

PHONE NUMBERS

Pastor/Rectory Office           262 284-4266  
Mike Burch, Deacon           920-207-0546  
Tim Handle, Music Director   262 -284-4266



Be Christ Inspired - Joyfully Live Our Call

1800 N. Wisconsin St.  
Port Washington, WI 53074  
262-284-4266  
stjohn23rd.org

REV. PATRICK WENDT, PASTOR  
ST. JOHN XXIII CONGREGATION  
1800 N. WISCONSIN STREET  
PORT WASHINGTON, WI 53074  
262-284-4266  
WWW.STJOHN23RD.ORG



**Marriage Guidelines**

# Today...

We welcome the celebration of your marriage here at St. John XXIII Church. It is our sincere intention to assist you in the preparation of the Sacrament of Marriage. Marriage is not something private. It is your statement of faith to each other and to all of us here at St. John XXIII. It is our celebration as well as yours.

In co-operation with our archdiocese, we have implemented a program for the preparation of marriage called, "God's Plan for Marriage." It is the hope of this faith community to share with you the experience of Christian marriage.

Although each couple is given a certain amount of flexibility in the planning of the ceremony, still it must be remembered, this is a Sacrament of the Church with its own ritual.

It is in cooperation with the parish team—the priest, the deacon, parish lay ministers, and musicians—that the final decisions are made regarding the ceremony.

# ...and forever

## THE LITURGY

Involvement in Liturgical planning of the ceremony is desired. It is important to remember that first and foremost it is a sacramental celebration. You are celebrating your marriage within the Liturgy that the Church has provided.

The Catholic Church provides two wedding services:  
One - the marriage rite within the eucharist  
Two - the marriage rite within a liturgical service, composed mostly of a scripture service.  
Both are equally valid and beautiful. Your priest/deacon will provide you with booklets which will be helpful in choosing prayers and scriptures.

## NOTES ON MUSIC

The Catholic Church requires that the music is to serve the liturgy. For that reason, you need to have your music approved by the parish music director. Again the director is happy to assist you with your choices. Use of a musician from outside of the parish is welcome and must be coordinated with music director. A bench fee of \$100 will be charged. Please see the additional information provided with this book.

...Love one another  
as I have loved you.

## USHERS

They act as your personal hosts for your guests, but we ask that they keep good order, and especially go through the church after the wedding to make the church presentable for the subsequent liturgies.

We ask that guests refrain from throwing rice, birdseed etc. after the service.

## BRIDAL PREPARATION ROOM

There is a preparation room available at St. Peter's Church and St. Mary's Church for the bridal party before the wedding. A member of the wedding party should be responsible to check this room after the service.

## FEES

The Marriage Fees are as follows:

1. The Church charges \$ 150.00. \$75.00 will be given to the priest as a stole fee and \$75.00 will be given to the church for expenses such as lights, heat and air (where available).
2. \$225.00 is the fee for the musician. Please see the additional resources for more information.

## REHEARSAL

The marriage rehearsal usually is held the evening before the Wedding. It normally takes about an hour. The time is arranged with your Priest/Deacon Celebrant. Please bring to the Rehearsal your Marriage License and a copy of your Order of Worship/Booklet.

## MARRIAGE PREPARATION

The marriage preparation is divided into four sections. Presently, a minimum of six months is required to complete this process.

1. An Assessment Process
2. An Instructional Process
3. Gathering of the Documents
4. Liturgical Planning of the Ceremony

## ASSESSMENT PROCESS

An assessment process includes a series of meetings with the priest/deacon you have chosen to witness your marriage. Perhaps there will also be some meetings with a married couple from the parish trained for this program.

## AN INSTRUCTION PROCESS

There is required attendance at one of the Enrichment Programs for the Engaged offered by the Diocese. A booklet describing these is found in the parish office.

## GATHERING THE DOCUMENTS

The Church indicates the need of the following documents:

1. A copy of your Baptismal record. For Catholics, this must be dated within 6 months prior to the ceremony. Catholics may obtain this form from the church of your Baptism.
2. For Catholics a copy of your Confirmation record.

3. Official Statements of the bride and groom taken by the priest/deacon at one of your meetings with him.
4. Two affidavits (2 each) from someone in your family. This is at the discretion of the priest/deacon.
5. A state marriage license from your county court house.

NOTE: If either party is not a Catholic, there will be extra documentation needed.

ALSO, IF THERE HAS BEEN A PRIOR MARRIAGE, please share this with the priest immediately.

### CHURCH OF MARRIAGE

The church of marriage is usually the parish of either the Catholic bride or groom.

Membership is normally required in a parish for marriage. In a sense this is a co-partnership. The parish is happy to assist you as a member, as you assist the parish in its mission of spreading the message of Jesus Christ.

### OTHER BITS OF INFORMATION

#### FLOWERS & DECORATIONS

Although your wedding is the most important day of your adult life, it takes place within the greater mystery and reality of the Church Year. The liturgical environment: the symbols colors, decorations, banners, table/altar cloths and their placement have been, carefully, and prayerfully, planned and arranged by members of the parish. The seasonal liturgical environment is to remain intact for your wedding. We ask that neither yourself nor the florist remove or change anything in the church. Some specific request are:

1. No tape on the pews. Use pew clips.  
 There are 50 pews in the center aisle (25 on each side) at St. Mary's church  
 There are 30 pews in the center aisle (15 on each side) at Immaculate Conception Church  
 There are 18 pews in the center aisle (9 on each side) at St. Peter of Alcantara Church
2. Flowers may be provided by the wedding party.
3. Isle runners: St. Peter's—30 feet  
 St. Mary's— 150 feet  
 Immaculate Conception Church—50 feet
4. Please make sure to leave the Church as you found it and clean up after yourself.

#### PHOTOS

Your professional photographer should check with the celebrant regarding procedures.

After the Service (if on a Saturday) our church needs to be ready at 3:00 pm for the weekend services.