



212 East Broad Street + Columbus, Ohio 43215  
(614) 224-1295 + [www.saintjosephcathedral.org](http://www.saintjosephcathedral.org)

## **Marriage Preparation, Wedding Guidelines, Agreement**

***Father, by your plan man and woman are united, and married life has been established as the one blessing that was not forfeited by original sin or washed away by the flood.***

**[NUPTIAL BLESSING, RITE OF MARRIAGE]**

First of all, congratulations on your engagement! You are about to embark on one of life's most wonderful experiences created by God – the marriage of man and woman.

Among the many blessings that God has showered upon us in Christ is the blessing of marriage, a gift bestowed by God our Father and Creator from the creation of the human race. His hand has inscribed the vocation to marriage in the very nature of man and woman:

*God created mankind in his image; in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and God said to them: Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that crawl on the earth. So the LORD God cast a deep sleep on the man, and while he was asleep, he took out one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. The LORD God then built the rib that he had taken from the man into a woman. When he brought her to the man, the man said: "This one, at last, is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called 'woman,' for out of man this one has been taken." That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one body.*

[BOOK OF GENESIS 1:27-28, 2:21-24]

Our Lord Jesus Christ holds marriage in the highest esteem as He chose the Wedding at Cana to perform His first miracle, thus beginning the public stage of His ministry. All love comes from God and, as such, the Sacrament of Marriage is, first and foremost, a sign and symbol of this love. The love which a couple has for each other mirrors the love God has for men and women:

*Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, love is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.*

[1 CORINTHIANS 4-8]

In asking to be married in the Roman Catholic Church you are publicly proclaiming your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and asking to live as disciples of Christ in the Sacrament of Marriage. The sacred liturgy of your wedding, which begins your married life by the solemn exchange of marital consent (vows), is above all else an act of worship, and we will help you prepare both for that happy day and for the lifetime of marriage that follows your nuptial liturgy.

### **Working together to ensure a wonderful marriage and wedding.**

We understand your desire to have every detail of your wedding carefully planned and well executed, and we will work with you to ensure that the sacred liturgy is both beautiful and memorable for you and your guests. On our part, we need to fashion your beautiful wedding into a marriage ministry to ensure that we are doing our job – not only providing a memorable wedding, but also launching a holy marriage of life and love together as husband and wife. We keep our eyes focused on this responsibility. That is why we provide this detailed information in advance so that you may read it over carefully and discuss it so that you may understand the expectations and agree to them in full.

We ask you to remember that your wedding, although an intensely personal moment for you, is not a private event; rather, it is a public celebration of one of the seven Sacraments given to the Church by the Lord Jesus. For this reason, we must take care to ensure that the sacred liturgy is celebrated according to the mind of the Church and in conformity with liturgical law of the Roman Catholic Church and the local customs and practices of the Diocese of Columbus and Saint Joseph Cathedral.

Please take the necessary time to read the information on the following pages carefully. In choosing the Cathedral as the place for the celebration of your wedding you also choose to abide by the policies, practices and traditions governing the use of the Cathedral Church and grounds.

Please note, as this is for your benefit as the engaged man and woman – the future bride and groom – and for us, so that everything goes smoothly. The staff and clergy of Saint Joseph Cathedral make it a practice not to deal with any third party in answering inquiries, making reservations or in discussing or planning any aspect of your wedding. It is important that you – the engaged couple, who are making this mature commitment to marry – handle all details of your wedding personally. We do this to avoid any type or remote possibility of misunderstanding, miscommunication, misconception or misinformation which may occur in dealing with parents, relatives, friends and wedding consultants. The staff and clergy interact only with the bride and groom, so please inform parents, relatives, friends, wedding consultants and others of our practice.

### **Is Saint Joseph Cathedral the proper parish for your wedding?**

As a reminder, Church law specifies that the proper place for a baptized Catholic to marry is the parish in which they live. Being the Cathedral Church of the Diocese of Columbus you may also inquire about getting married here.

Being a Roman Catholic Church, only Catholic ceremonies may take place here; either the bride or the groom needs to be a practicing Roman Catholic, in addition to meeting the other norms of the Church.

### **Inquiring about marriage preparation and scheduling your wedding.**

The Cathedral celebrates more weddings than most Catholic parishes. Due to the high demand for couples to contract marriage at Saint Joseph Cathedral, we suggest that you contact the Cathedral at least one year or more before your planned marriage date.

