

## Our Lady of Lourdes Church

### Wedding Policies

We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us.

- 1 Jn 4

The Sacrament of Marriage is the means by which God helps a man and a woman to unite their hearts in love for one another and for Christ. The family of Our Lady of Lourdes wants to help you make this a memorable day.

#### A. Archdiocesan regulations state:

- 1) Couples contemplating marriage must start the wedding preparation process at least six months before their proposed wedding date. The process begins when a priest/deacon commits to witness the wedding.
- 2) Weddings ordinarily take place in the parish of the bride or groom.
- 3) Weddings may be celebrated only in churches or chapels.
- 4) Masses are not celebrated at a wedding between a Catholic and a non-baptized person.
- 5) Mass may be celebrated between a Catholic and a baptized Non-Catholic with the Archbishop's permission.

#### B. For a wedding at Our Lady of Lourdes, you need to know and discuss with the priest or deacon, the following:

- 1) At the initial meeting with the priest or deacon, a tentative date can be set. When the Archdiocesan required marriage preparations are completed a definite date may be confirmed. The date is set by the priest or deacon.
- 2) Marriage preparations consist in your meeting with the priest or deacon who will celebrate your wedding, completing the Premarital Inventory and participating in one of the Archdiocesan Premarital Programs.
- 3) A priest or deacon from another parish is welcome to officiate at your wedding. The paperwork must be in the OLL office two months before the wedding. In addition, the person must officially handle all delegations, preparations, and paper work. That person must also be present at the rehearsal.
- 4) **Wedding Times:**
  - a) Weddings can be at any mutually agreed upon time on weekdays except on Fridays in Lent.
  - b) Weddings on Saturdays may begin no later than 12:00 Noon and be completed by 2:00 pm.
  - c) Weddings on Saturday evenings are allowed to begin at 7:00 pm
- 5) **Fees/Offerings**
  - a) A non-refundable deposit of \$100 is required when the definite date is confirmed. The remaining balance is to be paid 2 months prior to the wedding date.
  - b) The offering for the use of Our Lady of Lourdes Church is \$250 for registered parishioners and \$300 for non-registered parishioners. The offering for a non-parishioner is \$400.00

#### 6) **Wedding Coordinator**

Our Wedding Coordinator will assist at all the weddings at Our Lady of Lourdes. The Wedding Coordinator will open and close the church for rehearsals, conduct a rehearsal lasting 30 to 45 minutes, open and close the church for the wedding and will direct the wedding party during the

wedding ceremony. The gratuity for the wedding coordinator is \$100.00 and is to be paid two weeks prior to the wedding. We suggest your offering to the priest or deacon preparing you for marriage be a range of \$125-\$200.

**7) Altar Servers**

Two altar servers are provided upon request. The usual offering is \$15 per server. Please place the offering in an envelope marker, "Server" and give to the celebrant during the rehearsal.

**8) Music**

Dr. Margaret Campo, Director of Music, is available to help you with your music selections. We have several organists, instrumentalists and vocalists available at Our Lady of Lourdes. If you desire an additional or different instrumentalists or vocalists, they will be welcomed. Before choosing a musician, please consult with Dr. Campo. Since your wedding is a sacred event, you are encouraged to select music for before and during the wedding ceremony. Popular music or secular pieces are inappropriate. Recorded music does not lend to the sacredness of the event. Music selections should be discussed with Dr. Campo. Compensations for the ministers of music is between you and the minister. Dr. Campo can be reached through our church office (985) 643-4137 ext 300. Leave a message that you wish to talk to Dr. Campo and we will make arrangements for her to call you.

**9) Flowers/Decorations**

- a) Arrangements for flowers are made between you and the florist.
- b) The florist (or anyone else) is not to use wire, tape, glue, plastic holders, etc. on the pews or any furniture in the church.
- c) All decorations for the Church's special season (Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter) are to remain in place.
- d) A runner down the aisle is discouraged.
- e) The florist can enter and start decorating two hours before the wedding. The florist must remove all their equipment within one hour after the ceremony.
- f) If flowers are placed in the sanctuary, the florist must consult with the priest or deacon to make sure they do not block the flow of the Liturgy.
- g) Flowers may be placed on side of the tabernacle, but cannot hide the tabernacle. We would appreciate one flower arrangement to be left for the church.
- h) Bubbles, confetti, rice, petals, birdseed, or any other such items are not permitted.

**10) Photos**

- a) Photographers and video operators need to consult with the priest or deacon officiating at the Mass or ceremony.
- b) Photos may be taken from the sanctuary, but the photographer must be discreet and must always be careful not to be a distraction.
- c) Video cameras are to be inconspicuous.

**11) Kneelers**

Kneelers for the bride, groom, best man and maid of honor will be provided.

**12) Rehearsals**

Rehearsals are to be scheduled once the permanent wedding date is confirmed. The wedding party and guests are expected to keep a respectful demeanor in church at all times, i.e. no alcohol, chewing gum, etc.