

Wedding Information & Guidelines

*St. Pius V Catholic Church
3310 South Grand Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63118*

Congratulations on your engagement! We are happy to present these guidelines to assist you in preparing for your wedding at St Pius V Church.

RESERVING ST. PIUS CHURCH FOR YOUR WEDDING CEREMONY

The Sacrament of Matrimony should be celebrated in the proper parish church of either the bride or groom. **Parishioners** of St. Pius V parish, or a son or daughter of currently registered parishioners, should contact the Parish Office, 314-772-1525 ext. 200, to inquire about the availability of the Church. In addition, an appointment should be made with the Pastor to begin the preparation process for marriage.

Former parishioners may also request the use of St. Pius V Church for a wedding, provided that these additional requirements are met:

- at least one party is a practicing Catholic;
- the couple has arranged for marriage preparation **with their own parish**; and
- a Catholic priest or deacon has agreed to be the celebrant of the wedding ceremony.

The requested wedding date will be considered tentative until it has been confirmed by the Pastor.

SCHEDULING THE WEDDING

Weddings may be celebrated on Friday evenings, or on Saturdays no later than 1:30 p.m. Weddings are not normally celebrated during the season of Lent, and prohibited during Holy Week.

Rehearsals are usually scheduled on the Thursday or Friday before the wedding. The rehearsal takes about 45 minutes from the time that all arrive.

The Church will be reserved for you for 2 hours prior to the ceremony. On Saturdays, all are requested to leave the church no later than 3:00 pm.

FEES FOR THE USE OF THE CHURCH

The fee for the Church is \$500. Please make check payable to St Pius V Catholic Church. One-half of the church fee is due when the wedding date is confirmed. The remainder of the fee may be paid at any time before the wedding. Musician and cantor fees are additional. An offering to the celebrant of the wedding is also appropriate.

PREPARING FOR THE SACRAMENT:

Your spiritual preparation for the Sacrament of Marriage is of utmost importance. According to the Common Marriage Policy of the dioceses of Missouri, couples seeking to receive the Sacrament of Matrimony should meet with a priest, deacon or pastoral minister at least 6 months prior to their planned wedding date.

The usual preparation program consists of three parts:

- The FOCCUS inventory and follow-up discussion;
- The Archdiocesan Marriage program / weekend; and
- Natural Family Planning introductory session.

The time of preparation for the marriage is also a good time for the couple to renew or deepen their practice of prayer, both individually and as a couple. Catholics should receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation

(confession) and participate in Sunday Mass regularly.

CHURCH DOCUMENTS REQUIRED:

The priest or deacon celebrant of the wedding will assist you with the required forms. All church documents must be sent to St Pius Parish Office at least one month before the wedding.

These documents are:

- the *Pre-Nuptial Investigation* which affirms that you are free to marry in the Catholic Church;
- a newly-issued baptismal certificate (see below);
- certificates of completion for the FOCCUS inventory, the Marriage Preparation program, and the Natural Family Planning session;
- If the priest or deacon is from outside the Archdiocese of St. Louis, a "*Letter of Suitability*" from his own diocese or religious superior;
- If either party was previously married, in either a civil or a religious ceremony, and the former spouse is still living, the decree of nullity.

Baptismal Certificate: Catholics must provide a baptismal certificate, issued within 6 months of the wedding date. Simply request a copy from the parish where you were baptized. If you were baptized in the Archdiocese of St Louis and the parish is now closed or merged, contact the Archive Office at 314-792-7020. Members of other Christian churches should provide a certificate, record or letter attesting to the fact of their baptism. These will be retained for the parish records at St Pius V.

MARRIAGE LICENSE

A marriage license valid in the State of Missouri is required. Apply for the license no earlier than 30 days prior to your intended date of marriage. This may be obtained from St. Louis City Hall (314-622-3257 or www.stlouiscityrecorder.org), the St. Louis County Government Center (314-615-7100 or www.stlouisco.com), or any other County in the State of Missouri. Both parties need to apply for the license in person. The marriage license should be given to the priest or deacon at the wedding rehearsal.