Please call the Cathedral before you make any other wedding plans (e.g. receptions and the like) as some couples in the past have made the mistake of booking rehearsal and reception halls before the Cathedral only to find that other marriages were already scheduled at the Cathedral for the same desired date and/or time.

**Step One:** Contact [weddings@saintjosephcathedral.org](mailto:weddings@saintjosephcathedral.org) to reach the Cathedral wedding coordinator. They will want to know the dates and times that you are exploring (Cathedral wedding times are listed on Page 6). Please read this entire document before you contact as you agree to comply fully with both the requirements of preparing for marriage and with the wedding standards, practices and customs in order to have your wedding at Saint Joseph Cathedral.

**Step Two:** Before you can firmly schedule your wedding date, the engaged couple (not the parents, relatives or friends of the bride and groom) must first be in contact with one of the Cathedral priests to schedule a face-to-face meeting to discuss your “freedom to marry” and to discuss marriage preparation requirements and the customs and practices for wedding ceremonies at Saint Joseph Cathedral. Please be flexible and accommodating with your time in making yourself available for this face-to-face meeting with the priest – keep in mind that daytime appointments are generally more available than evenings and weekends, so you might consider scheduling a daytime appointment as you would for an appointment with your physician. Once that face-to-face meeting has taken place, and all has been deemed copasetic, you may proceed with finalizing the date and time of your wedding, scheduling marriage preparations, and signing the agreement to have your wedding at Saint Joseph Cathedral, accompanied by a non-refundable deposit of \$200.00. To avoid any scheduling issues, weddings at the Cathedral are booked on a first-come, first served basis.

### **Pre-Marriage Preparation**

#### **Participation in and completion of Pre-Marriage Preparation.**

The actual Rite of Marriage during the wedding is a simple ceremony lasting only a few minutes, but your marriage is a lifetime commitment of sacrificial love in a solemn and sacramental covenant.

Wedding preparation and marriage preparation are two different things, and preparing for the marriage is by far the more important. The Church requires all engaged couples to attend an approved pre-marriage preparation program. We desire couples to participate in marriage preparation not simply because it is a “requirement” or a “hoop” to jump through, but because it is important to help prepare them for their life together as husband and wife. Our hope is that couples become married in Christ and stay married for the rest of their lives. Everything the Church does and asks is towards this end. Fully engaging yourselves in marriage preparation is for your benefit.

**Two components to marriage preparation: Diocesan, and with the priest** You will need to register sooner rather than later for an approved engaged couple pre-marriage program - Engaged Encounter Weekend Program (encouraged) or Joy-Filled Marriage Preparation Program; participation in a Diocesan Re-Marriage Program is required for those entering into a second marriage; completion of an Introduction to Natural Family Planning course. Information and registration on these programs offered through the Diocese of Columbus are available by calling the Marriage and Family Life Office at (614) 241-2600, available by calling the Marriage and Family Life Office at <https://columbuscatholic.org/marriage-and-family-life-office>. Certificates of completion will be given to you to present to the priest.

Out-of-town couples preparing for marriage can participate in approved Pre-Cana and Natural Family Planning courses provided by another Diocese. Certificates of completion will be given to you to provide to the priest who will celebrate your marriage.

If you are doing all of your marriage preparation in another Diocese, the priest or deacon preparing you for marriage will require the same documentation that we do (listed below) in creating your "marriage file." It is important that he send your complete file to the Chancery Office of the Diocese where your preparation took place for their careful review and approval. That Diocese, in turn, will forward the approved marriage file to the Chancery Office of the Diocese of Columbus who then will hand your file to the priest at the Cathedral. Given the added time for Chancery review, please make sure that you take this time factor into consideration, and that the priest or deacon preparing you for marriage follows this procedure as part of Church law. We must receive your complete marriage file at least one month prior to your wedding.

The priest preparing you for marriage will also administer the FOCCUS testing instrument which will provide the basis for your one-one-one discussions with him as part of your marriage preparation.

