

St. Mary Magdalene Wedding Policy Guidelines

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Your wedding day is one of the most special days in your life. On this day you make a solemn, lifelong promise, a covenant with each other and with God, witnessed by God's people, your relatives and friends. Your wedding, therefore is special to others too. It affects both the civil and the Church communities. We at St. Mary Magdalene Church want your wedding to be beautiful, memorable and holy.

PREPARATION

St. Mary Magdalene Church is available for the wedding of any registered member of the parish. This is also extended to those who do not live in the area, and whose parents are active, registered, and contributing members. A wedding for non-parishioners can be arranged with the priest, however additional steps and fees are necessary.

Saturday weddings are typically scheduled for 1:00p.m. Weddings may be scheduled on other days if there is no conflict with previously scheduled parish activities. A wedding may be scheduled on a Sunday only under exceptional circumstances.

Arrangements must be made with the priests at least six months prior to the date desired. A wedding date can be confirmed only after the couple has met with the priest.

In addition to meetings with the clergy who prepares the couple for marriage each couple must complete a "pre-Cana" program. Please check with the clergy who is overseeing your preparation for the different programs that are offered.

The following documents must be presented to the clergy:

1. A Certificate of Baptism, dated not more than six months prior to the date of submission, must be obtained from your church of baptism. This certificate must also include notations of other sacraments that you have received or not received. For baptized non-Catholics, one must present evidence that one was baptized, such as a copy of a baptism certificate.
2. In the case of a second marriage, either a copy of a death certificate of one's former spouse or a Decree of Nullity from an Ecclesiastical Court must be provided.
3. A civil Marriage License, presented to the priest at the time of the rehearsal, For more information about applying for a license in Franklin County, go to: <https://probate.franklincountyohio.gov/departments/marriage> or call (614) 525-3108. Note: By law, the wedding cannot be celebrated without a valid civil marriage license.
4. Other documentation as requested by the priest.

WEDDING LITURGY

In accord with diocesan policy, the wedding of two Catholic persons normally takes place during Mass. When either the bride or groom is not a Catholic the Mass is usually not celebrated. A Mass is not an option if the non-Catholic party has not been baptized. It is recommended that the priests assigned to St. Mary Magdalene take an active role in the ceremony. A visiting Catholic clergy may be the principal celebrant, or be a concelebrant (with permission from the SMM pastor). The visiting clergy must be licensed by the State of Ohio. The parish priest working with the couple should always be informed months prior to the wedding about the participation of other clergy. Also, non-Catholic clergy who have a special relationship with the bride or groom are also welcome to participate in the ceremony.

There are a number of Scripture and prayer selections available for a Catholic wedding liturgy. You will receive a booklet from which to make these selections.

Non-scriptural readings may not be used. A wedding Mass scheduled for Saturday evening must use the readings for Sunday, as the Solemnity for Sunday takes priority.

However, the second or New Testament reading may be substituted by another selection from the booklet.

Please keep in mind that if a marriage is to take place during Lent, plans should respect the special nature of the liturgical season. Too much "display" should be avoided.

MUSIC

Couples must contact the Music Director, Dan Disanto, three months prior to the wedding date. Outside, or other parish musicians may be used once the music selections have been approved by the Director.

PHOTOGRAPHERS/VIDEOGRAPHERS

The photographer and videographer must confer with the priest as to where they can be positioned during the ceremony. Other than the processional and recessional they are to maintain a discreet presence outside the seating area of the main body of the church. Since the Holy Eucharist is reserved in the tabernacle, and at Mass Christ becomes present on the altar, reverence and respect for God's presence is to be given at all times prior to, during, and after the ceremony.

The sanctuary of the church is not available for a backdrop for a photo session prior to the wedding. Following the wedding, 30 minutes of pictures may be taken in the church, and it is permissible to use the sanctuary area as a setting for these pictures.

Flash photography may be taken during the processional and recessional only. The photographer/videographer can step out into the center aisle area but must work so as not to impede the flow of the processions.

DRESSING

The wedding party may use the restroom located in the Church Hall and the back area of the Church Hall to dress preferably no earlier than an hour and a half prior to the wedding. St. Mary Magdalene Church is not responsible for valuables left in the space. The spaces must be left as you found them. The wedding party is permitted to bring in bottled water and light snacks if needed prior to the wedding. No other food or drinks are permissible. At no time should alcohol be consumed on church property prior to the wedding.

FLOWERS

Flowers for the wedding are to be selected and purchased by the couple. Preferably, flowers used in the altar area should remain after the wedding. Please inform the florist that flowers are not to be placed on top of the altar itself, and that nothing is to be attached to the pews by glue, tape, or other adhesive. The use of aisle candles and aisle cloth is prohibited.

AFTER THE CEREMONY

To ensure that the church and church hall, if used, are clean and does not cause interruption or delay of any masses to follow, please assign someone to be responsible for removal of all ceremony items and personal items left in the church.

RICE

Please inform your guests that the throwing of rice, confetti, or birdseed is not permitted at St. Mary Magdalene Church.

REHEARSAL

Contact the priest to schedule your rehearsal 4 - 6 weeks prior to the wedding. Typically the rehearsal will be held the evening before the wedding day at 5pm or 6pm and last approximately 30-45 minutes. Please be sure everyone involved arrives on time and remember to bring your marriage license.

THINGS TO DO:

- ◆ Schedule appointment with priest.
- ◆ Pay deposit to reserve church.
- ◆ Acquire all necessary documents
- ◆ Schedule an appointment with the Dan Disanto, St. Mary Magdalene Music Director, 3-6 months prior to wedding.
- ◆ Pay balance for fees/services 1 month prior to wedding date.