

# Wedding in the Eastside Family Parishes

The Roman Catholic wedding is a ceremony rich in tradition. It is also a celebration and a blessed covenant by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership for the whole of their lives. The Church offers this sacred opportunity to join with family and friends as you unite yourselves in marriage to God, the creator of all love, joy and happiness. We at the Eastside Family Parishes provide assistance and guidance to help engaged couples begin their journey to a loving and grace-filled married life.

Ego conjungo vos in matrimonium in nomin et Filii et Spiritus Sancti. Amen

## General Information

To reserve the church for your wedding, you must be a registered parishioner and reserve your desired wedding date at least six months in advance. If you are a non-parishioner, the non-parishioner fee and requirements are required. To schedule a wedding at one of the churches in the Eastside Family Churches, contact Haley Wolfe [hwolfe@eastsideregion.org](mailto:hwolfe@eastsideregion.org).

St. Cecilia - All weddings are scheduled on Friday at 4 p.m. or Saturday at 1 p.m. or 6 p.m. This allows ample time for each wedding and avoids conflicts with other parish functions. These times are firm.

St. Mary- All weddings are scheduled on Friday at 5:30 or Sat. at 1 p.m.

After determining the date of interest, Haley will send you the wedding intake form, wedding contract, and details regarding payment via email. Your date will be finalized on our calendar once the intake form has been completed. Haley will then follow up with a confirmation email solidifying your date, giving you an overview of next steps, and reminding you to be on the lookout for an email from Marta Misleh (St. Cecilia/Oratory) and Laura Nickol (St. Mary). Marta and Laura will then guide you through the remainder of the marriage preparation and planning process.

In anticipation of the first meeting with your priest, you will be required to obtain a certified copy of your baptismal certificate. Please contact the parish where you were baptized and request that one be sent to you as early as possible. Bring your certificate with you on your initial visit.

## Marriage Preparation

Marriage preparation integrates components that will ready you and your fiancé to freely, totally, faithfully and fruitfully commit to each other through your wedding vows. Here is a look ahead at some of the larger pieces you will need to complete:

- **M-1 Form**, which allows each future spouse to respond earnestly to a series of questions regarding faith, family, and the couple's relationship. This will be sent along to you within the next few weeks.
- **Natural Family Planning Classes**, which enable couples to work in accordance with God's natural design to experience the fullness of the unitive and procreative elements of the marital act. Classes tend to fill up quickly, so we recommend registering today!
  - [Couple to Couple League](#)
  - [Creighton Fertility Care](#)
  - [The Billings Method](#)
  - [The Cross Check Method](#)
  - [Marquette Method](#)
- One **Pre-Cana Retreat**, designed to create time and space for you and your fiancé to withdraw from the busy days of work, wedding planning, and your bustling social calendar and to actively reflect on the beautiful commitment that you are about to make to one another. These retreats tend to fill up quickly, so register today!
  - [Genesis Retreat](#) (Day Retreat)
  - [Engaged Encounter](#) (Weekend Retreat)
  - [Three to Get Married](#) (Weekend Retreat)
- **FOCCUS Inventory**
  - Your priest will have you and your fiancé complete this inventory at the end of your first meeting together. You will receive your results back a few months before your wedding day during your meeting with your FOCCUS mentor couple, and they will be there to support and encourage you as you identify your strengths and places where you may want to go deeper.
  - You will also need an Ohio Marriage License. You may call (513) 946-3589 for information on Hamilton County's license requirements.

## Attire, flowers, and other expectations

Wedding attire should be in keeping with the sacredness of the occasion and the space in which the sacrament is taking place. If in doubt, please discuss with your wedding coordinator.

There are a number of restrictions couples need to be aware of regarding flower arrangements in the sanctuary.

Other expectations and requirements include, regular Sunday Mass attendance, regularly contributing to the support of the parish through the use of Offertory envelopes or Online Giving, and performing, as a couple, at least 10 hours of volunteer ministry for the parish.

## Fees

For active parishioners, the wedding fee is \$975. For non-parishioners, the fee is \$2,000. Marriage preparation for non-parishioners must be completed by the pastor of the couple's home parish. Non-parishioners must also bring in a priest/deacon to preside over their wedding ceremony. Any visiting clergy will be expected to abide by all of the Eastside Family guidelines.

Full payment is expected up to 60 days from the date of booking your wedding. If you have questions please let us know.

## Music

Music is a very important part of all weddings celebrated in the Eastside Family Parishes. For that reason, the bride and groom will be expected to meet with the parish music director to plan the music for their ceremony. The directors will adhere to strict guidelines established by the Archdiocese.