### **Your Checklist**

1. You will need to provide a certificate of completion from the approved Pre-Cana program.
2. You will need to provide Baptismal certificates for both the bride and groom, whether Catholic or Protestant. A baptismal certificate of a Catholic person must be one issued by the church where you were baptized not more than six months prior to the ceremony. Call the church where you were baptized to request this baptismal certificate (not a photocopy of the original one that your parents may have). Protestant denominations will issue a letter stating that the person was baptized.
3. The priest will give you a FOCCUS testing instrument, which will be the basis for discussion with him as part of your marriage preparation. This, in addition to completed diocesan marriage preparation forms (including affidavits that may be required from your parents) as well as any required dispensations and permissions and letter from the pastor of each Catholic party giving permission for the persons to be married at Saint Joseph Cathedral.
4. Certificates of Completion for the Engaged Encounter Weekend Program (encouraged) or Joy-Filled Marriage Preparation Program or Diocesan Re-Marriage Program; Introduction to Natural Family Planning course.
5. If either party was previously married, official copies of Church documents (a "Declaration of Nullity," not a civil divorce decree) must be submitted which prove that the person is free to marry in the Catholic Church. If widowed, a death certificate of the deceased spouse is needed. If divorced, an official copy of the declaration of nullity from the Church and an official (certified) copy of a civil divorce decree must be provided. No wedding will be scheduled until any annulment processes are complete.
6. A Civil Marriage License from the State of Ohio must be given to the Cathedral priest or deacon well in advance of the wedding. Franklin County Probate Court is the local issuing body: visit [www.probate.franklincountyohio.gov](http://www.probate.franklincountyohio.gov) or call (614) 525-3894. Please contact them or the county where you reside in Ohio in advance for their business hours and license requirements – do not wait until the last minute to apply for your valid civil marriage license. **Note:** By law, the wedding cannot be celebrated without a valid civil marriage license. At the very latest, the marriage license must be brought to the wedding rehearsal. Do not forget to get your valid civil marriage license!

## Planning your Wedding

### Sacred Music

The sacred music for your wedding is an important part of making the sacramental celebration of your marriage a beautiful, prayerful and joyful event. You will be provided with information for selecting the approved sacred music from our extensive repertoire for your wedding. Please remember that your wedding is a solemn occasion taking place in a Cathedral Church and, thus, only appropriate sacred music is permitted. Only Cathedral musicians and cantors/singers (who are professionally trained) are to be used in keeping with the rich tradition, professionalism and high standards of the Cathedral. **Do not** contract with outside musicians or vocalists yourself as they may not be on our approved list of professionals and, thus, will not be utilized, even if you have contracted for them. The Cathedral maintains a strong working relationship with other musicians and choral professionals in the area and we will arrange all music for your wedding.

A Cathedral Organist and a Cathedral Cantor are required for all weddings; you can have the Cathedral Brass and Cathedral Schola, you can have any level of instrumentation (e.g. trumpets, violins) and voice in-between. Obviously there are different costs associated with the number of professional musicians and choral singers that you would like for your wedding, so please discuss this with the Cathedral Wedding Coordinator, so that we can tailor sacred music to meet your desires according to our standards and associated fees (please refer to the Fee Schedule in this document).

To ensure that we have a complete understanding of your music desires, or if you have specific technical or detailed questions related to sacred music, the Cathedral Director of Music, Dr. Richard Fitzgerald, may assist you via e-mail: [richardkfitzgerald@gmail.com](mailto:richardkfitzgerald@gmail.com).

All music selections must be finalized at least four months in advance of the wedding date, giving time to acquire the services of professional musicians and vocalists.

**Marian Devotion:** The tradition of singing the *Ave Maria* or similar hymn while the bride and groom place a flower at the shrine of the Blessed Virgin Mary is not part of the Rite of Marriage and, thus, is not permitted. If you would like, couples may place a flower at the Marian Shrine at the conclusion of their wedding rehearsal. The *Ave Maria* is typically sung as the last piece of prelude music at Cathedral weddings.

**Pre-recorded music:** This is never permitted at the Cathedral.

- **Prelude Music** refers to the music during the gathering and seating of the assembly. Working with the Cathedral Director of Music, you will select a list of prelude music for the wedding (as the Cathedral is located outside of Mass).
- The **Processional Music** is instrumental and is played during the entrance of the liturgical ministers, parents, and wedding party. A separate selection may be played for the bride's procession.
- The **Responsorial Psalm** follows the first reading and is led by the cantor. The cantor sings the verses and leads the assembly with a sung refrain.
- The **Gospel Acclamation** must be sung. A joyful setting of the "Alleluia" will be chosen. An acclamation of praise is used during the Season of Lent as the word "alleluia" is not said during the penitential Season of Lent.
- During the **Preparation of the Gifts** appropriate music as well is played (typically instrumental music or a very short solo).

