

The Community of Saint Joseph Cathedral and Holy Cross

Marriage Preparation ✕ Wedding Guidelines ✕ Agreement

Congratulations on your engagement!

In asking to be married before God, along with family and friends, you wish to publicly proclaim your love for the Lord Jesus Christ by agreeing to live as His disciples in the Sacrament of Marriage for the rest of your lives together as one.

Although intimate and personal, marriage is not private. It is this sacramental nature of marriage that deserves most attention. Our culture is forgetting sacramental marriage, and for this reason, you should take the greatest care to ensure that you are well prepared to give and receive the rights and duties of Christian matrimony.



“Sacrifice is irksome, but love can make it easy and perfect love can make it a joy.” We invite you to renew your love for the Lord and His Church in the certain conviction that this love will make the sacrifices of marriage a joy for you.

The staff and clergy of Saint Joseph Cathedral and Holy Cross make it a practice to interact only with the bride and groom. It is important that the engaged couple handle all details personally.

Is Saint Joseph Cathedral and Holy Cross the proper parish for your wedding?

Church law specifies that the proper place to marry is the parish church in which one lives.

First priority in scheduling is given to registered, practicing members. Either the bride or groom (or both) must be a registered, active, and regularly contributing member of this parish for at least 12 months prior to making inquiry. To be “active” means attending Mass every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation, volunteering and participating in parish life and ministries, and supporting the parish financially; or, if either the bride or the groom (or both) have parent(s)/grandparent(s) who are active members of Saint Joseph Cathedral and Holy Cross.

The fee for these weddings is \$2,200. See the Fee Schedule in this document for information on what this fee includes.

Second priority is given to registered, practicing members of our parish who have not completed 12 months of membership.

Third priority is given to registered, practicing members of other Diocese of Columbus parishes. In this circumstance, the couple would complete their preparations with a priest at their home parish, and that priest would be expected to celebrate the wedding at Saint Joseph Cathedral or Holy Cross. If your parish priest is unable to do so, other arrangements must be discussed with our staff.

Fourth and last priority is given to non-Diocese of Columbus Catholics, who must have some connection to the parish in order to be married here. In this circumstance, the couple would complete their preparations with a priest at their home parish, and a priest from Saint Joseph Cathedral or Holy Cross would celebrate the wedding.

The fee for Priority 2, 3 and 4 weddings is \$3,000. See the Fee Schedule in this document for information on what this fee includes.

Inquiring about weddings and the Sacrament of Matrimony

At a minimum, six months of marriage preparation is necessary. It is essential to approach the church first before making firm plans. We celebrate only one wedding on the available Saturdays – at either Saint Joseph Cathedral or Holy Cross Church – and not during the liturgical seasons of Advent and Lent, or the weekends of Civil Holidays.

Step One: Contact our Wedding Coordinator, Cathryn Geppert, who will ask questions to get to know both of you better, and want to know dates you are interested in. Please read this entire document as you agree to comply fully with both the requirements of preparing for marriage and with the wedding standards, practices and customs.

Step Two: You must contact the Parish Office to schedule a face-to-face meeting with one of our priests to discuss your “freedom to marry” and to begin marriage preparation.

Participation in and completion of Marriage Preparation

Wedding and marriage preparation are two different things; preparing for marriage is the bigger investment.

If you will be preparing in another parish or diocese, you will still be required to present the same documentation as if you were preparing at Saint Joseph Cathedral and Holy Cross. For those being prepared outside the Diocese of Columbus, once your preparation is complete, your marriage file must be submitted to the Chancery of the diocese where preparations are taking place, which will then forward it to the Chancery of the Diocese of Columbus, which will then forward it to Saint Joseph Cathedral. This marriage file process should begin at least six weeks prior to your wedding. *For further details, please visit the following website: <https://columbuscatholic.org/marriage-family>.*

Visiting Clergy

If there is a Catholic priest or deacon you wish to be present for the ceremony, he will need a “Letter of Good Standing” from his diocese (if not from Columbus) or Religious Congregation (if not currently residing in this diocese) well in advance. Only Cathedral clergy may preside at weddings celebrated in the Cathedral or Holy Cross Church. It is the decision of the Cathedral clergy to delegate other Catholic clergy to witness your marriage and celebrate your Nuptial Mass or wedding service.

