

Wedding Policy and Guidelines

1. **Times for Weddings** Weddings may be scheduled on most Mondays through Fridays at any reasonable hour, and on Saturdays until 1:30 p.m. Saturday weddings cannot begin later than 1:30 since time must be allowed afterward to clean and prepare the church for Saturday afternoon confessions and Mass. Weddings are discouraged during the season of Lent.
2. **Rehearsals** Rehearsals are ordinarily scheduled on the night before the wedding, but may also take place up to one week before the wedding. The most common time for rehearsals is 6:00 p.m., but may be set earlier or later with the approval of the pastor. Please have your wedding party arrive at church early so that we can start on time.
3. **Fees** The fee for a wedding at St. John the Baptist Church is \$400.00 for parishioners and \$600.00 for non-parishioners. The fee is due at the time that the church is reserved.
4. **Wedding Coordinator** The church provides a wedding coordinator to help lead the rehearsal and to offer assistance at the ceremony itself. She will contact the couple prior to the rehearsal to go over all of the details for the wedding. Her stipend is included in the fees mentioned above.
5. **Music** Music is an essential element of the wedding liturgy. All music selected for weddings is to be recognized liturgical music, or classical music where appropriate. Couples are asked to contract separately for the services of musicians, whether organists, vocalists, or other instrumentalists.

We highly recommend our Music Director and cantor, Mrs. Celeste Veillon, who may be reached at (225) 978-9817 or celesteveillon@eatel.net. She can assist couples in the selection of music and the hiring of musicians. Our Saturday Vigil Mass cantor, Mrs. Sharon Thibodeaux, is also available to sing and can be reached at (225) 892-8804 or sthib@bellsouth.net. Singers and organists not associated with St. John the Baptist Church must be approved by the pastor.

6. **Décor** Couples are free to choose their own florist. The majority of weddings are decorated with two arrangements, placed on either side of the altar. It is not required to leave the flowers in church, but if you wish to do so for the weekend Masses, your offering is greatly appreciated. Any seasonal décor already in the church must be left in place.

If candles are used, they must be enclosed in protective glass. No kind of adhesive is to be used to attach bows or flowers to the pews or any church furnishings. Aisle runners are not allowed, nor is it permitted to throw flowers, petals, rice, or birdseed either inside or outside of the church.

7. **Photography** Couples may also choose their own photographer and videographer. Photos and videos are welcome provided that they do not become a distraction during the liturgy or impede the movement or flow of the liturgy. Photographers are not allowed in the raised sanctuary area. Family and group photos may also be taken at the conclusion of the wedding.
8. **Wedding Party** Please limit the size of the wedding party to 6 bridesmaids and 6 groomsmen. Part of the attractiveness of St. John the Baptist Church is its small size and intimate environment, and more than six attendants do not easily fit in the first pew or sanctuary. Flower girls and ring bearers should be at least 5 years of age. Exceptions are allowed at the discretion of the pastor.
9. **Alcohol Prohibited** Under no circumstances are alcoholic beverages to be brought on to the church property before, during, or after the rehearsal or wedding. Attendants who arrive intoxicated will not be allowed to participate in the wedding.
10. **Start Preparation Early** Please contact us at least one year before the anticipated wedding date to begin the preparations for marriage. Although the preparation process does not take a year to complete, it is best to give yourselves extra time so as to minimize stress. Congratulations on your engagement and be assured of our support as you begin this exciting chapter in your life!