- The **Eucharistic Acclamation** (Holy, Holy, the Memorial Acclamation, the Great Amen) will be led by the cantor and chosen from settings of the Mass that are most familiar.
- During **Communion**, a familiar hymn or Psalm will be led by the cantor. Please include the words in your wedding program.
- The **Recessional** music is instrumental and festive and will continue as the guests leave the Church.

### **Sacred Scripture**

In planning your wedding there are three scripture readings: the First Reading, the Second Reading, and the Holy Gospel. We will provide you with a selection of approved scripture readings which the Church provides. We will also provide you with the Universal Prayers (the Prayers of the Faithful or Intercessory Prayers) which are read by a deacon (if present), or by the priest or a relative or friend who is Roman Catholic or Christian and of age.

To help you in selecting readings for your wedding please visit: <http://www.foryourmarriage.org/readings/>. Also please keep in mind that, during certain times of the year, there may be liturgical requirements for certain scripture readings so please get your readings approved by the Cathedral priest first.

**Who may read the scriptures:** Roman Catholics (who have received the Sacrament of Confirmation) or Christians may read, and must be a minimum of 16 years of age. Please keep in mind that the wedding liturgy is both a solemn and joyful occasion, thus your readers will want to reflect this in proclaiming the Word of the Lord.

### **Officiating Priests or Deacons**

If you have a Roman Catholic priest or deacon who is a friend or relative that you would like to have participate in your wedding, he may do so by (1) proclaiming the Holy Gospel and (2) providing the homily; the priest can concelebrate the wedding Mass as well. There is a long-standing tradition at the Cathedral that Cathedral clergy preside at your wedding Mass or wedding service and also witness the vows; this tradition began before Bishop Brennan and he has opted to maintain it since the Cathedral is the Bishop's Church. We will need a "Letter of Good Standing" from the visiting clergy's Diocese or Religious Order for any Catholic clergy participating in your wedding well in advance of your wedding (this Letter is standard procedure throughout the Roman Catholic Church).

### **The Unity Candle**

Please know that the unity candle, typically lit prior to the wedding by the mothers of the bride and groom, is not part of the Rite of Marriage and, thus, is not permitted. We do suggest, however, that you arrange to have this take place at the beginning of your wedding reception.

### **Scheduled times for weddings.**

Saint Joseph Cathedral is a busy church, given the regular Cathedral schedule in addition to Diocesan and other special liturgies. As such the Sacrament of Marriage is primarily celebrated on Saturdays at:

- **11:00 a.m.** (with access to the Cathedral beginning at 9:00 a.m., and the wedding party and all guests **departing the Cathedral by 12:45 p.m.** – no exceptions, as we need to tidy up the Cathedral for the next wedding or other liturgies that day).



- **2:30 p.m.** (with access to the Cathedral beginning at 1:00 p.m., and the wedding party and all guests **departing the Cathedral by 3:55 p.m.** – no exceptions as Confessions are heard beginning at 4:00 p.m. and we require prayerful silence in the Cathedral once Confessions begin).
- Rehearsals take place the day before, on Friday evenings at 4:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. All persons involved in the wedding need to arrive on time in order to begin on time, again, as we have a schedule to maintain with other persons and liturgies.

Please take weather, travel time, traffic, and other factors into consideration and plan accordingly. Your rehearsal and wedding celebration are typically one of several liturgies or Cathedral events for that day, thus it is imperative that we begin on time in order to maintain schedules. If your group is running late, your rehearsal time, for example, may be shortened because of other scheduled activities in the Cathedral, or other scheduled commitments of Cathedral staff and clergy.

Again, please recognize that if you have a 2:30 p.m. wedding, all post-wedding photos and other activities ***must be completed*** and all photographers, guests and members of the wedding party be on their way before 3:55 p.m. as we hear Confessions at 4:00 p.m. prior to the Sunday Vigil Mass which is celebrated on Saturdays at 5:15 p.m.

If you wish to have your marriage ceremony on another day of the week, such as late Friday afternoon (e.g. 4:00 p.m.), you will need to discuss this with the priest not only for scheduling purposes, but also recognizing that some days are not suitable for a wedding, or perhaps not even permitted by Church liturgical law.

