

Instructions for Parking

When providing directions to your guests as to the chapel location, please use the following:

The St. John Fisher Chapel is located on the South Campus at St. Thomas More at 632 Laurel Hill Road.

The South Campus is located to the left of the main campus.

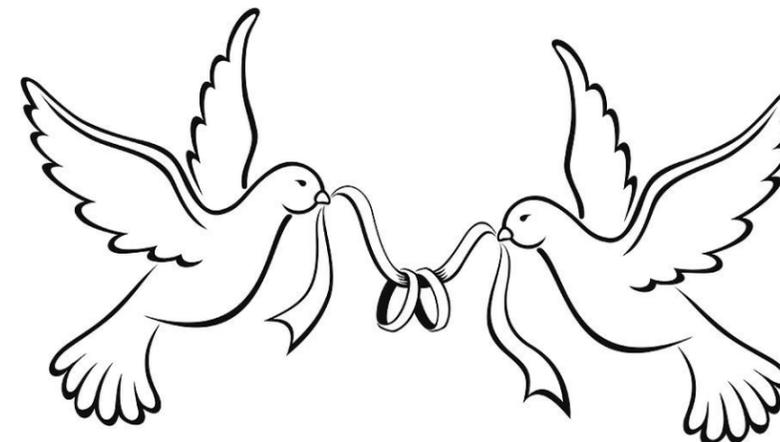
Limited parking is available behind the South Campus Buildings. Overflow parking is available on the Main Campus near the San Isidro Labrador Garden.

Whom do I Contact?

Name	Phone	Area of Responsibility
Jennifer Bartnik <i>Coordinator of Office Services</i>	(919) 942-6225 <i>jbartnik@stmchapelhill.org</i>	Scheduling of weddings and marriage preparation, process for annulment.
Deacon James Rizza <i>Director of Liturgy</i>	(919) 942-6217 <i>jrizza@stmchapelhill.org</i>	Planning your liturgy using the <i>Together for Life</i> book.
Sarah Franco <i>Director of Music</i>	(919) 942-6233 <i>sfranco@stmchapelhill.org</i>	Assistance with selection of and approval for service music and performers.



The Catholic Community of St. Thomas More—South Campus
632 Laurel Hill Rd, Chapel Hill, NC 27514
919.942.1040
www.stmchapelhill.org/marriage



Planning Your Wedding at St. Thomas More in the St. John Fisher Chapel

What is the Ceremony like at St. Thomas More?

A Catholic wedding is a service of public worship and follows the liturgy of the Church. The Rite of Marriage celebrates with noble simplicity the joining of two persons in the Sacrament of Marriage. The details of liturgy are arranged to reflect the sacramental character of the marriage. The marriage of two Catholics takes place within Mass. For a Catholic marrying a non-Catholic, the ceremony follows the same service but does not include the consecration and distribution of the Eucharist. The book, *Together For Life*, is provided by St. Thomas More to help plan your liturgy within or outside of Mass. If your marriage ceremony will take place within Mass, altar servers or Eucharistic ministers from either family are encouraged to participate in your celebration. Please let the Coordinator of Office Services know if friends or family members are performing these ministries.

Who Officiates?

The wedding ceremony and the rehearsal are normally conducted by a priest or deacon of St. Thomas More Church. It is permissible and invited, should a couple wish, to have a priest or deacon who is a relative or a special friend officiate at their wedding. A letter granting permission for this honor is written by the Pastor of St. Thomas More to the guest presider. Ministers of other churches are also invited to participate and assist in the liturgy. The couple is asked to contact the Pastor of St. Thomas More with these or other special requests before meeting with the priest who will continue their preparation for marriage.

The Rehearsal

Rehearsals are scheduled for 6:00 or 7:00 p.m., following daily liturgy that is celebrated at 5:15 p.m. in the chapel. A priest or deacon of St. Thomas More or the guest presider will direct the rehearsal with assistance from members of the St. Thomas More Wedding Committee. Professional wedding directors are not used at St. Thomas More. Should you have a guest presider, he is asked to contact the Pastor of St. Thomas More in advance to receive delegation to preside at the ceremony.

