



Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church
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WEDDING POLICY

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Your wedding day is a joyful occasion for you, your families and friends. Your marriage joyfully reminds Christians that the Church is married to, or in a covenant with God. The sacrament of matrimony unites a man and a woman, who promise to love each other as God loves His people. We very much believe that a wedding in Church is prayer. The Bible readings, music, procession, vows, photography, and participation by everyone present help make the ceremony a prayer. We at Sacred Heart, hope to make your wedding a happy and holy occasion.

Please read each section carefully to make sure you understand our policies prior to scheduling your wedding at Sacred Heart. Feel free to call the parish office if you have any questions regarding the policies.

WHO CAN GET MARRIED AT SACRED HEART OF JESUS?

We welcome both parishioners and non-parishioners; as long as at least one member of the couple is a baptized and practicing Catholic, both are free to marry in the Church, and have the permission of their own parish priest or pastor.

Engaged couples who are not Sacred Heart parishioners are expected to undergo marriage preparation with their own priest. That priest may also serve as the Celebrant for the wedding itself, or the couple may arrange for another priest to be the Celebrant. The clergy here at Sacred Heart are only available to couples who are registered parishioners here; therefore, it is strongly advisable to communicate with your officiating clergy to confirm their availability prior to scheduling a wedding at Sacred Heart.

If either party has been married before, an annulment may be necessary. Contact the priest preparing you for marriage immediately. We are unable to schedule a wedding until you have received confirmation that your annulment has been granted.

COST AND WHAT IS INCLUDED

Parishioners: Registered parishioners, and the sons and daughters of registered parishioners, who have been active and participating in the parish for at least one year and wish to reserve a wedding date, should call the parish office to discuss their fee schedule and request an appointment with the pastor to begin the required marriage preparation.

Non-parishioners: The fee for celebrating a wedding at Sacred Heart is \$2000. The church wedding fee will include a wedding hostess, altar servers, and basic church expenses. Fees for organists and vocalists are not included.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

The Catholic Church requires formal preparations to assist engaged couples in preparing to live their sacrament. These include conferences with a priest and a pre-marriage seminar. Please obtain information from the priest or deacon presiding at your marriage as soon as possible, classes fill up fast. Also, request a copy of your baptism record including marginal notes from the church of your baptism. The priest or deacon presiding at your marriage will need an official copy of your baptismal record that has been issued within the last 6 months.

WEDDING HOST/HOUSTESS AND SERVERS

A Wedding Coordinator from Sacred Heart will contact the Couple approximately 3 months before the wedding date to review plans for the wedding rehearsal and liturgy. She will be present for both the wedding rehearsal and the wedding liturgy to help ensure that everything proceeds as planned. She will also be able to answer any questions you may have about your ceremony.

You may have friends or relatives, who are altar servers, participate in your wedding as altar servers. If you want Sacred Heart to provide servers, please notify your wedding hostess when you consult with her so she can schedule the altar servers.

MUSIC & VOCALS

The organist and vocalists are scheduled and paid separately by the couple. An organ and a piano are available in the church. The church sound system is to be used exactly as it is provided. **No plug-ins allowed.** Procuring soloists and musicians is the responsibility of the couple. Once your wedding has been confirmed, you will receive a list of organists that Sacred Heart parish recommends. These organists are familiar with both our church organ and music policies. A Church wedding is a sacred rite invoking the blessing of God on the union of the bride and groom. Any music used in the church must mirror the dignity of Sacred Heart Church and the sanctity of the sacrament that is being celebrated. Music selected should express the praise of God, Christ and His Church as the model and foundation for marriage, and the asking of our Lord's presence and blessing. That being said, music from the operatic stage, secular theater, or popular culture is not permitted, therefore only appropriate liturgical music is to be played in the church on your wedding day. All music selections must be approved. To assist you in selecting appropriate music, please see our Wedding Music Policy.

FLORAL AND DECORATIONS

You may make arrangements with any florist to provide flowers. Because they damage the pews and other surfaces, tape, tacks, nails, wires, and other adhesives are not to be used in the church, on the furnishings, or on the church doors. Please consult with the wedding coordinator about the placement of arrangements and another church décor. Protection from leakage and dripping must be provided when live plants are used. All floral arrangements not being left behind must be removed immediately after the wedding.

Chairs and kneelers may be placed in the sanctuary for the bride and the groom. Moving of other church furniture is not allowed. Since the altar is a sacred place, nothing may be placed on it except what is used for Mass. For safety reasons, aisle runners are not allowed.

