

St. Landry Church Policy For Weddings

Holy Matrimony is a sacrament of the Church, and therefore the liturgy of Holy Matrimony is sacred and solemn. The following policies are intended to maintain the dignity of the occasion and of the church during marriage ceremonies. Please read the following carefully, as it will be presumed that you have read and understand these policies. If you have any questions, please ask the pastor or the minister who is presiding at the liturgy.

Scheduling the Church

Weddings within or outside the context of Mass can be scheduled at any time the church and a minister is available so long as the time is permissible according to the liturgical norms of the Church, except that no Wedding Mass or Rite can be scheduled on:

- Friday's during Lent
- The weekends of the 5th Sunday of Lent, the weekend of Palm Sunday, and the Weekend of Easter Sunday.
- Saturday evenings of the 2nd or 3rd Weekend of October.

A wedding can be scheduled and the church reserved by calling the office six months in advance of the wedding date.

Marriage Preparation

The Marriage Preparation program generally consists of 4 or so meetings of approximately one hour each with the minister. In a very generally way, they are broken down as follows:

Initial Meeting – Explanation of Marriage Preparation Program;
Introduction to theology/discernment; prenuptial inquiry.

Marriage Theology Meetings – 2 or 3 meetings.

Wedding Planning Meeting – if necessary

The couple is also required to complete the Prepare and Enrich instrument (takes about one hour to complete online) and attend an Engaged Encounter weekend. Alternatives are available if the couple is unable to attend the Engaged Encounter weekend due to circumstances outside their control, such as work schedules or if their residence is out of state.

Liturgy

- 1.) A Wedding Mass is not permitted on Saturday evenings of any weekend after the 4pm Vigil Mass (a Wedding Rite is permitted).
- 2.) The liturgical colors and decorations in the church for the Weekend Masses must remain during any wedding ceremony unless permission for a change is given by the pastor.
- 3.) No additions to the marriage liturgy are permitted (including unity candles), except the presentation of roses to the Blessed Mother and the mothers of the bride and groom.
- 4.) Only Sacred Music is permitted in the church (any piece that can be found in any Catholic hymnal is permitted; a piece that is not considered sacred music and is instrumental only may be permitted with the permission of the pastor, but must be appropriate to the solemnity of the occasion).
- 5.) The wedding procession should be reasonable in length and generally should be limited to the grandparents and parents of the bride/groom, the wedding party (it is recommended no more than 12 people total, or six on each side), ring bearer, flower girl, and the bride and groom. Reasonable accommodations can be made

under certain circumstance (for example for great-grandparents or an additional ring bearer or flower girl. Please check with the minister for any accommodations.) No signs, placards, banners or any other type of signage is permitted in the procession.

- 6.) Readers should be selected who are able to climb the steps of the pulpit. Because of the shape of the pulpit steps, it is recommended that readers not wear high heel shoes while reading.
- 7.) Couples are reminded that in the Wedding Rite there is no need for gift bearers or extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist.

Rehearsal

Rehearsals will usually take place the day before the wedding, but can be scheduled at any time agreed to by the couple and the minister. It should be noted that Friday rehearsals for a Saturday wedding cannot be confirmed until 6 months before the wedding in case a Friday wedding is scheduled that weekend.

Decorations

- 1.) No candles other than candles provided by St. Landry Church are permitted, including “unity candles.” A standard set-up for weddings (which includes candles, stools and a kneeler for the couple) is provided by St. Landry Church.
- 2.) Pew markers are permitted, but they must be attached to the pews with a non-adhesive (usually a clip of some type).
- 3.) A “runner” is permitted.
- 4.) No decorations other than pew markers and a runner are permitted without the permission of the pastor.

General

- 1.) Common courtesy and common sense applies to the use of St. Landry Church for weddings. It is expected that the church building will be found in the same condition after the wedding as it was before the wedding. Anything left in the church building after the wedding will be discarded.
- 2.) St. Landry Church personnel provide the standard set-up for the wedding.
- 3.) Nothing may be thrown or scattered in the church building or on church property (rice, rose petals, etc.).
- 4.) Members of the wedding party should be at least three (3) years old and able to walk down the aisle unaided, including the ring bearer(s) and flower girl(s). In the event it is desired a younger child be a member of the wedding party, arrangements must be made for adult supervision in the procession. Except for those with disabilities, no mobility aids (strollers, wagons, big wheels, go-carts, skate boards, hover boards, etc.) are permitted in the wedding procession.
- 5.) No vehicles, including those used to transport the bride, groom and/or wedding party are permitted travel any place on St. Landry property except the paved black top area of the parking lots.
- 6.) Musicians may use the choir loft, microphones, and the organ; however, none of the settings on the equipment may be changed.
- 7.) Movement of photographers/videographers in the sanctuary is limited during the wedding liturgy. Photographers should check with the minister prior to the wedding.

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