



*Congratulations on your engagement! Our parish priests and wedding coordinator are happy to assist you as you prepare to live the Sacrament of Marriage. We hope the information in this pamphlet will be helpful as you begin the process of preparing for the Sacrament and the celebration of your wedding liturgy.*

### **Scheduling Your Wedding Date**

To begin the inquiry process and to schedule your wedding, call St. Peter Parish at (314) 966-8600.

### **Wedding Dates**

Weddings are generally celebrated on Saturdays between 11:00 am and 1:00 pm or on Friday evenings at various times. Your wedding date and time becomes firm when it has been discussed and agreed upon with a St. Peter Parish priest. Once the date is agreed upon with the parish priest, your rehearsal and wedding dates will be added to the church calendar. *\*Please note weddings are not celebrated during the season of Lent.*

## **Rehearsal Dates**

Rehearsals are usually scheduled on the Thursday or Friday before the wedding at various times. A date and time for your rehearsal should also be scheduled with the parish priest.

## **Marriage Preparation**

Your spiritual preparation for the Sacrament of Marriage is of utmost importance. Therefore, you are asked to place a high priority on your meetings and appointments with the priest or deacon witnessing your marriage so that he may assist you and be assured that you are well prepared. In accordance with Archdiocesan policy, the couple should inform one of the parish priests at least six months before the proposed wedding date to allow sufficient time for the process of marriage preparation. The following items are required by the Archdiocese of St. Louis:

1. Participation in FOCCUS - Facilitating Open Couple Communication, Understanding and Study - with the priest or deacon or his designee.
2. Participation in at least one approved marriage preparation program:
  - a) Witness to Love
  - b) Engaged Encounter
  - c) Couple to Couple
3. Completion of one session of Natural Family Planning (NFP).
4. Completion of the necessary forms for our church records.
5. Planning of your ceremony with the priest or deacon.

For more on Marriage Preparation, please visit the [St. Peter Marriage](#) website.

## **Baptismal Certificate**

Catholic parties are required to provide a copy of their baptismal certificates (obtained within the last six months) from their parish of Baptism. You may obtain a copy by requesting one in writing or by calling the parish of your baptism. Parties of other faith traditions are asked to supply a copy of their baptismal certificate as well, though it does not need to be a current copy.

## **Marriage License**

The State of Missouri requires a marriage license. The license must be applied for no earlier than 30 days prior to your intended date of marriage. Contact either the St. Louis County Government Center, at 314-615-2500, or St. Louis City Hall, at 314-622-3257, to obtain a marriage license.

## **Planning Your Marriage Ceremony**

The priest and wedding coordinator will assist you in planning your wedding ceremony. Because you are being married in a Catholic Church, the ceremony will follow the directives of the Catholic Church. You will be given a copy of the book, "Together for Life" to help plan and personalize your liturgy and ceremony details. There is also a website [Catholic Wedding Help](#) that can provide assistance.

Note: Another priest or deacon, who is a relative or family friend, is most welcome to preside at your wedding and handle the preparations. Please speak with a St. Peter Parish priest to make these arrangements.

## **St. Peter Wedding Coordinator**

St. Peter designates a wedding coordinator to help facilitate the events on the day of your wedding as well as the rehearsal. The wedding coordinator will assist in the planning of your ceremony and answer any questions you may have regarding the church. On the wedding day, the wedding coordinator will meet with your photographer, videographer and florist. You will be contacted by one of our wedding coordinators after the wedding ceremony date has been confirmed.

## **Music**

Please contact the St. Peter Liturgical Music Coordinator, Ryan Bolinger, at 314-603-9122 or at [ryan@ryanbolinger.com](mailto:ryan@ryanbolinger.com) to discuss the music for your ceremony. If you are interested in hiring additional and/or outside vocalists, instrumentalists, or cantors please discuss with the Liturgical Music Coordinator for approval.

## **Servers**

It is customary to have servers on the altar at a wedding. You are welcome to invite a family member or friend to serve at your wedding. Please note servers should be trained and experienced and it is preferred at least one server should be a St. Peter parishioner. The wedding coordinator will arrange servers for you if necessary.

## **Flowers and Decorations**

Prior to the wedding date, the wedding coordinator and the florist will need to discuss an agreeable time for flowers, arrangements and décor to be delivered and set up. The church is often decorated with plants and flowers which vary depending on the season and liturgical calendar. Please inquire with the wedding coordinator for more information about the flowers and plants present at St. Peter Church.

Additional flowers are not necessary but are most welcome. Please note altar flowers are generally considered a donation to the Church. Ribbons and flowers are allowed on the pews as long as they are not attached with anything that would mar or stick to the pew.

Items that are **not** permitted include but are not limited to: aisle runners, open flame candles, candelabras, balloons, animals. The throwing of rice or birdseed or blowing of bubbles is not permitted.

### **Photography**

On the day of the wedding, the photographer and/or videographer **MUST** speak with the priest or wedding coordinator prior to the ceremony to clarify acceptable positioning during the ceremony. Photographers and the photography itself must not detract from the ceremony.

Photography taking place after the ceremony is asked to be completed within thirty minutes.

### **Dressing and Gathering**

The wedding party may arrive one hour prior to the start of the ceremony. The bride and bridal party may use the cry room to get ready and wait before the wedding (St. Peter does not have a bride room). The groom and his attendants may gather in the working sacristy. Please make sure that you assign someone to gather everyone's items from these areas after the wedding.

### **Church Etiquette**

Please do your part to keep our church and grounds neat and clean by removing all trash, boxes, programs and other items. The consumption of alcoholic beverages is not permitted in the church or on church premises.

## **Important Phone Numbers**

### **St. Peter Parish Rectory**

Fr. Matthew O'Toole or Fr. Justin Ruzicka

314-966-8600

### **Liturgical Music Coordinator**

Ryan Bolinger

314-603-9122      [rbolinger@stpeterkirkwood.org](mailto:rbolinger@stpeterkirkwood.org)

### **St. Louis Country Government Center**

314-615-2500

### **St. Louis City Hall**

314-622-3257

## ***Fees***

### **Church**

Parishioners                      - \$375.00

Non-parishioners                - \$675.00

### **Servers**

2 Servers                         - \$15.00 each

### **Music**

Piano/Organ:                   - \$250

Cantor:                         - \$100-225

For more music information: Please contact Ryan Bolinger [rbolinger@stpeterkirkwood.org](mailto:rbolinger@stpeterkirkwood.org)