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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 God's 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.

## **How much does it cost to reserve the church and what does that include?**

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 as soon as possible, classes fill up fast. Parishioners must meet with a Sacred Heart priest in order to discuss your marriage in the Church and to set your date. If you were not baptized at Sacred Heart, contact the church of your baptism and ask them to issue you a copy of your baptismal record. Also, a copy of any other sacrament you have received is needed. This is required for all couples.

## Wedding Host/Hostess and Servers

A Wedding Hostess from Sacred Heart will contact the Couple approximately 6 months before the wedding date to review detailed 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 for celebration of the ceremony and must mirror the dignity of Sacred Heart Church and the sanctity of the sacrament 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 you will need to select **only appropriate liturgical music for your wedding.** To assist you in selecting appropriate music, please see our approved list of music for the Sacrament of Matrimony.

## 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 host/hostess 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. If you wish to have an aisle runner, most florists or bridal shops can provide one. The aisle is 125 feet long and runners must go the full length. The aisle runner may be taped to the floor **ONLY** at the beginning of the runner. Tape may not be used down the aisle.

## 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 with flowers. Neither flower girls nor ring bearers (or any members of the wedding party) are to carry banners with writing or phrases on them.

## 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 wedding hostess 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.

## 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 photographer should be present at the rehearsal. The time for taking photos is limited because the primary purpose of the church is prayer. For reasons of safety, no drones are to be used inside or outside the Church.

## 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 bride to wait for the ceremony to begin. **The Bride should arrive at the church prepared for the ceremony and all members of the wedding party need to arrive at Sacred Heart already in their wedding attire, as we do not have accommodations for dressing available.** Dress for all persons in the wedding party should be appropriately modest and suitable for a sacramental liturgy. Nothing may be brought in before or left after the scheduled access times.
- If you wish to greet your guests, please do so at the reception.

## 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 - 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. A suggested amount is \$200.