PLANNING THE WEDDING LITURGY

Your wedding must follow the Catholic rite as found in *The Order of Celebrating Matrimony*. Either the form of celebrating matrimony within Mass or without Mass may be used. The celebration within Mass is normally chosen when both the bride and the groom are practicing Catholics. If one party is not Catholic, or there will be very few Catholics attending the wedding ceremony, the form of celebration without Mass (Liturgy of the Word only) is appropriate.

The priest will provide you with a copy of the guide *Together for Life* which contains the texts of Scripture readings, prayers, and blessings for you to choose from. A printed program with Scripture readings and responses can assist with the full participation of all who attend the wedding.

Music: All music for your wedding celebration must be arranged through our Music Coordinator, Ruth Ehresman, 314-771-9036. Please contact her as soon as your wedding date is set. She will advise you about her fee for arranging and/or performing the music, as well as fees for the cantor and additional musicians.

Liturgical ministers: We welcome friends or family members who are Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist or Altar Servers in their own parishes, to assist at the wedding liturgy. Presenters of the bread and wine for the Eucharist should also be chosen; we suggest your Godparents or Sponsors for this role.

DECORATIONS, FLOWERS, AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS

Simple floral arrangements may be placed at the entrance to the altar area, or on either side of the Altar or the Tabernacle. Decorations already in Church may not be moved or removed.

Aisle runners are not permitted in Church. Please do not remove the carpet runner in place in the center aisle. Throwing of rice, popcorn, birdseed or the strewing of flower petals or anything else is strictly prohibited *inside* and *outside* the church. Ribbons or bows may be tied or attached to the pews with elastic cords. Nails, pins, tape, or any similar material is strictly prohibited.

The “unity candle” and similar symbols are not part of the Catholic marriage rite.

A traditional but optional custom is a visit to the altar of the Blessed Virgin Mary at the end of the ceremony.

Ordinarily, kneelers will be provided for the bride and groom., Chairs for other members of the wedding party will be placed just inside the sanctuary railing.

The Church seats approximately 450. There are 23 pews on either side of the center aisle. an additional 22 pews are on the south side of the church and 13 pews on the north side. The balcony is not available for the seating of guests.

Restrooms are located in the vestibule and in the church hall.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photographs and video may be taken during the ceremony, but the photographer may not enter the sanctuary (altar area) and should be unobtrusive during the wedding ceremony. The use of flash is not permitted during the wedding ceremony.

Posed photographs are not permitted in front of the altar *before* the wedding . Posed photographs may be taken for a short time after the ceremony (20 minutes maximum). Photos are also allowed outside on the Church grounds. Please direct your photographer or videographer to consult with the priest or deacon witnessing your wedding prior to the ceremony.

WEDDING ETIQUETTE FOR BRIDAL PARTY AND GUESTS

Appropriate dress (“business casual”) is expected for the rehearsal. We remind the bridal party and guests to maintain a proper **reverence** while inside the Church. Please turn off all **cell phones** for the rehearsal and the wedding, and refrain from phone calls while in the Church.

On the day of the wedding, all members of the wedding party, including the bride and groom, should arrive already dressed and ready. The bride and her attendants may gather downstairs in Singler Hall (lower level of the church). The groom and his attendants may gather in the sacristy.

Food and beverages: No food or drink (except water) is permitted in the Church. When Mass is celebrated, a one-hour fast from all food and drink (except water) is to be observed by all who intend to receive Holy Communion.

Alcoholic beverages are prohibited by City Ordinance and State Law anywhere on the church premises. The members of the wedding party should be properly disposed to take part in a religious ceremony and should not consume alcohol prior to the wedding.

Smoking is not permitted in the Church or on parish grounds.

After the ceremony: Please remove all boxes, bows, and programs, and be sure that everyone has his/her personal belongings (cameras, purses, keys, phones, etc.) before leaving the Church and hall.

We hope this information is helpful to you in your planning.

If there are further questions, please contact the Parish Office at 314-772-1525, ext. 200, or email piusvrectory@sbcglobal.net.