



St. John XXIII
Catholic Parish & School

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 cooperation 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, that 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

Marriage Preparation

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

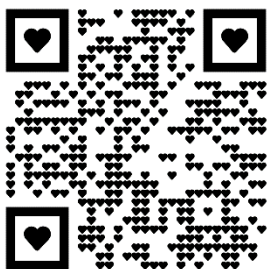
1. An Assessment Process
2. An Instructional Process
3. Gathering of the Documents
4. Liturgical Planning of the Ceremony

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. Information can be found on the Archdiocese of Milwaukee website at <https://www.archmil.org/MarriagePreparation>.



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 courthouse.

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.

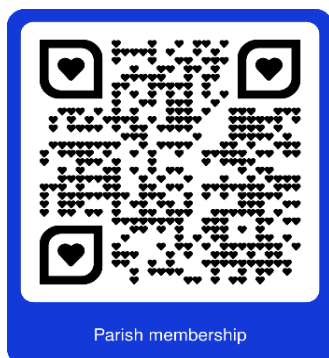
Church of Marriage

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

Being a member of a parish is typically a prerequisite for marriage, creating a mutual partnership. By being a member, you support the parish in its mission to share the teachings of Jesus Christ, while the parish supports you.

If you are not a member of St. John XXIII, we will require a letter from your current parish priest authorizing our pastor to officiate your marriage at our church.

If you are not currently a member of our parish but are interested in joining, kindly complete the form on our parish website at <https://stjohn23rd.org/become-a-member/>. Alternatively, feel free to contact the parish office to speak with one of our Administrative Assistants who will gladly assist you.



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 you nor the florist remove or change anything in the church. Some specific requests are:

1. No tape on the pews. Use pew clips.
 - There are 40 pews in the center aisle (20 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.

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 of Alcantara Church site and our St. Mary's Church site for the bridal party before the wedding. A member of the wedding party should be responsible for checking the room after the service.

Fees

The Marriage Fees are as follows:

1. The Church charges \$ 250.00. \$100.00 will be given to the priest as a stole fee and \$150.00 will be given to the church for expenses such as lights, heat, and air (where available) and administrative paperwork.
2. \$250.00 is the fee for the musician. Please see the additional resources for more information.

<https://stjohn23rd.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Wedding-Music-Booklet-2026.pdf>



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.

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 \$125 will be charged. Please see the additional information provided with this book. <https://stjohn23rd.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Wedding-Music-Booklet-2026.pdf>

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