Because of the number of activities that take place at Saint Joseph Cathedral on any given Sunday, we cannot accommodate Sunday weddings.

### **Weddings during the Seasons of Advent or Lent.**

Because there are liturgical seasons of the Church Year set aside for penitence and spiritual renewal, wedding celebrations are discouraged during these times. However, a wedding is allowed if it is in keeping with the character of the liturgical season. If you choose to have your wedding during Advent or Lent, you will need to speak with the priest about special liturgical considerations which must be observed during those seasons – especially minimal or no use of flowers or other decorations in the Cathedral Sanctuary or elsewhere in the Cathedral (with the exception of bouquets, which are quite simple during these liturgical seasons).

### **Should the wedding be a Mass or a Service? (Reference Appendix A and B.)**

Perhaps a definition of terms may be helpful. Every Catholic Mass consists of Introductory Rites, followed by the Liturgy of the Word (the Readings, the Homily, and Universal Prayers), followed by the Liturgy of the Eucharist (the bread and wine are offered and become Christ's Body and Blood, and the distribution of Holy Communion). The Rite of Marriage in both cases takes place immediately after the Homily. However, for a wedding Outside of Mass (a wedding service), the liturgy immediately moves from the General Intercessions to the Nuptial Blessing, the Lord's Prayer, and the final blessing (i.e., there is neither Consecration nor distribution of Holy Communion).

For weddings within the Holy Mass (the Nuptial Mass), we distribute only the Eucharist to the congregation – the Body of Christ – not the Precious Blood; the clergy and bride and groom receive both species where appropriate. You may have one *Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion* (so-called "Eucharistic" ministers) to assist the priest in

distributing the Eucharist when appropriate (based on the size of your congregation of Catholic men and women). If there is a concelebrating priest or a deacon, since they are *Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion* they will assist the celebrating priest in distributing the Eucharist; no other persons are needed.

For the sake of the wedding party and their families, it is most preferable that weddings between a Catholic and a non-Catholic are celebrated outside of Mass. This helps to prevent hard feelings for the non-Catholic bride/groom and his or her family, who may not be Catholic, since Holy Communion cannot be extended to non-Catholics since they do not have the same belief in the Eucharist as we do in the Catholic Church.

### **Photography - Videography**

Professional photographers and videographers are encouraged to contact the Wedding Coordinator prior to the ceremony to review the policies of the Cathedral. Suitable places for photography are on the two side aisles without going beyond the first pews on either side of the Cathedral. Photographers and videographers are not permitted anywhere in the vicinity of the Sanctuary (including the sides as they are beyond the first pew), the Choir Loft, and the main aisle of the Cathedral with the exception of the procession in and out during the wedding ceremony.

Please take your post-wedding photographs in the Cathedral **first** following your wedding so that you do not run over your allotted time period. Outdoor photographs – if any – are to be taken **second**, giving you and your guests ample time to depart from the Cathedral and to give Cathedral staff the necessary time to tidy up the Cathedral for the next wedding or another liturgy. Please be attentive to our busy schedule and the need to stay on time.

**Other Considerations:** No flash photography during the ceremony, or use of other lighting. Flash photography is permitted only during the processional and recessional, pre-wedding and post-wedding photos. Note that the ceremony formally begins with the Sign of the Cross and ends with the Final Blessing, “May Almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit.”

Videographers are asked to stay in one place during the ceremony either in the rear of the center aisle or in one of the side aisles, but not beyond the first pew.

### **Flowers and Decorations**

As a suggestion, brides are encouraged to share the cost of flowers when there are more than one wedding on the same day – that helps both bridal parties. Our wedding coordinator, will notify brides who are being married on the same day so that arrangements can be made for the sharing of flowers if desired.

We allow two floral arrangements to be placed in the front of the baldachin. These floral arrangements are to be left in the Cathedral church as a votive offering and, thus, are not to be removed following the wedding.

You may also use bows or small flower bouquets for the side of the pews, to be hung only with other ribbon; no tape or other adhesive devices are permitted.

No flora or plants are permitted to be placed or thrown on the floors as they pose a hazard, nor are there to be any decorations that use glitter of any kind. We no longer permit the use of any decorations such as painted tree branches, especially in the aisles as they always cause problems; no fern plants or any other plants that can be messy.



