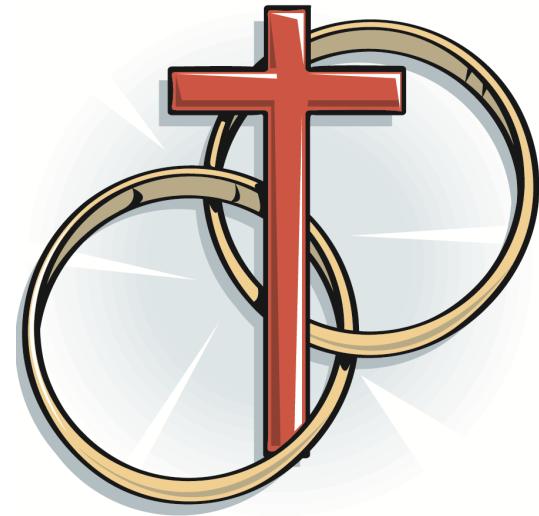


By reason of their state in life and of their order, Christian spouses have their own special gifts in the People of God. This grace proper to the Sacrament of Matrimony is intended to perfect the couple's love and to strengthen their indissoluble unity. By this grace they help one another to attain holiness in their married life and in welcoming and educating their children.

Christ is the source of this grace. Just as of old God encountered His people with a covenant of love and fidelity, so our Savior, the spouse of the Church, now encounters Christian spouses through the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony.

Christ dwells with them, gives them the strength to take up their crosses and so follow Him to rise again after they have fallen, to forgive one another, to bear one another's burdens, to be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ, and to love one another with supernatural, tender, and fruitful love.

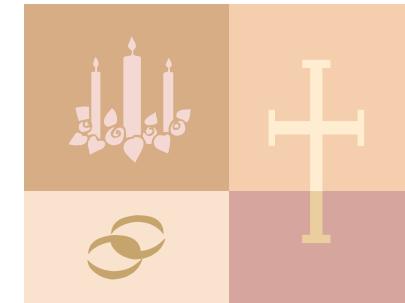
In the joys of their love and family life He gives them here on earth a foretaste of the wedding feast of the Lamb.



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Saint Louis Catholic Church

Batesville, Indiana



Saint Louis Catholic Church
13 Saint Louis Place
Batesville, IN 47006
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Rev. Randall Summers
Pastor
Extension 265

Wedding Guidelines

Amended July 2012

Preliminaries...

SCHEDULING

- A. Couples desiring to be married at St. Louis should schedule an appointment with the Pastor to set their date and begin the marriage preparation program at least six months before the anticipated date. Wedding dates will be scheduled in advance of 12 months only if the Liturgical Calendar is available.
- B. Times available for weddings on Saturdays are 2:00pm and earlier. One wedding will be scheduled on a particular date.
- C. Parish facilities are not available for the reception.

OUT OF PARISH WEDDINGS

Traditionally weddings are held at the parish of the bride, or the parish of the Catholic groom if the bride is non-Catholic. Rare exceptions may be made by the pastor with the appropriate permissions from the pastor of the bride if she is Catholic.

DONATION/FEE

The couple may wish to make a donation to the church on the occasion of their wedding. The fee for non-parishioners is \$300 and is to be paid at the time the church is reserved. However, the fee for non-parishioners may be waived for any employee of the parish or school. (A non-parishioner is defined as one who is not a member or whose parent or parents are not members. The bride or groom may register as a member, but must be a member at least six months prior to scheduling the wedding date.) An honorarium is traditionally given to the priest and the altar servers.

CHASTITY

Marriage preparation in the Catholic Church requires an ongoing commitment to deepen personal faith and translate faith into practice. Cohabitation during engagement presents a danger to chastity and gives scandal to others. For this reason, couples who wish to marry at St. Louis Parish are expected to live separately during their engagement.

Preparation...

INTRODUCTORY MEETING

The couple meets with the priest at least six months prior to the wedding to get acquainted and to review the preparation program.

SPONSOR COUPLE

A trained sponsor couple will work with each couple for several meetings using the PREPARE & ENRICH pre-marriage inventory. The sponsor couple writes a brief evaluation of the couple and sends it to the priest.

MARRIAGE IS FOREVER (812-637-3347)

Couples are asked to attend the ***Marriage is Forever*** program offered by the Batesville Deanery. The one session program is usually held on a Sunday afternoon. It is helpful to attend the Marriage is Forever program prior to the program on Natural Family Planning.

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

Each couple is required to attend a Natural Family Planning Class. Classes are held at St. Louis Parish on the first Sunday of the month from 9:00am to 12:15pm. There is a \$30.00 fee for books and materials. To register call 812-934-3338 or 812-934-4054.

OTHER PROGRAMS (optional) (317-545-7681)

Couples may participate in other archdiocesan programs at Fatima Retreat House in Indianapolis as part of their preparation:

- Tobit Weekend (recommended especially for interfaith couples)
- Tobit Day—in January
- Pre-Cana

CONFERENCE WITH THE PRIEST

The final meetings are with the priest. He will discuss the meaning of Marriage as a Sacrament and assist in the many choices that are part of the planning rites.

ALTERNATIVES

If either the bride or groom live out of town, arrangements may be made with a local priest or campus chaplain for marriage preparation.

Celebration...

REHEARSAL

Rehearsal is usually scheduled the evening before the wedding.

MUSIC

Couples need to meet with the Director of Music & Liturgy, Sunny Calvert, to arrange all of the music at the ceremony.

PARISH MEETING ROOM #1 (in Church)

This room is available for the bride and her attendants. The couple is responsible for cleaning the room after use.

DECORATIONS

You are welcome to use the flowers currently on the altar. Seasonal decorations (Christmas, Advent, Lent, Easter) must remain in place.

CLEAN UP

The couple must arrange for the church to be cleaned after the wedding. Please, no birdseed, confetti or rice inside or outside of church. Anything moved from its place in the church or vestibule must be returned to its original place.

PICTURES

Picture taking should not intrude into the ceremony. The photographer should be instructed to be finished by 3:30pm (to allow for Confessions and preparation for the evening Mass). Please, no videotaping during the rehearsals.

NOTE

Alcoholic beverages are not permitted on Church grounds before, during or after the wedding or wedding rehearsal.