CHILDREN IN THE WEDDING PARTY

Flower girls may not throw petals (real or silk). Instead, they may carry a small bouquet, floral pomander, or a basket of flowers. Neither flower girls or ring bearers (or any members of the wedding party) are to carry banners with writing or phrases on them. It has been our experience that children under 5 years of age in the wedding party do best when they walk ahead of all of the bridesmaids instead of waiting to go right before the bride. It is less stressful for them and also for the parent or adult that is overseeing them prior to the procession.

CUSTOMS

Your wedding is a holy sacrament of the Church and will be conducted as such. The only wax candles allowed are:

- the candles set next to the altar
- the unity candle and two side candles

The unity candle is not a part of the Catholic Rite of Marriage. If used, the church wedding coordinator will direct the proper placement of the unity candle. Couples are responsible for providing the unity candle and side tapers, along with their respective candle holders, for the mothers to light.

Sand ceremonies or other non-sacramental actions are not permitted at Sacred Heart. Rice, confetti, birdseed, and bubbles are not permitted on church property. No exceptions.

You may have ribbon streamers for your guests to wave at your exit from the church.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOTAPING

Videotaping may be done from the organ loft which offers a great view. Photographers and their equipment are not allowed in the sanctuary (beyond the communion rail). The photographer and equipment must not block the visibility of your guests or the flow of the ceremony. The time for taking photos is limited because the primary purpose of the church is prayer. No drones are to be used inside or in close proximity of the outside of the Church. You are welcome to have an “unplugged ceremony” sign to remind guests to turn off or put away their cell phones.

A PLACE OF WORSHIP

- Adults and children need to be well mannered before, during and after the rehearsal and ceremony. Children must be attended to at all times. There is no “cry” room.
- Eating, drinking, and smoking are not permitted in the church, parish office, or restroom. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted on Church property. **The Celebrant has the prerogative to act with discretion in the event of intoxicated behavior.**
- Still photography and videotaping must respect the dignity of the ceremony.
- The time for taking photos is limited because the primary purpose of the church is prayer.
- A small room is available in the parish office for the bridal party to wait for the ceremony to begin. The groom and groomsmen are welcome to wait in the chapel before the ceremony. All members of the wedding party, including the bride, need to arrive at Sacred Heart already in their wedding attire, as we do not have accommodations for dressing available.
- If you wish to greet your guests after you are married, please do so at the reception. Dismissing each aisle is not allowed due to time constraints.

DRESS CODE

Dress for all persons in the wedding party should be appropriately modest and suitable for a sacramental liturgy. That being stated, low-cut fronts showing cleavage, open midsections or illusion/sheer-style bodices that give the appearance of a bare midsection are not appropriate for church. Should you purchase a gown like this, cleavage and any area on the midsection that is bare, or gives the appearance of, must be covered while in church. Your bridal salon or boutique should be able to assist you with a “modesty panel” for low-cut gowns or an appropriate covering to match the style and material of your gown or that of your bridesmaids. Your wedding is an official liturgy of the Church.

REHEARSAL

Please inform the individuals you have asked to take part in your wedding that they are making a commitment to be at the rehearsal on time. This includes the wedding party, parents, florist, photographer, and readers. The Wedding Rehearsal is directed by the Presider, focuses on all those who have specific duties during the Wedding and starts promptly at the assigned time. Bring your Indiana Marriage License to the rehearsal. Typical rehearsal times:

- Thursdays 5:30 pm and 7:00 pm
- Fridays 7:00 pm

TIMES AVAILABLE FOR A WEDDING

Times are established to avoid interference with regular liturgical activities. Additionally, there are a few special weekend events and celebrations held throughout the year, which might preempt weddings.

- No weddings will be booked less than 6 months before the anticipated wedding date.
- Wedding times are flexible Monday through Thursday.
- **Fridays 5:00 pm:** access to church 3:15 - 6:30 pm. Rehearsal: Thursday at 7:00 pm
- **Saturdays, 10:00 am:** access to church 8:15 am - 11:30 am. Rehearsal: Thursday at 5:30 pm
- **Saturdays 2:00 pm:** access to church 12:15 pm - 3:30 pm. Rehearsal: Friday at 7:00 pm

STIPEND FOR THE PRESIDING PRIEST OR DEACON

Please remember the Celebrant of this most joyous celebration has devoted much time and energy in preparing to make this a memorable and beautiful service. As a sign of gratitude to him, a stipend is very much appropriate and most welcomed by the priest or deacon. Check with your presider regarding customary stipends.