



ST. MARY CHURCH

302 FISK AVENUE, DEKALB, ILLINOIS 60115 • 815-758-5432 • FAX: 815-758-2487

St. Mary Guidelines for Weddings

1. A date may be considered "fixed" for a wedding, only after the prospective bride and groom meet with the Pastor and the time and date are formally agreed upon and entered into the parish schedule. The wedding can only take place when the presiding priest judges that all the requirements have been fulfilled. Neither our parish nor the priest/deacon helping to arrange the wedding assumes any responsibility or liability if the bride and/or groom should fail to comply with all requirements and guidelines.
2. Spiritual Preparation: Cohabitation before marriage is inconsistent with our Catholic faith. Our Rockford diocese requires the prospective bride and groom to participate in the sacramental marriage preparation "Faithful and Forever" and in a "Gift of Self" Seminar. Please schedule these programs as soon as possible. (See Diocese of Rockford website.)
3. Documents: We will assist you with all these: Bride and groom should obtain newly issued baptismal certificates, issued no earlier than six months before the wedding. Pre-nuptial questionnaires will need to be completed, with the help of the deacon or priest arranging the wedding. Both the bride and groom should arrange for two witness affidavits to be completed, with the help of family or friends who have known you for a long time. A marriage license must be obtained from the DeKalb County Clerk's office at 110 East Sycamore St. in Sycamore no earlier than 60 days before your wedding. Documents will be kept in our parish office.
4. Music for weddings must be coordinated with Paula Vasko, our parish music director, to ensure that only appropriate, sacred music is used, both before and during the Mass. Non-liturgical or secular music selections, in any form of musical presentation, are not allowed before a wedding as preludes, at any place during the celebration of marriage, or after the ceremony as postludes.
5. Flowers: Any flowers brought into the Church are presumed to be a gift to the Church.
6. Liturgy details (flowers, scripture readings, etc.) must be coordinated with our wedding coordinator.
7. Attire: Members of the wedding party must be appropriately attired for participation in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Bride and bridesmaids should ensure their shoulders are covered and otherwise be modestly attired, in keeping with the sacred nature of the Mass. **Please remember that Jesus Christ is at the center of the Mass.** A scripture service, in lieu of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, could be a possibility if attire is inappropriate.
8. "Unity candles" are not included in the Marriage Rite. Some couples have found that a unity candle ceremony may be appropriate at their wedding reception.
9. Bridal arches and lighted candles (other than those already in the sanctuary) in the aisles or elsewhere are not permitted. All decorations must be picked up and removed from the church immediately after the ceremony. Such things as bird seed, flower petals and any type of confetti may not be used.



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10. Rehearsal: As a courtesy to all involved, the rehearsal must begin at the scheduled time. Bride and groom are responsible to ensure all participants arrive on time.
11. Wedding Pictures: To ensure a prayerful liturgy, flash photography is not permitted during the ceremony. You may wish to include a note on this in your invitations. Professional photographers should check with the priest or deacon before the ceremony begins, to discuss any movements during the wedding. Formal pictures should not exceed 45 minutes after the conclusion of the ceremony.
12. Holy Communion: Except for practicing Catholics in a state of grace, others should not come forward to receive communion. Please be certain that all family and members of your wedding party are aware of Church teaching in this area. A statement by our bishops is contained on the inside back cover of the missalettes.
13. Alcohol and drugs are prohibited on all parish property.
14. Wedding programs are optional and may be discussed with the priest or deacon arranging the wedding.

Church Offering: To reserve the Church, a \$250 non-refundable deposit is required and you must be a registered parishioner. Fees for musicians are not the responsibility of the parish. Please discuss with Paula Vasko, our music director. It is customary to give \$10 to each altar server. Other gifts are optional.

Revised 7/1/15

/Parish Office/Weddings/Wedding Guidelines/