

# *The Sacrament of Marriage*

## GUIDELINES



### Catholic Church of St. Ann

A parish of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Atlanta

Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette

4905 Roswell Road, NE

Marietta, GA 30062

770-552-6400 x6010

[weddings@st-ann.org](mailto:weddings@st-ann.org)

Rev. James Henault, MS, pastor

Congratulations on your upcoming wedding at the Catholic Church of St. Ann. As with all sacraments of the Catholic Church, the Sacrament of Marriage requires spiritual preparation. Couples should begin this process at least six months prior to their wedding. You should also be registered and practicing members of your parish for at least six months prior to the beginning of your preparation.

### ARRANGING THE CEREMONY

#### THE CHURCH

Our church seats 900. Weddings are scheduled on Saturdays at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.; and 7:30 p.m. Fridays are an option. Other times may be scheduled by special arrangement. We ask that the church be vacated 90 minutes from the time the ceremony begins. The wedding party, florists and photographers may arrive two hours prior to the ceremony for preparation and photographs (except for 7:30pm wedding). Rehearsals are usually held on Fridays beginning at 5:00p.m. The bride and groom are responsible for the prompt arrival of their wedding party.

#### RESERVING THE DATE

Please contact Teena Kay at [tkay@st-ann.org](mailto:tkay@st-ann.org) to check the availability of your desired wedding date and to help you proceed with your plans.

#### OFFICIANT

Once the date has been selected, the priest or deacon who officiates your wedding will be chosen. It may be necessary to reassign your wedding to another priest or deacon due to clergy moves, parish reassignments, retirements or other unforeseen circumstances. It is possible to have a priest or deacon from another parish to officiate. Additional paperwork will be required.

#### MEMBER OF ANOTHER PARISH MARRIED AT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. ANN

The bride and groom should be prepared at their home parish by one of their priests or deacons. Your visiting priest or deacon will submit your date and time request, commit to preparing you for the Sacrament of Marriage and request delegation to perform your marriage here. Those from outside Georgia may request an officiant from the Catholic Church of St. Ann.

All paperwork must be received by our parish office, along with the church fee to confirm your wedding date. **A completed wedding file must be received at least six weeks prior to your wedding date.**

#### CURRENT PARISHIONER BEING MARRIED ELSEWHERE

If you are being married at another parish, please contact Teena Kay at [tkay@st-ann.org](mailto:tkay@st-ann.org) to begin the preparation process.

### FREEDOM TO MARRY

Church law requires that both parties are free to marry, that is, neither party was married previously. If either of you was married before and your former spouse is living, you will need to obtain a Declaration of Nullity from the Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese. A priest or deacon can assist you in starting the process. Under no circumstances may a date for the ceremony be set until an annulment has been granted. For more information, visit <https://st-ann.org/annulments>.

### INTERFAITH MARRIAGE

In an interfaith marriage, the Catholic party promises to maintain his or her own faith and to do all in his or her power to ensure that any children of the union will be raised in the Catholic faith. The non-Catholic party makes no promises but is aware of the promise by the Catholic party. In an interfaith marriage, the minister of the non-Catholic party may be invited to participate in the ceremony. We recommend these types of marriages be celebrated in non-Eucharistic liturgies to better stress the unity of faith present in the love celebrated that day.

### CONVALIDATION (blessing of a marriage)

When a couple has been civilly married for at least six months and would like to have that marriage blessed as a sacrament (convalidation) they must do a six-month marriage preparation, including all church paperwork and a marriage prep program. The blessing of such a marriage includes the priest or deacon, the couple and two witnesses. The couple may also invite friends and family. The convalidation of marriage is not of the character of a first-time wedding with all the normal first-time ceremonies. It is the renewal of vows and the blessing of the couple's marriage by the priest or deacon in church. If you are interested in having your marriage blessed, please contact Teena Kay at [tkay@st-ann.org](mailto:tkay@st-ann.org).

### WEDDING DAY DIRECTOR

A wedding day director will assist you with the planning of your ceremony. The wedding day director will be present at both the rehearsal and wedding to organize the procession and make sure everything flows smoothly. The wedding day director will contact you two to three months prior to the wedding to discuss what to expect.

If the bride and groom choose to hire a wedding planner, that person may function at St. Ann's under the direction of the wedding day director. If using a wedding planner, please provide the contact information to the wedding day director.

### FEES

Church fees are determined based on parishioner status. An active parishioner (or family) at the Catholic Church of St. Ann is registered and active in time, talent and treasure for at least six months prior to reserving a wedding date. Payment is due to confirm your wedding date. If your wedding is cancelled at least six months prior to your wedding date, the church fee is fully refundable to the party who paid the fee.

-Active parishioner: \$700

-Non- or inactive parishioner: \$1,400

Other fees due at the rehearsal: music (to be determined by music director), recording or livestreaming (\$100), altar servers (\$20 each), sacristan if you are having a Mass, (\$40) and officiant honorarium (\$300).

### MARRIAGE LICENSE

You must obtain a marriage license at any county probate court in Georgia; it is valid anywhere in the state. You will need identification (driver's license, military ID, etc.) and a cash fee to obtain the license. If the bride and groom are not residents of Georgia, the marriage license must be obtained in Cobb County.