The Wedding Committee

Composed of volunteers from St. Thomas More Parish, this committee will assist you and the presider (guest or St. Thomas More associate) at both the rehearsal and the wedding. They will contact you a week or so prior to the wedding to answer questions you might have. You are also welcome to call the Coordinator of Office Services to find out who has been assigned to coordinate your wedding, or with any questions or other concerns about your wedding.

What About Music?

Music at a wedding follows the standards for music in public worship. Some music appropriate for a reception is not suitable for public worship. A St. Thomas More cantor must be used to ensure the musical standards of a Catholic wedding are followed. While other musicians and instruments (other than organ) may be used, the use of these elements must be discussed with and approved by our Director of Music. The couple should make an appointment with the Director of Music to discuss the music program of the wedding no less than eight weeks before the wedding date.

Photographs and Videos

The photographer is asked to speak with the presider prior to the liturgy to see what photos will be permitted. Usually the discreet taking of candid photographs, without the use of a flash, and videotaping is permitted during the ceremony; however, this may in no way interfere with or interrupt the ceremony. The ceremony may not be re-enacted for photographs. A limited number of photographs may be taken following the ceremony but should not take longer than 20 minutes, as other liturgies usually follow. This time limit should not be a problem with proper planning done by the photographer.

May We Dress at the South Campus?

The bride and bridesmaids may dress in a room in the St. Maximilian Kolbe Lounge. The groom and groomsmen may congregate in the St. Juan Diego Room. No food or beverages, most especially alcoholic beverages, are allowed in any area of the chapel.

Flowers and Decorations

Artificial arrangements are not permitted in the church. Two flower arrangements may be placed on the reredos wall ledge. Arrangements should be thin as the ledge is 10 inches deep and must be in glass containers.

Seasonal arrangements (Advent, Christmas, Easter, etc.) that are already placed in the church may not be removed or changed in any way. Please call the Director of Liturgy to discuss details of seasonal arrangements.

You may contact the Coordinator of Office Services about other weddings that may be scheduled on the same day and determine with other couples if coordinating flowers is possible. “Reserved” markers, supplied by the church, may be used; however, no other flowers or decorations are used on the pews or in the chapel except those bouquets carried by the wedding party. White aisle runners or the dropping of petals are not permitted. The lighting of the Unity Candle is not an official part of the Catholic rite and is not encouraged.

Receiving Lines, Guest Books, Rice, etc.

All flowers, except carried bouquets, are to be left in the chapel and not removed to a reception site. A guest book may be set up near the front entrance of the chapel. We are unable to accommodate receiving lines and suggest planning one at your reception site. It is not permitted to throw flower petals, rice, bird seed, or any substitute, anywhere on church grounds. Blowing bubbles outside of the chapel is permissible.

The Marriage License

The marriage license may be obtained from any county in North Carolina, and may be applied for up to 60 days in advance of the wedding date. You may call the Orange County Register of Deeds Office at (919) 967-9251, extension 1-2675 for more information on this process. You should give your marriage license to the Parish Coordinator of Office Services at least one week in advance of your wedding.

What Are the Costs for a Wedding?

An offering of \$300 is standard from those who are not members of St. Thomas More Church. The purpose of this offering is to cover costs of utilities and maintenance related to the use of the chapel and should be received by the Coordinator of Office Services one month prior to your wedding. There is no contribution to the Church for registered members of St. Thomas More (please note that being registered means active and contributing for a period of at least three months in advance of beginning preparation).

Additional fees, paid by separate checks to each individual, must also be received by the Coordinator of Office Services one month prior to your wedding and include:

Director of Music: \$200 Cantor: \$200

Other musician fees (i.e., soloist, trumpet) to be arranged with the Music Director.

Clergy (suggested honorarium, not required): \$200

If your wedding takes place within Mass, altar servers will each receive \$20 in cash.