

Norms for Scheduling of Weddings in the Cathedral Parish – Saint Augustine, FL

*“For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother
And be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’
So they are no longer two, but one flesh’.
Therefore, what God has joined, no human must separate.” (Mt 19:5-6)*

The Catholic Church believes that God is the author of marriage. Therefore, marriage is not just a human institution despite the many civil, social and cultural structures that are placed upon the union of a man and woman. Marriage is a sacrament that “bears the imprint of God’s love. Thus, when a marriage is celebrated in the community of faith -- the Church -- the man and woman who become husband and wife state publicly that they wish to cooperate with God in being a sign of His love for all the world.

Preliminary Information

1. Couples who are preparing for Marriage who reside in the Diocese of St. Augustine are to begin marriage preparation no less than eight (8) months prior to the desired date of the wedding. Couples who come to the Cathedral Basilica of St. Augustine from outside the Diocese of St. Augustine will follow the norms established in the Diocese in which they reside.
2. The priests and deacons of the Cathedral only prepare and officiate at weddings of parishioners of the Cathedral Parish. All other couples are to make arrangements with another priest or deacon to complete the requirements for marriage preparation. The couple will also need to secure the services of a priest or deacon to officiate at the wedding.
3. The priest or deacon who will be responsible for marriage preparation must be willing to coordinate the diocesan requirements for marriage preparation, obtain dispensations and permissions that are needed, and prepare the documents that are needed. Effective July 1, 2011, priests or deacons from outside the Diocese of Saint Augustine must include a Letter of Good Standing in the completed wedding file. This letter must come from their chancery.
4. Before a wedding can be placed on the calendar of the Cathedral, the priest(s) or deacon(s) who will officiate at the wedding and/or coordinate marriage preparation must send confirmation (fax, letter or e-mail) that he commits to officiate at the wedding and/or is assuming responsibility for the couple’s preparation. This confirmation fax/letter or email must also state that celebrant priest or deacon commits to provide a Letter of Good Standing issued by his diocese. The couple must also submit a completed wedding agreement and submit a 50% deposit check. **[P.N. – We do NOT tentatively schedule weddings on the Cathedral calendar.]**
5. All contact with the Cathedral Parish regarding wedding scheduling/planning must be via the bride or groom only.

Places for Weddings in the Cathedral Parish

The Cathedral Parish is responsible for all weddings celebrated at any of the following sites within our parish: the Cathedral Basilica of St. Augustine, St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church, New Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche, Shrine Chapel of our Lady of La Leche and the Rustic Altar on the grounds of the Shrine. Weddings MAY NOT be celebrated at the Great Cross or in any other areas of the Mission/Shrine grounds.

[P.N. – When scheduling a wedding at the Rustic Altar, you must also reserve the New Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche to use in case of inclement weather.]

Time for Weddings and Rehearsals

Weddings may be scheduled on Saturdays at 11:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. in the Cathedral Basilica. Weddings at St. Benedict the Moor Church, New Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche, Shrine Chapel of Our Lady of La Leche or the Rustic Altar may be celebrated on Saturdays at 4:00 p.m. Requests for weddings to be celebrated on other days require the permission of the Cathedral Parish pastor. [P.N. – Weddings are not permitted in the p.m. of the Saturday prior to Palm Sunday, or during the Easter Triduum, or on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Years Eve, New Years Day, the Saturday evening prior to Thanksgiving Day due to the City of St. Augustine's Nights of Lights ceremony or the first Saturday in December due to the City of St. Augustine's annual Christmas parade .]

Rehearsals in the Cathedral are normally scheduled on Fridays at 4:00, 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. Rehearsals at the Rustic Altar and Our Lady of La Leche Chapel and our New Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche are scheduled no later than 4:00 p.m. Rehearsals **MUST BEGIN PROMPTLY**. The marriage coordinator will wait no more than 10 minutes for a wedding rehearsal to begin. Request for rehearsals on other days and times may be requested.

Fees and Offerings

Your fee will be determined by the Cathedral Pastor and is based solely on the current parishioner status of the bride or groom only (not parents or other relatives).

\$500.00 - For registered & contributing Cathedral Parish members of one year or more at the time of contract submittal plus living within the parish boundaries.

\$1,500.00 - For registered & contributing Cathedral Parish members of less than one year at the time of contract submittal plus living within the parish boundaries or registered members of another parish within the boundaries of the Diocese of St. Augustine.

\$4,000.00 - Members of parishes outside the Diocese of St. Augustine.

The Cathedral Parish does not accept any appeals nor grant any exceptions to the established church fees.

[An additional fee of \$500.00 may be assessed for weddings not scheduled for Saturdays as well as all requests for weddings on national holidays.] A deposit check of 50% of the above fees is required when you submit the signed contract for the wedding. The balance of the church fee is due 30 days prior to the wedding. Should you cancel your wedding, the deposit is refundable (less a \$50.00 administration fee) up to seven months prior to the wedding date. If you cancel within 7 months of your wedding date you forfeit the total deposit.

These fees do not include the services of the Cathedral Parish's music personnel or an honorarium for the priest or deacon who is the officiant at your wedding.

**The following must be received
in order to reserve a date for a wedding
in the Cathedral Parish:**

1. Confirmation(s) from the priest(s) or deacon(s) via fax, letter or e-mail that explicitly state that he will officiate at the wedding and/or is assuming responsibility for your marriage preparation. If the same priest or deacon is assuming responsibility for both preparation and officiating one letter is acceptable. Priests/deacons from outside the Diocese of Saint Augustine must also state that they commit to providing a Letter of Good Standing issued by their chancery. The Letter of Good Standing is to be included in the completed wedding file.
2. A completed, signed contract from the couple.
3. A 50% deposit of the qualifying church fee. (Payable to the Cathedral Parish).

All questions concerning the scheduling of weddings in the Cathedral Parish are to be directed to

Deacon Chuck Kanaszka

Phone -- (904) 824-2806, ext. 301

FAX -- (904) 824-0761

E-mail -- ckanaszka@gmail.com

[Norms concerning the wedding liturgy are contained in a separate document.]