



Wedding Guidelines
St. Peter Catholic Church
243 W. Argonne
Kirkwood, MO 63122
Phone: 314-966-8600
Fax: 314-966-5721

Congratulations on your engagement! Our parish priests and wedding coordinator are happy to assist you as you prepare to live the Sacrament of Marriage. We hope the information in this pamphlet will be helpful as you begin the process of preparing for the Sacrament and the celebration of your wedding liturgy.

Scheduling Your Wedding Date

To begin the inquiry process and to schedule your wedding, call St. Peter Parish at (314) 966-8600.

Wedding Dates

Generally, weddings are celebrated on Friday evenings at various times or on Saturdays between 11:00 am and 1:00 pm. Weddings are not celebrated during the season of Lent. Your wedding date and time becomes firm when it has been discussed and agreed upon with a St. Peter Parish priest. Once the date is agreed upon with the parish priest, your rehearsal and wedding dates will be added to the church calendar and your information will be forwarded to the wedding coordinator.

Rehearsal Dates

Rehearsals are usually scheduled on the Thursday or Friday before the wedding at 6:00 or 6:30 pm. A date and time for your rehearsal should also be scheduled with the parish priest.

Note: Please bring your marriage license, a copy of your readings, your programs (optional), your guest book (optional), your Unity candles and holders (optional), and all fees to the rehearsal.

Wedding Guidelines

Marriage Preparation

Your spiritual preparation for the Sacrament of Marriage is of utmost importance. Therefore, you are asked to place a high priority on your meetings and appointments with the priest or deacon witnessing your marriage so that he may assist you and be assured that you are well prepared. In accordance with Archdiocesan policy, the couple should inform one of the parish priests at least six months before the proposed wedding date to allow sufficient time for the process of marriage preparation. The following items are required by the Archdiocese of St. Louis:

1. Participation in FOCCUS - Facilitating Open Couple Communication, Understanding and Study - with the priest or deacon or his designee.
2. Participation in at least one approved marriage preparation program:
 - a. Engaged Encounter
 - b. Couple to Couple
3. Completion of one session of Natural Family Planning (NFP).
4. Completion of the necessary forms for our church records.
5. Planning of your ceremony with the priest or deacon.

For more on Marriage Preparation, go to the St. Peter website, <http://www.stpeterkirkwood.org/Sacraments/Marriage.aspx>, which also has links to the Archdiocese of St. Louis' website with more details on the above requirements.

Note: Another priest or deacon, who is a relative or family friend, is most welcome to preside at your wedding and handle the preparations. Please speak with one of the priests of the parish to make these arrangements. If the guest priest or deacon is not serving in the Archdiocese of St. Louis, notify the parish office as soon as possible because permission forms from both his diocese and the Archdiocese of St. Louis are required.

Baptismal Certificate

Catholic parties are required to provide a copy of their baptismal certificates (obtained within the last six months) from their parish of Baptism. You may obtain a copy by requesting one in writing or by calling the parish of your baptism. Parties of other faith traditions are asked to supply a copy of their baptismal certificate as well, though it does not need to be a current copy. These will be kept in the Marriage Preparation file and are used to assist the priest in filling out paperwork.

Marriage License

The State of Missouri requires a marriage license. The license must be applied for no earlier than 30 days prior to your intended date of marriage. Contact either the St. Louis County Government Center, at 314-615-2500, or St. Louis City Hall, at 314-622-3257, to obtain a marriage license.

Planning Your Marriage Ceremony

The priest and wedding coordinator will assist you in planning your wedding ceremony. Because you are being married in a Catholic Church, the ceremony will follow the directives of the Catholic Church. However, there are some options available to you which will personalize your wedding celebration. *Catholic Wedding Help* (<http://catholicweddinghelp.com>) is a website for couples planning a Catholic wedding and has many resources to help you plan your Catholic wedding liturgy.

