



# St. Michael's Catholic Church

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## MARRIAGE GUIDELINES

### CHURCH REQUIREMENTS

- ❖ The couple must meet with the parish priest **at least six (6) months in advance** of the wedding date (this is in accord with the directives of the Bishops of the Province).
- ❖ Each party must present:
  - Baptismal certificate (*issued by the church where they were baptized within the six (6) months prior to the wedding date*)
  - Freedom to Marry Affidavit
- ❖ A letter of permission to be married at St. Michael's church from the parish of either the bride or groom must be presented if neither party is a member of St. Michael's church.
- ❖ **If either party has been married before either civilly or in a church ceremony, a date for the marriage cannot be set until the freedom to marry is established.**
- ❖ After all the above documents have been obtained the parties will be asked to:
  - Fill out the Prenuptial Inquiry and Freedom to Marry Affidavit forms, which states their freedom to marry.
  - Take FOCCUS, a compatibility test.
    - Meetings with a parish couple will follow to go over the results
  - Attend the Engaged Couples Workshop
    - Copy of the certificate of attendance is required
  - Apply for a dispensation, if one is needed.
- ❖ Wedding date must be arranged with the priest of the parish. **The date of the wedding cannot be confirmed by anyone else.**
- ❖ The offering for the church is **\$300.00**. This offering includes use of the church and the processing fee of the "FOCCUS" compatibility test.

- If neither party nor their parents are registered members of the parish the offering is **\$500.00.**
- You are responsible for organist/musicians, singer and altar server fees.

### **THE LITURGY**

- ❖ You will be provided with a book "Together for Life", which includes all the readings and prayers from which you will be able to choose the ones for your wedding. The priest officiating at your wedding will be able to assist you.
- ❖ **The music** selected for your wedding ceremony must be in keeping with the liturgical guidelines of the Church.
  - **All music must be arranged and approved by the parish music director**
  - St. Michael's Music Director is Laura Saumer. Please contact her as soon as possible to make the arrangements.
    - Email: [laura.saumer@duluthcatholic.org](mailto:laura.saumer@duluthcatholic.org)
    - Cell phone: 651-341-0505
- ❖ All flower arrangements and other decorations are made by the couple with the florist.
  - No flowers are permitted on the top of the altar
  - No tape or tacks may be used to secure flowers or bows on the pews or any other furniture
  - If seasonal decoration is arranged in the sanctuary or in the church it needs to be respected. It can be modified only with the permission of the priest. After the wedding, it is the responsibility of the wedding party, to restore it to its original setting
- ❖ Throwing of rice, birdseed, flower petals or confetti is not allowed inside or outside the church
- ❖ No Wagons or personal pets allowed inside the church.
- ❖ Respectful clothing and behavior proper to the church is expected during the rehearsal and the wedding ceremony. No food or drink should be brought into church.
- ❖ **Consumption of alcohol on the church property is forbidden.**

- ❖ Pictures and video may be taken during the wedding liturgy, provided this does not interrupt the ceremony. As a norm, the sanctuary where the altar is located is off limits. You should instruct your photographer to consult with the priest before the wedding starts.

### **REHEARSAL**

- ❖ Rehearsals are normally conducted by the priest presiding at the wedding liturgy. If a visiting priest/deacon officiating at the wedding is going to conduct the rehearsal, please notify the rectory at least a week in advance.

### **CIVIL REQUIREMENTS**

- ❖ The marriage license needs to be brought to the parish office not later than one (1) week prior to the wedding.
- ❖ If the priest/deacon officiating at your wedding **IS NOT A RESIDENT** of the State of Minnesota and does not have credentials in the State he shall file a copy of their credentials of license or ordination with the local registrar of a county in this state.
- ❖ Priest or deacon from outside the Diocese of Duluth must submit a letter of suitability to the parish office as soon as possible

### **TIMES OF WEDDING**

- ❖ Friday evening after 6:00 P.M.
- ❖ Saturday between 12:00 P.M. & 2:00 P.M.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

- ❖ If, after filling out the Prenuptial Inquiry form the personal information of either party should change, like phone number or address, they should inform the parish office immediately.