During certain liturgical seasons we may already have plants and flowers in the Cathedral. These are never to be moved for a wedding, nor are any furnishings to be moved. Also, given the penitential nature of the Season of Lent, flowers are to be kept to a minimum. Please consult with the priest about marriages during the Lenten Season.

For safety reasons, no aisle runners are permitted.

To maintain the dignity of the ceremony, and also for safety and maintenance reasons, we do not allow anywhere in the Cathedral Church or anywhere on the Cathedral grounds or public sidewalks adjacent to the Cathedral the use of rice, birdseed, sparklers, bubbles, little bells, balloons, confetti, flower petals, butterflies, birds or other animals (the only animals permitted are for those who have handicaps), or anything else as a "celebratory" gesture that a couple has been married. We suggest that you do this at the beginning of your wedding reception. The applause and cheers of relatives and friends is more than sufficient to congratulate the newly-married couple.

### **Miscellaneous items and issues**

From our vast experience with weddings at the Cathedral we know what works and what does not, what is proper to the liturgy and what is not. Some things may work in another church, some churches may permit things that we do not. Keep the following in mind.

Your invitations should include accurate directions and perhaps a map, with a telephone contact person from among your family or friends.

Please inform your guests to turn off all cell phones and electronic devices before entering the church – these are not to be used while in the Cathedral.

All persons entering the Cathedral are to discard any bottled beverages before entering.

Restrooms are located in the Undercroft of the Cathedral and are accessible by elevator.

Persons requiring an elevator can access it from the Courtyard entrance (west side of the Cathedral), accessible on the outside from East Broad Street.

Your guests are informed either by programs or those distributing the programs that no photographs or videos are permitted during the ceremony by anyone other than your professional photographer and/or videographer.

Bridal party members have access to the Bridal room (Ladies in the Undercroft) and Sacristy (Men off the main body of the Church) prior to the wedding. Please clean up after yourselves before the wedding begins. We cannot be held responsible for loss or theft of any personal belongings, so keep valuables locked in your car and out of sight.

The use or consumption of any alcoholic beverages prior to or following the wedding rehearsal or wedding liturgy on any Church property are strictly forbidden. If someone appears to have been drinking or using drugs, and is thus impaired, they may be asked not to participate in the wedding, or even to attend the wedding if they are going to be a distraction or deemed not competent at that moment to carry out their function or role in the wedding. It is up to the bride and groom to convey this to members of the bridal party and to their guests in order to avoid problems and/or embarrassment.

Please remember that rehearsals and the actual wedding are taking place in a Church, not a public hall or auditorium, and thus proper behavior and dress is a must. No beverages of any kind are to be in the Cathedral – especially the pews – nor is the use

of any tobacco products, chewing gum, food, and the like. Bottled water is permissible in the Bridal Room and Sacristy only for use by the bridal party prior to the wedding.

Absolutely no alcoholic beverages – e.g. beer, wine, liquor – are to be consumed on the property. We are a smoke free facility so no smoking or vaping is permitted.

Our Wedding Coordinator, coordinates a number of aspects of your wedding and will be available to run the wedding rehearsal; They will not be present on your wedding day. If you contract with a wedding planner, he or she will have a limited scope of responsibilities in the Cathedral, especially with regards to the liturgy.

**SAINT JOSEPH CATHEDRAL – MARRIAGE AGREEMENT**

Name of Groom: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone and E-mail of Groom: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Bride: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone and E-mail of Bride: \_\_\_\_\_

Date and time of Wedding: \_\_\_\_\_

Date and time of Rehearsal: \_\_\_\_\_

We the undersigned agree in full and without question to the following:

