

# **Your Wedding at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church**

*Congratulations on your decision to seek God's blessing upon your planned union! The clergy and staff at St. John the Evangelist Parish are happy to help you in any way we can.*

*These are guidelines which reflect the theology and practice of the Roman Catholic Church, the Diocese of Sacramento Marriage Preparation Policy, and the norms established by our community of faith.*

**At least one of the parties to marriage must be a member in good standing of the Catholic Church, and Catholic parties must be registered parish members. St. John the Evangelist Church usually celebrates the Sacrament of Marriage only with registered members of the parish because we see our primary responsibility as serving the needs of our parishioners. Further, we believe that couples should enter marriage within the context of their lives of faith; and therefore, we believe that your wedding should take place at the parish where you worship.**

## **Officiating Minister:**

One of the priests or deacons of St. John the Evangelist Church usually officiates at weddings held in our church. Visiting Catholic clergy are also welcome but must contact the Pastor six months prior to the planned ceremony to coordinate the necessary preparation and paperwork. A wedding date will not be placed on the schedule until the couple has had their first meeting with one of the parish clergy.

## **Time of Wedding and Rehearsal:**

Weddings and rehearsals are scheduled at the convenience of the officiating clergy and the wedding couple. They will be scheduled so as not to interfere with weekend or daily Masses.

The church building will be available no more than – but possibly less than – one and a half hours prior to the time of the ceremony for decorating, preparation of the bridal party, and picture taking. A room is usually available in an adjacent building for use by the bridal party, if desired.

## **Use of Church Facilities:**

The fee for registered, supporting members of the parish is \$300; the fee for all others is \$500. This fee covers the use of the church building, but does not include the use of any of the other parish buildings for reception purposes. The fee also does not include the offering for the officiating clergy or the fee for the musicians. Fees can be reduced or waived in cases of hardship by permission of the Pastor.

A \$100 deposit is required to secure a date for your wedding and is due following your first appointment with the clergy for wedding preparation. The deposit is refundable until two months prior to the wedding date, after which it is not refundable. The remainder of the fee is due two months prior to the wedding date and is nonrefundable after that time. Checks should be made payable to St. John the Evangelist Church and delivered to the Parish Office.

Arrangements for rental of either of the parish halls are coordinated by the Parish Plant Manager in the Parish Office.

## **Music:**

Parish musicians are available. Visiting musicians are also welcome; however a bench fee of \$50 is still due to the parish organist who will coordinate with the visitor regarding the use of the church facilities. The couple makes contractual arrangements directly with all musicians.

Care must be taken in selecting music that reflects the Christian concept of the union of a man and a woman as being a sacred, sacramental event. Secular music that does not reflect the essentially religious nature of the consecration of two people's love, in the presence of God's People gathered together in the Church, must be avoided.

**Ceremony:**

Marriages shall be celebrated according to the official Catholic Marriage Rite. The parish clergy will provide the couple with a booklet containing the rite and Scripture readings.

Planning of the marriage liturgy will be done with the officiating minister. Care will be taken to communicate the significance of the couple's faith to the marriage and any symbols chosen to be used. The importance of the Liturgy of the Word, the Consent (vows) of the couple, the involvement of the family and community, the use of liturgically correct music in appropriate places, and the careful inclusion of prayers and blessings will also be considered. Care must be used to convey the solemnity of the event, remembering that the couple are ministers of the sacrament to each other.

**Flowers:**

*(Please share these guidelines with your wedding florist.)* Use of anything that may damage, deface, or disfigure the altar, pews, lectern, or any part or fixture of the church is strictly prohibited (i.e. no tacks, cellophane tape, etc.) Floral decorations may not be placed on the altar table or so as to block the aisles.

Please use restraint when choosing the number of floral arrangements and their placement so as not to detract or overwhelm the sacredness of the ceremony and environment.

**Rice/Bird Seed:**

Throwing of rice, confetti, birdseed, or anything similar is not allowed on parish premises.

**Photography:**

*(Please share these guidelines with your wedding photographer.)* The wedding ceremony is a time of sacred worship and commands the respect of all participants. The photographer and wedding party must show respect and reverence for the sacred space at all times. The use of photography, while an important aspect of our celebrations, must not detract from the reverence and meaning of the ceremony.

Please observe the following:

During the ceremony, photographers are not permitted on the altar area.

Video cameras are permitted but must be placed permanently in an unobtrusive manner and may not use artificial lights.

Thirty minutes are allotted after the ceremony for posed pictures in the Church.

If you have any further questions, please contact the priest or deacon who is assisting you.

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