Marriage preparations for Priority 1 and 2 couples will be done with a priest of Saint Joseph Cathedral and Holy Cross and our priest will celebrate the wedding.

Scheduled time for weddings

Ceremonies are on Saturdays at 2:30 p.m. at either Saint Joseph Cathedral or Holy Cross (with access to the church beginning at 1:00 p.m. and all departing by 4:00 p.m., without exception).

Rehearsals take place the day before, on Friday evening, beginning no later than 6:00 p.m. Please plan accordingly. If rehearsal or wedding events begin late, they may be shortened because of the parish schedule, or other commitments of the parish staff and clergy. The parish celebrates only one wedding per available Saturday (no matter which church building).

Should the wedding be a Mass or a Service?

A wedding service is celebrated if either spouse is not a Catholic. If both spouses are Catholic, a Nuptial Mass is celebrated. (Reference Appendices for more information)

Who may read the Sacred Scriptures?

Catholics who have completed their Christian initiation may read. Those who have prior experience are encouraged.

Photography – Videography

Professional photographers and videographers must contact the parish prior to the ceremony to review our procedures. Flash photography may not be used during the ceremony. Flash is permitted during processions and recessions; during these times the photographer or videographer must remain in the back of the church. Pictures may also be taken in the church after the wedding and with flash. Cameras are never permitted in or in front of the sanctuary. Photographers are permitted to walk discreetly around the nave, with the exception of the main aisle, during the ceremony. They are not allowed to enter the sanctuary.



Dress

Christians live modestly. This includes brides, grooms, and wedding parties who stand before the community during the Rite of Marriage and Nuptial Mass. Brides and grooms themselves are the ministers of the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony. Modest fashions, covering the shoulders, upper arms and neckline, are required for both men and women.

Flowers and Decorations

We welcome two simple floral arrangements, each to be placed in front of the baldacchino of the Cathedral's altar or upon the altars of Sts. Mary and Joseph in Holy Cross. They are to be left in the church as a gift for our Sunday worship.

You may also use bows or small flower bouquets for the sides of the pews, to be hung only with ribbon (NO tacks, nails, pins, tape or other adhesives are permitted). No flora or plants are permitted to be placed or thrown on the floors, nor any other decorations. Plants and flowers in the church are never to be moved, nor are any furnishings. Aisle runners are not permitted.

CHECKLIST FOR MARRIAGE PREPARATION AT SAINT JOSEPH CATHEDRAL AND HOLY CROSS

To be completed ASAP:

- Read these Marriage Guidelines
- Complete and return the Wedding Request Form
- Schedule and attend first meeting with Saint Joseph Cathedral and Holy Cross priest
- Set wedding and rehearsal date with Cathryn Geppert
- Schedule wedding date and rehearsal at parish office, and pay deposit
- Contact parish Music Director for ceremony music planning purposes
- Register for one of the following options:
 - * Diocesan Marriage Formation Day, including Natural Family Planning
(<https://columbuscatholic.org/wedding-family/marriageprep/pre-cana-formation-day>)
 - * Ascension Press Joy-Filled Marriage Certificate Course and Natural Family Planning Course
(<https://ascensionpress.com/products/joy-filled-marriage-self-paced-online-course-with-live-guided-discussion#ascension-product-description>)
(<https://columbuscatholic.org/marriage-family/nfp/nfp-methods-classes>)

Further Steps:

- First meeting with priest who is preparing you, to take FOCCUS inventory
- Additional meeting(s) to discuss FOCCUS results
- Meeting with priest who is preparing you to review wedding ceremony
- Other preparations as required by your parish priest, if not a member of Saint Joseph Cathedral and Holy Cross

