children. If the wedding will not take place within Mass, we recommend one of our Deacons to officiate the wedding. You are welcome to invite another priest or deacon with whom you are acquainted to officiate as well. The guest celebrant must request St. Paul pastor’s permission and supply the church with documentation that he possesses faculties in his home diocese. He is also responsible for ensuring that all necessary paperwork is completed.

Days and Times of Weddings

The Parish must be notified at least 6 months prior to the wedding date. Weddings are usually celebrated on Friday evenings, between 6:00 and 7:30pm, and on Saturdays, between the hours of 11am and 1:30pm. Any other day of the week or time of the day must be approved by the Celebrant. Rehearsals should be scheduled with the parish office. Rehearsals are encouraged to be held on Friday before the wedding.

Financial Matters

There is a \$250 fee for use of the Church. Use of the Church is limited to registered parishioners and their children. Payment is due at the time of booking the church.

The fee for the use of our St. Paul church organist and cantor is \$125 and \$100 respectively. These fees are to be presented to the Wedding Coordinator at the rehearsal. There is a tradition of giving some donation to the Altar Servers, as well (The suggested donation is \$10 and usually two servers are recommended).

Wedding Coordinators

One of our wedding coordinators will meet with the couple and assist with planning the details of the ceremony. A wedding coordinator will be present for the rehearsal and the wedding. The couple can contact the wedding coordinators at:

Janice Granicke 314-712-8464 Katie Boehmer 636-887-1817
or email: weddingcoordinator@st-paulchurch.org

Music Minister

Arrangements for the wedding music must be made with our Parish Music Minister, Janice Wilson 814-566-3536 or janice.wilson2002@gmail.com.

Requirements for Marriage at St. Paul Church

St. Paul Parish follows the Common Marriage Policy for the Catholic dioceses in the state of Missouri. This Policy asks the following:

- The couple should meet with the celebrant and have the St. Paul pastor's approval before they set the formal date for their wedding. This **contact** should be made at least **six months** before the desired wedding date.
- The Catholic party or parties will need to provide a copy of the **Baptismal certificate** which has been filled out within the last six months. A person baptized in another Christian Church can either provide a certificate or the date of the baptism and the name of the Church.
- A **Prenuptial Investigation Form** will be completed by the priest or deacon, usually at the couple's first meeting with him.
- The couple will need to complete a **Marriage Prep Inventory** and review it with the priest or deacon. The review usually takes several sessions to complete.
- The couple will need to participate in an **Engaged Encounter Weekend** or a **Marriage Preparation Program**. Information can be found through the St. Louis Archdiocese website at:
<https://www.archstl.org/marriage-family-life/for-marriage/marriage-prep>
The Encounter Weekends are located under "Other Marriage Prep Programs". Registrations are limited. Classes and weekend retreats tend to fill up quickly. It is important to sign up early to guarantee that this requirement is fulfilled.
- The couple will need to **participate** in an introductory session to **Natural Family Planning**. Information about these classes can be found online at:
<http://www.archstl.org/natural-family-planning/introductory-sessions>
- A **marriage license** must be obtained. Both parties must appear in person before the Recorder of Deeds or a deputy recorder in any Missouri county and present valid identification containing date of birth, along with a Social Security card, to apply for a marriage license. The license can only be obtained within 30 days of the wedding. This record is to be presented to the presiding celebrant at the rehearsal.

The couple should note that there may be **registration fees** when signing up for the Engaged Encounter Weekend, Marriage Preparation Program and Natural Family Planning classes.

The Liturgy

Because the Eucharist is the central prayer and worship of the Church, weddings between two practicing Catholics are ordinarily celebrated during a Eucharistic Celebration. If one party is not Catholic, the wedding ceremony is encouraged to be celebrated using the Rite of Marriage outside of Mass, which includes a service of Scripture Readings, prayers and blessings.

Wedding Party

A minimum of two people (not necessarily the Maid of Honor and Best Man) must be present to act as witnesses. In order for someone to be part of the procession they need to be able to process. No wagons or remote operated vehicles allowed.

Choosing members as ministers for your Mass

You have many things to think about concerning your wedding, and undoubtedly have family and friends whom you would like to include in your ceremony. Some of the roles they may fill are listed below:

For all weddings:

- Lectors - 1 or 2 for the Old and New Testament readings
- Petitioner - 1 to read your petitions

If Mass will be celebrated:

- Gift Bearers - 2 are suggested
- Eucharistic Ministers- 2
 - Only necessary if the Precious Blood is offered at Communion.
 - Must be commissioned by the Archdiocese of St. Louis
- Altar Servers - 2 (please inform the wedding coordinator if you would like the parish to provide them)

Music

All music must be approved by Janice Wilson, our Music Minister. Music is an integral part of any Catholic worship service. Since the purpose of the church wedding is to celebrate the religious dimension of marriage, the music especially needs to reflect that fact. Secular romantic pieces or popular songs are not to be used. Music during services must meet Archdiocesan guidelines. Using the Sunday service as the model, the Church encourages the traditional sung portions of the service, acclamations and responses, prior to choosing any solo pieces. Suitable instrumental processions and recessions are certainly appropriate.