Music is an important element of all weddings and must reflect standard liturgical practices and, thereby, encourage the couple and the community to enter into the spirit of this occasion as a communal, liturgical event. Similarly, prelude music, because it sets the tone for the liturgical celebration which follows, must also be chosen from the repertoire of sacred or liturgical music. If the services of guest musicians are requested, it is the music director's responsibility to approve both the musicians and their choice of music for the wedding liturgy. The services of the parish music director (consultation, rehearsal and service) are included in the church fee; however, an additional fee of \$150 per musician is required for the cantor (a cantor/vocalist is required for all weddings) and any additional vocalists and instrumentalists. Professional musicians familiar with St. Cecilia Church can be contracted through the music director. The use of other musicians recommended by the bride and groom must meet acceptable musical standards and be approved by the music director. If additional rehearsal time beyond one hour prior to the wedding is necessary because of the use of outside musicians, an additional fee will be set by the music director.

## Photography

The photographer and/or videographer should be discreet so as not to distract the priest, the wedding party, and guests or detract from the solemnity and beauty of the ceremony. Pictures and video may be taken in the church and in the church gardens. All pre-wedding photography

in the church can begin one hour prior to the scheduled wedding time and must conclude 30 minutes before the start of the wedding. Post-wedding photography must conclude 45 minutes after the end of the ceremony. In order to maintain the dignity and solemnity of your wedding, we ask that you inform your photographer of some of the minimal restrictions:

- Flash or extra lighting is not permitted during the ceremony.
- Pictures may not be taken from the head of the aisle, (i.e., the photographer must not position himself between the priest and the congregation).
- The photographer may not enter the sanctuary at any time.
- Photography from the choir loft is limited to immediately inside the entrance door at St. Cecilia.
- Pictures cannot be taken in the choir loft while musicians are performing.
- The Eastside Family retains the right to restrict photographers found not to be observing these guidelines.

St. Cecilia Weddings- Your photographer will need to contact the church at 513-871-5757, at least 30 days prior to your wedding to review these guidelines with the parish staff and gain a better understanding of their role in the liturgy. Failure to understand and follow these guidelines could lead to unnecessary anxiety for the bride and groom.

St. Mary Weddings- Your photographer will meet with someone on the day of the wedding to go over guidelines.

## Other questions

Due to the number of weddings hosted in the family, your wedding rehearsal time will be determined at the point of booking. If there are multiple weddings on the weekend, we can also assist you in making contact with the other party regarding sharing the cost of floral arrangements.

There are no facilities at St. Cecilia Church for the wedding party to dress before the ceremony. Fr. Jamie will open his home (the rectory) as a gathering place for the wedding party one hour prior to the wedding. As a reminder, this is his home (not a church meeting room), and your utmost respect is appreciated. No food or drink is permitted.

At St. Mary, the bride and bridal party gather in Robisch Hall before the ceremony begins. The bridal party is asked to be dressed before they arrive.

It is only common courtesy to your guests, your family, and yourself that the wedding begins on time. The groom and ushers should arrive at least 45 minutes prior to the wedding. The bride and bridesmaids should arrive at least 30 minutes before the wedding.

Guest register books are not recommended at church and are best saved for the wedding reception.

Throwing of rice, bird seed, confetti, rose petals, etc., is strictly forbidden. They create a safety hazard as well as a maintenance problem. You may use silk rose petals but someone in your wedding party will need to have them cleaned up after the wedding ceremony.

We do not permit the use of aisle runners. The use of an aisle runner presents a safety hazard.

All signs, wagons, animals, etc. are also strictly prohibited during the procession.

The Unity Candle is not a Catholic liturgical symbol and we do not use it in the ceremony. It is suggested to have that use of candles at your rehearsal dinner or wedding reception.

This is your wedding and your celebration of the sacrament of matrimony. For that reason, you as bride and groom are responsible for managing the details of your wedding at an Eastside Family Church. We will communicate with you only; we do not communicate with wedding planners, parents, etc.

The consumption of alcohol on church property before or after the wedding by any member of the wedding party is strictly forbidden. Any member of the wedding party that shows signs of having been drinking or of being under the influence of other controlled substances will not be permitted to participate in the wedding ceremony.

Catholics preparing to receive the Sacrament of Marriage should receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation before the wedding.

Please understand that because of the number of weddings taking place at St. Mary, Oratory at St. Anthony, and St. Cecilia Church, we cannot make exceptions to our established policies. Additionally, we have the responsibility of assuring that weddings celebrated at the churches adhere to liturgical standards. In choosing one of our churches in the family as the place for the celebration of your wedding you also choose to abide by the policies governing the use of the facility.

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