

The Wedding Handbook

“Christ abundantly blesses the love that binds you.”

The Order of Celebrating Matrimony



We are delighted that you are planning to be married at Saint Joseph Catholic Community. We hope that your wedding may be a joyful and grace-filled expression of your love and vows of life-long fidelity in the Lord:

"Christ abundantly blesses the love that binds you. Through a special Sacrament, he enriches and strengthens those he has already consecrated by Holy Baptism, that they may be faithful to each other for ever and assume all the responsibilities of married life." (¶ 59, "The Order of Celebrating Matrimony")

This booklet is presented to you in order to help you to reflect on and plan your wedding celebration. The guidelines included in this booklet reflect the procedures and policies of the Roman Catholic Church, the Archdiocese of Baltimore, and our own Saint Joseph Catholic Community. Please accept our sincere best wishes and prayers as you prepare for a joyous celebration on your wedding day and lifetime of joy and happiness in your married life.

The Pastoral Staff of Saint Joseph Catholic Community

Step One: Complete a Wedding Inquiry Form

Step Two: Upon receipt of the wedding inquiry form, a member of our pastoral staff will contact you to schedule a Wedding Planning Meeting.

Step Three: Complete all requirements according to the schedule below.

Requirement	Description	Deadline
Prenuptial Investigation	This investigation, completed by pastoral staff, will determine your freedom to marry at which time a wedding date may be scheduled.	To be completed at Wedding Planning Meeting
Permission/Dispensation for Mixed Religion Marriage	This form is required if a Catholic person seeks to marry a non-Catholic person. It is prepared by our pastoral staff and present to you during the Wedding Planning Meeting.	To be completed at Wedding Planning Meeting
Baptismal Certificate	For each Catholic person, the bride and groom contact parish of baptism to request a certificate within six months of the wedding date. For non-Catholic baptized Christians, a duplicate copy of an original certificate (or a letter indicating place, date, and other information) is required.	To be submitted to SJCC within six months of wedding date.
Marriage Prep Certificate	Participate in a marriage prep program. See our website for requirements. SaintJoseph.cc/MarriagePrep	Bride and Groom submit the certificate upon completion of an Archdiocesan approved marriage prep program to SJCC.
Letter of Permission from home parish of bride and groom	In cases where neither the bride nor groom is a parishioner of SJCC, a Letter of Permission must be obtained from the parish where the bride or groom is registered.	To be submitted within six months of wedding date by the bride and groom

Secure a Priest or Deacon	It is the responsibility of the bride and groom to contact a priest or deacon. Before a wedding date is reserved, the priest or deacon must be confirmed in writing.	To be completed on or before Wedding Planning meeting and before a wedding date will be confirmed by SJCC.
Priest Suitability Certificate	Any priest or deacon presiding over a wedding at SJCC must be in good standing with their home Archdiocese. The Archdiocese must submit a letter verifying the priest or deacon faculties within their Archdioceses and permission needs to be obtained from the Archdiocese of Baltimore.	To be submitted within six months of wedding date.
Civil Marriage License for Carroll Count	Carroll County Office of the Clerk 410.386.2022	To be submitted on or before the wedding rehearsal to SJCC.
Ceremony or Mass	The bride and groom must make selections regarding the order of their ceremony or mass. The vows and liturgical prayers can be found _____ Readings., response psalm and the intentions may vary.	To be submitted within one month of wedding date.

Step Four: SJCC is not responsible for making any arrangements regarding the music on the day of the wedding. It is the sole responsibility of the bride and groom to coordinate the music for the ceremony. If you are interested in using members from SJCC's music ministry, please contact blah@blah.com.

Step Five: Your wedding can be recorded or streamed. SJCC is not responsible for making any arrangements regarding recording or streaming of your ceremony. It is the sole responsibility of the bride and groom to coordinate the recording or streaming for the ceremony. If you are interested in SJCC streaming the ceremony, please contact communications@saintjoseph.cc.

Step Six: After all of the marriage preparation is complete, a member of the staff will contact you to discuss details pertaining to the flow of the wedding. .

Other Important Information as you plan your wedding:

Time of the Wedding: Saturday weddings must begin no later than 2:00 pm.

Parish Membership: Anyone wishing to be married at SJCC must be a member or be related to someone who is a member of our parish.

Fees and Offerings: \$750.00

Official Witnesses: The maid/matron of honor and the Best Man are the official witnesses to the marriage. It is not required that they be Catholic.

Unity Candle: Lighting of the Unity Candle is permitted as part of the marriage ceremony. The bride and groom must provide everything needed for the lighting of the unity candle.

Flowers: Flower arrangements may be placed in front, on both sides, or directly in the center of the alter.

Please refrain from the following:

- Please do not use a aisle runner.
- Please do not sprinkle rice outside the Church.

NOTES:

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SaintJoseph.cc