

PREPARING FOR CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE

Our Lady of the Pillar Catholic Church



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Best wishes on your engagement! Our Lady of the Pillar is pleased to help you as an engaged couple to prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage. Now that you are engaged, here is what you need to do:

1. The Parish Office, 314-993-2280. Thank you for contacting Our Lady of the Pillar for your wedding.

2. Confirming the date for your marriage and the rehearsal.

- Contact the Parish Office at least 6 months ahead of time to see if your preferred date is available.

3. Priest/Deacon for your wedding.

- If your presider is one of the OLP parish priests/deacon, you will be directed to him. He will assist you with the necessary paperwork.
- **The church is not reserved until the presider is selected and the church fee is received.**
- If the presider is not a priest/deacon from Our Lady of the Pillar, the applicable forms must be received by the Associate Pastor before the church is reserved.
- You will be directed to the Associate Pastor who will assist you in getting the necessary permission and the appropriate forms as needed.
- All visiting priests/deacons must submit to the Associate Pastor the Agreement of the Officiating Priest/Deacon. If the visiting priest/deacon is from outside of the St. Louis Archdiocese, he must also submit a Letter of Suitability from his bishop or provincial superior.
- **If you live out of town** and are undergoing preparations through a deacon/priest outside of Our Lady of the Pillar parish, the priest/deacon must send the appropriate papers to his local Chancery Office, who will then send them to the St. Louis Chancery Office for approval, one month in advance of the

wedding. The approved documents will then be sent to the pastor of Our Lady of the Pillar.

4. The presider will ask for the following paper work:

- Recent copies (within 6 months) of your baptismal certificates, if applicable. If you were not baptized at Our Lady of the Pillar, please contact the church in which you were baptized and request a recent copy of the certificate.
- A Marriage License from St. Louis County must be obtained within 30 days of the wedding. Bring the Marriage License to the wedding rehearsal.
- If either you or your fiancé have previously been married, bring a copy of the divorce decree and an annulment decree.*

** Please note that an annulment for a previous marriage, regardless of where the marriage took place, is required before you can marry in the Catholic Church. This can be a lengthy process, so apply for the annulment a minimum of one year in advance of your plans to marry.*

The Church cannot be reserved until the annulment is obtained.

5. Planning Your Wedding

- Weddings are usually celebrated on Friday evenings and Saturdays, between 11:00 am and 2:00 pm. Weddings are not usually scheduled on Holy Days.
- The priest/deacon will help you plan your wedding.

6. THE WEDDING LITURGY

Because the Eucharist is the central prayer and worship of the Catholic Church, a wedding between two practicing Catholics is ordinarily celebrated during a Eucharistic Liturgy (Mass). If one of you is NOT Catholic, the Rite of Marriage will ordinarily take place within a service of Scripture readings and prayer, not a Mass.

7. Fees for use of the Church

Church fee must be paid to confirm the date on the church calendar.

- Registered Parishioners
Registered longer than one year: \$1,000.00
- Non-Parishioners: \$2,250.00
- Deposit is non-refundable

8. Fees for Ministers

- It is customary to present a stipend to the priest/deacon. It will be up to you as a couple to decide what that offering will be, as a gesture of gratitude to him for his time and efforts preparing you for your marriage and wedding. If you would like the priest/deacon to attend the rehearsal dinner and/or wedding reception, please take the time to personally invite him ahead of time.
- Musicians/Vocalist: fees will be addressed when you meet with your Music Director.
- Please check with the priest/deacon concerning servers. The parish is happy to secure them for you. Servers receive (\$20 each.)

9. Preparing for your Marriage

In accord with the marriage preparation policy established by the Archdiocese of St. Louis and your priest/deacon presider, you will need to complete the following:

- Complete the Pre-Nuptial Investigation with your priest/deacon.
- Complete the assessment of readiness for marriage (FOCCUS),
- Participation in one of the recommended marriage preparation Programs. Provide a certificate upon completion of the program
- Participation in the Natural Family Planning Class (Introductory session) sponsored by the Archdiocese. Provide a certificate upon completion of the program
- Recent copy of the baptismal certificate/s
- Plan the ceremony with the assistance of the priest/deacon

10. Decorations and Safety

The architecture of our church is simple by design and does not require much decoration.

- Aisle runners and bubbles are not permitted in the church.
- The use of flower petals, throwing rice, bird seed or confetti or launching balloons is not permitted anywhere on the grounds.
- Other flowers/ribbons and pew decorations, etc. must be removed before you leave. Please remove all programs, boxes, paper, decorations, coat hangers, etc. upon leaving after the wedding. We cannot be responsible for items (plants, programs, etc.) left behind.
- Flowers: You are responsible for the flowers in the Church.
- It is customary that the altar flowers be left for the weekend masses.

11. Music

1. Only liturgical music integral to the wedding liturgy and appropriate to the sacred ceremony is permitted.

- You may ask other musicians to provide the music. It is preferred that your musicians be Catholic or familiar with music appropriate for a Catholic Marriage and a Mass



2. The parish director of music may be contacted to assist with the music for your wedding. You may contact the Director, Mr. Tom Stephan at 314-993-2280 Ext 260 (tstephan@olpillar.com) to discuss music selections and compensation for musicians.

12. Use of the Cry Room

- The Cry Room is available for your use. Please leave the room clean and orderly when the wedding is finished.
- There is another Bride's Room in the parish office building. It may be reserved upon request.

13. Photography and Videography

- Videographers and photographers are to check with the officiating priest/deacon prior to the wedding in order to obtain their directives.
- Videographers and photographers are NEVER allowed in the sanctuary (the marble floor section).
- Posed pictures in the church are allowed before or after the wedding. Usually the church is available for 30 minutes following the wedding.
- Pictures may be taken in the courtyard before or after the ceremony.

Reverence and Respect

A Catholic Church is truly a special place for us. It is a place where we celebrate the sacraments of our faith, where we reserve the Blessed Sacrament, where we gather for worship and prayer. We believe that spirit of reverence should characterize our time in church. We ask that all who attend the wedding respect this. It is especially irreverent to eat or drink in our church or vestibule. Further, we insist that no alcoholic beverages be consumed, or flammable items be used on parish property.

Final Reminders:

If the priest/deacon is from Our Lady of the Pillar.

1. The priest/deacon must agree to preside to preside at Rehearsal & the Marriage Liturgy.
2. The fee for the use of the Church must be paid for the RESERVATION to be placed in the Church book.
- 3. The OLP priest/deacon will be responsible for listing your marriage in the Church RESERVATION book.**

The items must be completed for the Church to be RESERVED.

If the priest/deacon is NOT from Our Lady of the Pillar.

1. The **“Agreement of the Officiating Priest/Deacon”** must be received by the Associate Pastor.
2. The fee for the use of the Church must be paid.
- 3. The OLP Associate Pastor will be responsible for listing your marriage in the Church RESERVATION book once items #1 & #2 above have been completed.**

The items must be completed for the Church to be RESERVED.

Revised 10/22/2019