Floral Arrangements

Floral arrangements have long been part of the worship environment in the Catholic Church. The normal use of flowers on Sunday and festive occasions serves as the model for their placement at weddings. Excessive concentration of flowers in the sanctuary or along the main aisle is discouraged. At no time are the altar and pulpit to be hidden by flowers. St. Paul Parish will not be held responsible for items belonging to the florist. Be aware that the Church may already be decorated according to the liturgical season. You may wish to complement the existing decorations.

Colors primarily used in the Church for seasonal decorating:

- Advent (4 weeks before Christmas) - Violet
- Christmas - White, Red, Green, Gold
- Easter and Easter Season (7 weeks) - White
- Ordinary Time (usually June through November) - Green

Weddings are discouraged during the season of Lent.

Photography

A thirty-minute photo session will be allowed in church before Mass. This should be finished no less than 20 minutes before the ceremony begins. Pictures may be taken during the ceremony. Professional skills with as little disturbance to the ceremony as possible are encouraged. Video equipment during the ceremony is permitted. Equipment may not be placed within sanctuary or attached to the pews. Depending on whether there are schedule conflicts, a limited time will generally be permitted following the ceremony for pictures.

Miscellaneous

- ❖ Certain items are considered optional: flowers presented to parents and those placed at the Blessed Mother's altar. These items are not furnished by the Parish.
- ❖ There are 18 rows of pews.
- ❖ The seating capacity of the Church is 300.
- ❖ Due to safety concerns, aisle runners are not to be used.
- ❖ Glitter, rose petals, balloons, bubbles, rice and birdseed are not allowed.
- ❖ Regarding the placement of flowers on the end caps of the pews: only rubber bands and ribbons may be used. No tape, thumbtacks, metal or plastic holders, staples or other means of fastening are permitted.
- ❖ As a reminder, the fee for the use of the church is due at the time of booking. The fees for the organist, cantors and servers can be given to the wedding coordinator at the rehearsal.

Church Behavior

- ❖ Any and all church furniture that may have been moved before the ceremony should be put back in its original place after the ceremony.
- ❖ No one will be allowed in the choir loft at any time other than the organist, cantors, and photographer/videographer.
- ❖ Dressing in the choir loft or bathroom of the church is not allowed.
- ❖ Appropriate behavior and low voice tones are expected before and after the ceremony and during rehearsal.
- ❖ There should be no smoking in church or around the doors of the church.
- ❖ Chewing gum in church shows a lack of reverence and is not allowed.
- ❖ No alcoholic beverages are allowed on the Parish grounds, before, during, or after the ceremony.
- ❖ Anyone considered to be intoxicated, obnoxious, or disrespectful towards the property, priest, staff or others will be removed from the ceremony and the parish property.
- ❖ Small children are to be supervised by parents at all times while in the church.
- ❖ No littering on Church property.
- ❖ St. Paul Church is not responsible for any personal items left behind. Make sure all personal items are picked up after the ceremony.
- ❖ All cell phones and pagers should be turned off before entering the Church.

Prayer for engaged couples

“THANK YOU, Lord, for this wonderful gift of our love,
which already has brought us so much joy.

Grant that we may continue to love: reverently, patiently,
generously – seeing You in each other.

Guide us in Your wisdom to discover each other, that our
understanding and compassion may deepen and mature.

Teach us to forget ourselves and live in each other, that we
may truly become one.

In the hurried days of final preparation, grant us the peace
and calmness to reflect at times, upon the sacramental
moment when You will seal and sanctify our promises,
binding us together in profound intimacy forever.

Grant us the insight to realize that soon our unique love will
be brought up and transformed into Your boundless love.

Then we will no longer be merely a young man and woman
in love – but husband and wife, an image of Christ and His

Church, with a special right to supernatural help,
and a special commission to create love in each other, in our
children, and in the Family of God.

We have chosen the day and the hour when our new life
begins. You, O Lord, choose the day and the hour when it
must end – perhaps tomorrow, perhaps distant years in the
future.

Since we love each other so much, the time will be very brief.

Grant that we will not waste a moment.

In joy or in sorrow, in riches or in poverty, in sickness and in
health – may our love grow into you Divine Love –

Till death do us part. Amen