Cobb County	770-528-1931	<a href="http://cobbcounty.org">cobbcounty.org</a>
Cherokee County	678-493-6160	<a href="http://cherokeega.com">cherokeega.com</a>
DeKalb County	404-371-3035	<a href="http://dekalbcountyga.gov">dekalbcountyga.gov</a>
Gwinnett County	770-822-8354	<a href="http://gwinnettcourts.com">gwinnettcourts.com</a>
North Fulton County	404-613-4583	<a href="http://fultoncountyga.com">fultoncountyga.com</a>

When obtaining your marriage license, bring a copy of your certificate of marriage preparation for a possible price reduction.

After the ceremony, the officiant will sign the marriage license and return it to the appropriate county probate office. The bride's and groom's signatures are not required on the certificate.

To obtain a certified copy of your civil marriage certificate, contact the probate court in the county in which you received your marriage license. In some counties, you can arrange for this at the time you apply for the license. It may take up to six weeks to receive your certified copy.

**Your wedding ceremony will not take place if your marriage license is not handed to your wedding day director at the rehearsal.**

### TIMELINE

When creating the wedding day timeline, please plan to be at the church 90 minutes prior to the wedding. This will allow for any unforeseen, last-minute incidents that always happen. If you will be taking pictures before the wedding, please allow at least two hours.

## PLANNING THE LITURGY

### THE CEREMONY

You will receive a booklet with the various options for prayers and readings for your ceremony. The priest or deacon will help you with your selections, and the wedding day director will need a copy of your choices. You will want to choose people to do readings and, if you like, to bring up the offertory gifts. Altar servers and extraordinary ministers will be arranged as needed. A sacristan is required for Masses.

### BRIDE'S AND GROOM'S ROOMS

We have rooms available for the bride, groom and attendants for preparation two hours before your ceremony. Please ask a friend or family member to remove all belongings from these rooms before the start of your ceremony. St. Ann's is not responsible for items left in rooms.

### MUSIC

Catholic Church of St. Ann has a rich, talented and diverse music ministry. Our musicians and cantors can meet the needs of most wedding ceremonies and can be scheduled through St. Ann's music department. If requested, outside musicians may be used with approval. All music involved with the Sacrament of Marriage must be approved prior to your wedding. The director of music will provide consultation as to the capabilities of the St. Ann's musicians and can advise on and approve music selections that are consistent with the nature of the sacrament. The bride and groom should contact Director of Music Ed Bolduc to schedule a consultation, where fees, payable to the musicians by separate checks, will be set.

Fees may be charged for additional services. Fees for musicians vary. Contact Ed Bolduc at 770-552-6400 x6017 or [ebolduc@st-ann.org](mailto:ebolduc@st-ann.org).

### SOUND TECHNICIAN AND STREAMING

Typically, no sound technician is required for St. Ann's musicians. All approved, outside musicians are required to use a sound technician from St. Ann's with fees based on requirements (typically \$75). The need for a sound technician will be decided by the director of music. Ceremony streaming and recording also is available (\$100 fee applies). Please contact Ed Bolduc 770-552-6400 x6017 or [ebolduc@st-ann.org](mailto:ebolduc@st-ann.org).

### PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY

Photographers and videographers are granted leeway within reason; however, they may not enter the altar area during the ceremony or come more than halfway up the center aisle. Please take photographs with your officiant(s), before pictures of the wedding party, and complete all photography 30 minutes after your ceremony.

### FLOWERS AND DECOR

You are welcome to place flower arrangements in the church. Depending upon the time of year, there may be church decorations on the altar highlighting the liturgical season and should not be removed. Flowers for weddings during Lent will need to be removed after the ceremony. Please contact Teena Kay at [tkay@st-ann.org](mailto:tkay@st-ann.org) for help arranging altar flowers. Our church pews do not accommodate decorations.

### OTHER

The roles of flower girl and ring bearer are symbolic. No flower petals, birdseed or rice, please.

**The Catholic Church of St. Ann reserves the right to cancel any wedding if the legal requirements under state or Church law are not met.**

### **Prayer Blessing for an Engaged Couple**

May God, who in his gentle plan draws you  
together in love for one another,  
strengthen your hearts so that you will keep faith with each other.  
May you grow in your respect for one another and cherish each other  
with a sincere love and come to the happiness of celebrating  
the Sacrament of Marriage.  
May almighty God bless you, in the name of  
the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST ANN  
770-552-6400

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT  
Teena Kay 770-552-6400 x6010  
[tkay@st-ann.org](mailto:tkay@st-ann.org)

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC  
Ed Bolduc 770-552-6400 x6017  
[ebolduc@st-ann.org](mailto:ebolduc@st-ann.org)

ALTAR FLOWERS  
Teena Kay 770-552-6400 x6010  
[tkay@st-ann.org](mailto:tkay@st-ann.org)

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO BOTH OF YOU!**

We at the Catholic Church of St. Ann wish you every blessing as you begin your marriage preparation.