Sacrament of Marriage during Mass or Liturgy of the Word

- a. If both the bride and the groom are Catholic, you ordinarily celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage during Mass.
- b. If one of you are not Catholic, you ordinarily would have a Liturgy of the Word Ceremony which allows for full participation of all guests. However, a Mass may be requested.
- c. If one of you have never been baptized in any Christian Church, it is not possible to celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage in a Mass; a Liturgy of the Word ceremony is the only option available to you.

St. Peter Wedding Coordinator

Once the date is firm and a priest is on board, your information is given to our wedding coordinator. She is available to answer any questions you may have regarding the church and the planning of your ceremony. She is responsible for helping to ensure your ceremony runs smoothly and according to church policy. She will attend the rehearsal, which will help facilitate the events on the day

of your wedding. On the wedding day, she will meet with your photographer, videographer and florist. You will be contacted by the wedding coordinator within a few of days after the priest and the wedding date have been firmed up.

Music

After the wedding coordinator has contacted you, please contact our Liturgical Music Coordinator, Ryan Bolinger, at 314-603-9122 or at ryan@ryanbolinger.com. He will discuss with you the liturgy and music for your ceremony and work towards keeping it aligned with our Catholic liturgy. The roles of organist and cantor must be filled by someone with experience and knowledge of the Catholic liturgy. You will receive assistance with additional vocalists, instrumentalists, or a cantor, including a list of fees. You must contact Ryan even if you are involving outside musicians, as he must approve all music choices.

Flowers and Decorations

The church is often decorated with plants and flowers. Additional flowers are not necessary but are most welcome.

- a. Only freshly cut flowers and live plants are permitted. Altar flowers are generally considered a donation to the Church.
- b. Aisle runners and dropping of petals of any kind are not permitted.
- c. Ribbons and flowers are allowed on the pews as long as they are not attached with anything that would mar or stick to the pew. (Rubber bands work well).
- d. The throwing of rice or birdseed or blowing of bubbles is not permitted. They pose a danger to those who may slip on them.
- e. Helium balloons pose a threat to our environment and wildlife and are also not permitted.
- f. Aisle candles must have globes; no candelabras are allowed around the altar.

Servers

It is customary to have 2 servers on the altar at a wedding. You are welcome to invite a family member or friend to serve at your wedding, even if they are not parishioners at St. Peter Parish; at least one server should be a St. Peter parishioner. They should be trained and experienced servers. Our wedding coordinator will be happy to arrange servers for you if necessary.

Dressing and Gathering

Be mindful that St. Peter Church does not have a bride's room. The bride may use the cry room to get ready in and wait before the wedding. The groom and his attendants may gather in the working sacristy. Please make sure that you assign someone to gather everyone's items from these areas after the wedding.

Photography

Photographers and the photography itself must not detract from the ceremony.

- a. Videographers must be stationary during the entire ceremony.
- b. On the day of the wedding, the photographer and videographer **MUST** speak with the priest prior to the ceremony to clarify acceptable positioning during the ceremony.
- c. Photography should be completed within thirty minutes after the end of the wedding ceremony.

Church Etiquette

Please remember to start your party *after* the wedding and away from church grounds. The use of alcoholic beverages is not permitted in the church or on church premises. Please do your part to keep our church and grounds neat and clean by removing all trash, boxes, programs and other items.

Important Phone Numbers

St. Peter Parish Rectory

Fr. Matthew O'Toole or Fr. Charles Archer
314-966-8600

Wedding Coordinator

Lynnette Modder
314-888-0804 mrsmodds@gmail.com

Liturgical Music Coordinator

Ryan Bolinger
314-603-9122 rbolinger@stpeterkirkwood.org

St. Louis Country Government Center

314-615-2500

St. Louis City Hall

314-622-3257

Fees

Church

Parishioners - \$375.00

Non-parishioners - \$675.00 and bring your own priest

Servers

2 Servers - \$15.00 each

Music

\$200.00 (base rate for our music director, Ryan Bolinger, to play organ or piano)

List of other Musicians' fees is available.

We hope you find these guidelines helpful in the planning of your wedding so that it may be a prayerful and memorable day. For questions, always feel free to contact the wedding coordinator.