Required Documents and Information

- Complete and return one each (2 total) Freedom to Marry Affidavits
- Obtain baptismal certificates with notations, no earlier than 6 months before the wedding
- Present Certificate of Completion of marriage preparation course
- Present Certificate of Completion of NFP Course
- Present Permission of Proper Pastor, if either spouse is registered at a parish other than Saint Joseph Cathedral and Holy Cross.
- Inform parish of new post-wedding address
- Obtain marriage license in the Ohio county of your residence, (within 60 days of the wedding) and give to the presiding priest before or at the rehearsal. *Note: By particular law, weddings cannot be celebrated without a valid civil marriage license.*
- Any necessary permissions, dispensations, or declarations for special cases (ask preparing cleric if applicable)

Saint Joseph Cathedral and Holy Cross Active Parishioners	\$2,200.00
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This fee includes the following:

*Additional musicians, if desired, are arranged with the Music Director and will be an additional fee.

All Others	\$3,000.00
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This fee includes all of the above, with the exception of parish marriage preparation for members of other parishes.

A non-refundable deposit of \$250.00 is required to secure your wedding date.

This deposit will be deducted from the total Fee amount.

**WEDDING REQUEST FORM FOR SAINT JOSEPH CATHEDRAL
AND HOLY CROSS**

Groom's Information	
Full Given Name:	
Residence:	
Email:	Phone:
Denomination:	Current Parish:

Bride's Information	
Full Given Name:	
Residence:	
Email:	Phone:
Denomination:	Current Parish:

Reason for requesting wedding at Saint Joseph Cathedral and Holy Cross	
☐ Bride and/or Groom is registered parishioner	Date Registered:
☐ Bride's and/or Groom's parent(s) are registered parishioners	
☐ Bride and/or Groom is a Catholic residing within the Diocese of Columbus	
☐ Bride and/or Groom is a Catholic residing outside the Diocese of Columbus	
Connection to the parish:	

Wedding Date preference
First Choice:
Second Choice:

Please return the completed form to the parish office. The Wedding Coordinator will contact you to discuss your request. Please note that the wedding date is not reserved until after your initial meeting with a Saint Joseph Cathedral and Holy Cross priest.

THE COMMUNITY OF
SAINT JOSEPH CATHEDRAL &
HOLY CROSS

Marriage Preparation and Wedding Agreement

Name of Groom _____ Email/Phone _____

Name of Bride _____ Email/Phone _____

Current Parish _____

Date of Wedding _____ Date and Time of rehearsal _____

Our wedding will take place at (Please circle) Saint Joseph Cathedral or Holy Cross Church

As an engaged couple, we undersigned and agree full and without question to the following:

1. We will provide all required documentation in a timely manner. *And will request our baptismal certificate* from the church each of us was baptized at before our first meeting with the priest.
_____ (Initials)
2. We will be the sole point of contact for all matters related to our marriage preparation and wedding plans at St. Joseph Cathedral and Holy Cross
3. We will comply with all directives, policies and traditions of the Diocese of Columbus and St. Joseph Cathedral and Holy Cross as outlined in this and related documents.
4. We will adhere to the traditions and teachings of the Roman Catholic Church in the code of Canon Law, The Roman Missal Third Edition 2002, The Rite of Marriage and documents relating to the sacred liturgy.
5. We will use only approved texts of Sacred Scripture.
6. We will fully participate in the approved Pre-marriage programs and interviews. (Pre Cana Retreat and Natural Family Planning sessions)
7. We will not deviate from any requirements, customs, or practice of St. Joseph Cathedral and Holy Cross.
8. We will adhere to the provided schedules for our marriage preparation and wedding day.
9. We will provide the necessary financial payment as per the fee schedule at least 60 days before the wedding _____ (Initials)
10. We understand that in the event of 'force Majeure' (Example: Hurricane) we hold the Diocese of Columbus and the Parish harmless.
11. We commit to attending weekly Mass and will actively practice and support the Catholic Faith.

Groom's Signature and date _____

Bride's Signature and date _____