- We will be the sole points of contact, communication and discussion related to any aspect of our marriage preparation or wedding plans at Saint Joseph Cathedral;
- We will comply with all of the information, directives, policies, procedures, practices and traditions of the Diocese of Columbus and Saint Joseph Cathedral as stated in this document and other Diocesan documents pertaining to marriage;
- We will comply with all of the requirements, traditions and teachings of the Roman Catholic Church in the Code of Canon Law, the General Instruction of the Roman Missal, the Roman Missal, the Rite of Marriage, and other Church documents pertaining to the sacred liturgy and norms of the Roman Catholic Church;
- We will use only approved texts of Sacred Scripture as provided by the Church;
- We will provide in timely manner all of the documentation required by the Church in order to be married in the Church;
- We will fully participate in the approved Pre-Marriage Programs and interviews recognizing their importance in the life of love we seek as husband and wife;
- We will not deviate from any of the requirements, customs or practices of the Cathedral with regard to the items listed in this guideline or discussed and agreed upon with the Cathedral priest and/or Cathedral staff;
- We will adhere in timely fashion to the schedules provided to us in preparation for our marriage, and on our wedding day, in recognition of the Cathedral schedule, and the clergy and staff of the Cathedral;
- We will provide the necessary financial payments as requested on the attached Schedule of Fees for our wedding;
- We understand that an event of *force majeure* is an event or circumstance which is beyond the control of the Diocese of Columbus and/or Saint Joseph Cathedral (e.g. an act of God, fire, flood, earthquake, tornado, failure of structural or mechanical or other systems of or utilities or other services supplied to Saint Joseph Cathedral, and others beyond our control) and not the fault of or negligence by the Diocese and/or Cathedral and which by the exercise of reasonable diligence is recognized as unable to prevent and therefore we hold the Diocese and Cathedral harmless.

Groom’s signature and date \_\_\_\_\_

Bride’s signature and date \_\_\_\_\_

**SAINT JOSEPH CATHEDRAL – SCHEDULE OF FEES  
(Effective January 1, 2017)**

**Cathedral Parishioners**

*You must be registered and spiritually and financially supportive of the Cathedral for at least two years prior to having your wedding at the Cathedral, unless you are the son or daughter of a registered, active, supporting member of the Cathedral.*

Marriage preparations, use of the Cathedral as outlined, organist and cantor: \$1,120.00  
The above fee includes the non-refundable \$200.00 deposit which must be paid in order to secure your wedding date.

*(Please note that the couple is responsible for all additional fees associated with the required Diocesan marriage preparation programs.)*

**Non-Cathedral Parishioners**

Marriage preparations, use of the Cathedral as outlined, organist and cantor: \$2,120.00  
The above fee includes the non-refundable \$200.00 deposit which must be paid in order to secure your wedding date.

*(Please note that the couple is responsible for all additional fees associated with the required Diocesan marriage preparation programs.)*

**Additional Sacred Music Fees**

Trumpet or additional instruments - \$175.00 per musician  
Brass Quintet - \$875.00  
Brass Quintet plus timpani - \$1,050.00

Schola:           \$900.00 for the Schola  
                      \$225.00 for the Schola conductor  
                      \$1,125.00 TOTAL

**ALL FEES ARE TO BE PAID IN FULL NO LESS THAN  
45 DAYS PRIOR TO YOUR SCHEDULED WEDDING.**

**APPENDIX "A"**  
**An Outline of the Rite of Marriage *Outside* of Mass**

The Processional (Instrumental)

Opening Prayer

***The Liturgy of the Word***

First Reading

Responsorial Psalm\*

Second Reading

Gospel Acclamation\*

Homily

***The Rite of Marriage***

Statement of Intent and Consent

Blessing and Exchange of Rings

Universal Prayers (Prayers of the Faithful)

The Lord's Prayer

The Nuptial Blessing

The Concluding Rites

Blessing

Introduction of the husband and wife

Recession

(\* ) Sung by the Cantor and Congregation

**Appendix "B"**  
**An Outline of the Rite of Marriage *Within* the Mass**

The Processional (Instrumental)  
Introductory Rite, Greeting, Opening Prayer

***The Liturgy of the Word***

First Reading  
Responsorial Psalm\*  
Second Reading  
Gospel Acclamation\*  
Homily

***The Rite of Marriage***

Statement of Intent and Consent  
Blessing and Exchange of Rings  
Universal Prayers (Prayers of the Faithful)

***The Liturgy of the Eucharist***

Preparation of the Altar and Gifts  
Prayer over the Gifts  
The Eucharist Prayer  
Preface  
Holy, Holy\*  
Memorial Acclamation\*  
Great Amen\*

***The Communion Rite***

Our Father  
Nuptial Blessing  
Sign of Peace  
Lamb of God\*  
Communion (Hymn\* or Instrumental)  
Prayer after Communion

***The Concluding Rites***

Blessing  
Introduction of the Husband and Wife  
Recessional

(\*) Sung by the Cantor and Congregation