

**Triumph of the Cross Parish
200 Rosemont Ave.
Steubenville, Ohio**

Wedding Guidelines

General

1. Cohabitation (living together) prior to marriage is a serious issue because sexual activity of any sort outside the bonds of matrimony is objectively gravely sinful. Couples who are cohabitating are required to separate for at least one month prior to the marriage. Failure to do so may delay the celebration of the nuptials. In the event that a couple has been living together for an extended period of time - and such is common knowledge - the marriage will be celebrated quietly and without solemnity.
2. Preparation is essential before assuming the duties of married life. This course of preparation will be worked out between the couple and the pastor (in accordance with the norms of the Diocese of Steubenville). This includes, but is not limited to:
 - a. Participation in a Pre-Cana program.
 - b. Since the Church teaches that artificial contraception is seriously sinful, all preparation must include a course in Natural Family Planning (NFP) and Theology of the Body.
3. Weddings are normally scheduled for Saturdays, beginning no earlier than 12pm and no later than 1:30 p.m. It is possible, but unlikely, to celebrate a wedding on a Sunday or a Holy Day of Obligation.
4. The wedding rehearsal will occur the evening prior to the wedding - usually at 5pm or 5:30pm (unless serious circumstances require that this be adjusted). Because only forty-five minutes are allotted for each rehearsal, the practice must begin on time. If the party is more than fifteen minutes late, the rehearsal will be canceled.
5. The use of alcohol and/or drugs by any member of the wedding party immediately prior to the ceremony (most especially the bride and/or groom) will be grounds for the immediate cancellation of the ceremony.
6. The convalidation of a civil union will be conducted - in most circumstances - without solemnity.
7. Mixed marriages (between a Catholic and a non-Catholic) are always celebrated without Mass.

Decorations

8. Decorations are not necessary, but if they are used (with the permission of the pastor), they are not permitted to be in the church until after the morning benediction occurs (usually around 11am).
9. Floral arrangements, if used, are to be modest. These arrangements are not permitted anywhere in the sanctuary (beyond the first pew).
10. No rice, birdseed or balloons may be used.
11. Flower petals may not be dropped in the aisle.

Facilities and Payment

12. It is expected that the church will be left as it was found. Mass is celebrated at 4pm on Saturdays. Someone should be assigned to remove pew markers and other material before the evening Mass.
13. The use of the Marian Room, Auditorium, or other parish facilities is to be coordinated through the parish offices and those using these facilities must abide by all expectations in rental agreement. Required parish and diocesan fees must be paid at least one month in advance.
14. The sanctuary may not be rearranged in any way.
15. Pew markers may be used as long as tape is not utilized.
16. Fees for the church are as follows:
 - a. Use of Church
 - i. Members: \$100.00
 - ii. Non-members: \$300.00
 - b. Fees
 - i. Customary honorarium to the presiding clergy: \$100.00
 - ii. Organist: \$200 for preparation & wedding. \$250 if there is a soloist singing before or during the wedding that would require a rehearsal with the organist.
 1. If the use of an outside organist has been permitted, a bench fee of \$200 is required to be paid to the parish music director
 - iii. Cantor (if used): \$100

Liturgy and Music

17. The parish organist/music director must be consulted for all ceremonies: Lucas Rauch (music@triumphofthecross.org).
 - a. Music must be decided at least one month before the wedding date.
 - b. The parish music director is the expected musician for weddings. Other organists and/or musicians can be considered, but all must be approved by the parish music director.
18. Musical selections must be appropriate for Catholic worship; i.e., they must be sacred in nature.
 - a. Under no circumstances may secular pop music be played before, during, or after the service.
 - b. Couples must coordinate with the parish music director in planning the music for their wedding.
 - c. Lyrics for musical selections are not to be printed and distributed without permission of the music director and the necessary copyright permissions
 - d. Hymnody found in the St. Michael Hymnal and the Source and Summit Missal are the primary source of vocal musical selections during the Mass.
 - i. Other selections may be considered if they align with the liturgical practices and musical stylings of Triumph of the Cross Parish and approved by the music director.
19. It is not necessary, but is possible for the couple to work with the pastor in selecting lectors for the wedding. Those chosen for this role must be practicing Catholics with experience lecturing at Mass. Those lecturing at the wedding must attend the rehearsal.
20. Couples are permitted the use of a wedding coordinator, but the particulars of the ceremony are decided according to the Rite of Marriage of the Catholic Church. The pastor or deacon celebrating the rite will coordinate and run the wedding rehearsal.
21. The pastor will speak only to the bride, groom and/or the wedding coordinator regarding the liturgy.
22. Priests/Deacons who are in good standing with the Church may participate (preach and/or receive the vows) in the rite, but it is the responsibility of visiting clergy to provide the Diocese of Steubenville with the necessary documentation within a reasonable timeframe before the wedding.
23. The ring is the sign of Christian marriage; therefore, the unity candle is not used.

24. The custom whereby the bride brings flowers to the altar of the Blessed Mother is encouraged.
25. Photographers/Videographers must confine themselves to the areas outside the sanctuary. Flash photography is not permitted during the ceremony. Picture taking after the wedding should end no later than 3 p.m.