

**St. Mary Mission statement**  
*"To be companions with Christ our Savior"*

**Pastor: Fr. Nicholas Voelker**  
**Wedding Coordinators: Mr. and Mrs. Justin and Becky Patterson 620.213.2444**  
**Business Manager: Mrs. Sue Schimdt 316.282.0459**  
**Parish Office Assistant: Mrs. Marcia Mathews**  
**Pastoral Assistant: Mr. Rob Tierney 316.282.0459**

**The Sacrament of Marriage**

Marriage is a sacrament, sign and instrument instituted by Christ to receive grace. To enter the sacrament of marriage is to enter a new vocation in life. Married love involves self-giving and being open to human life between one man and one woman. When you give yourself to another person, you agree to work together for your mutual happiness and sanctification along with the procreation of children.

The following are requirements and suggestions for our parish to assist your reception of the sacrament of marriage. In making your preparations, always remember that a wedding is a day, and marriage is for life.

**Who May Marry at St. Mary Church?**

Generally speaking, registered members of our parish may celebrate their wedding at St. Mary. Roman Catholics who live within the bounds of the parish but who have no formal relationship with the parish community may speak to the pastor about establishing a relationship with the parish. Former members of the parish need to speak both to their present pastor and to the pastor of St. Mary of their wish to celebrate their marriage in our church.

*Catholics who have no prior relationship with the parish need approval of their current pastor and the pastor of St. Mary parish to have their wedding at St. Mary Parish.*

**Parishioners registered less than a year pay a fee of \$300 per day with a \$500 dollar refundable deposit and must be paid in full before the rehearsal.** If one is a parishioner for more than a year then the fee for the use of the Church is \$150 per day with \$200 refundable deposit.

*If you are not a registered parishioner, with approval of the Pastor, use of the church is \$300 a day with \$500 refundable deposit.* This fee should be paid before the rehearsal.

**Setting the Date and Time for the Wedding Ceremony**

Couples are expected to contact the parish priest a 9 months to a year prior to the date on which they hope to celebrate their wedding.

The parish priest (Pastor) of St. Mary in collaboration with the couple set the date for the celebration of the wedding. Dates will be booked only after the priest has had sufficient opportunity to meet with the engaged couple and to arrange for their participation in a marriage preparation process. It is the responsibility of the engaged couple to secure the date for the church before making commitments with caterers, reception halls, etc.

**The Nuptial Mass or Wedding Liturgy (*Catholic Wedding without a Mass*) shall begin by 2:00 PM at the latest on Saturday, and by 7:30 PM at the latest on weekdays. Saturday Evening Weddings are prohibited.**

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**Marriage Preparation**

Couples wishing to be married are required to participate in a marriage preparation program with the Pastor. The preparation takes 9 months. But a year at best. Persons not baptized at our parish must obtain a recent baptismal certificate from the parish in which they were baptized. Non-Catholics must obtain some record of their baptism.

*The following is a rough outline of topics in the preparation covered during the time of Marriage Preparation*

- Theology of the Body and the Primacy and wholeness of Sexuality Identity
- Intimacy, Communication skills, and working through Conflict
- Goods of Marriage and Sacrament of Marriage
- Family of Origin and Dynamics (with children and other marriages)
- The domestic church, the management of money \$\$\$, and the raising of a Catholic Household
- Cohabitation, Contraception, Same Sex Unions and other Occasions of Sin
- Inseparability Principle of *Humane Vitae* and Natural Family Planning
- Working with Mr. and Mrs. Matt and Dayna Steinmetz as a Mentor Couple
- Classes of Natural Family Planning conducted by Mr. and Mrs. Rob and Charisse Tierney
- The program (<http://www.prepare-enrich.com>).
- Engaged Encounter – a weekend at the Spiritual Life Center in Wichita KS that explores the vocation of the Christian marriage and how to live out that vocation.
- Spiritual attitudes, disposition and practice of the Virtue of Humility within the Sacrament of Marriage
- Nullity of Marriage(s) (Validations) and Premarital Pregnancy
- Working with the Pastor, Parish Coordinator and Wedding Coordinators on the final details for the Wedding Liturgy and/or Nuptial Mass.

**The Nuptial Mass and the Wedding Liturgy**

Ordinarily, the priest at St. Mary’s Parish will preside at weddings celebrated here at St. Mary’s. If a couple has a special relationship with another priest from outside the parish, they are free to ask him to preside. An exception to have another priest from

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outside the parish will be made only after proper delegation is made by the pastor and assurances that the parish marriage preparation is followed.

Bridesmaids and Groomsmen: While the parish of St. Mary encourages the participation of bridesmaids and groomsmen, only six people are allowed per bridal party.

Ministers: The bride and groom minister the sacrament of marriage to one another; a priest and at least two witnesses are also required to be present. Non-Catholics may act as witnesses.

Music Ministers: Music selection must express the **Christian** dimensions of marriage and good liturgical practices. Classical Hymns are appropriate in the liturgy whereas secular songs or ballads are appropriate at Wedding receptions and other celebrations. Congregational singing is encouraged at weddings over solos. A parish cantor is encouraged to lead the people in the sung and recited responses.

The parish could provide the music for weddings celebrated in the parish. However, it is permissible for another organist or pianist to use either the organ or piano. Consult the Pastor or the Wedding Coordinator for the name of the organist in charge.

A list wedding music will be given to the bride and groom by the wedding coordinator. Any other music must be cleared through the wedding coordinator.

Readings: The wedding ritual will have a reading from the Old Testament, the New Testament, and perhaps a responsorial psalm (if not sung). A lector from the parish or a family member or friend with some experience with public reading would be a good choice for these readings.

Offertory Gifts: If the Liturgy of the Eucharist is a part of the wedding ceremony then three to four people will be needed to bring forward the gifts at offertory. This gives an opportunity for family or friends to participate in the wedding ritual.

Eucharistic Ministers: When the Eucharist is celebrated and a large number of Catholics are expected to be present, one or two Eucharistic ministers from the parish would greatly assist the liturgy.

Ushers: The ministry of hospitality is the responsibility of the ushers. Ushers should be familiar with our parish, i.e. where to seat people, where the restrooms are located, and how to assist the handicapped. At least two ushers should be selected.

Altar Servers: The ministry of acolyte (altar server) may be filled from the servers from our parish. If others from outside the parish are asked to serve, they need to attend the wedding rehearsal. Consult the priest. (Pastor)

Ring bearers and flower girls are not ministers, nor are their services required for the celebration of marriage. Couples will be asked to consider the ages of the children involved in these roles and whether their presence will add to or detract from the solemnity of the celebration. Children ages 4yrs and older are permitted to be flower girls and ring bearers.

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Liturgy Preparation: With the priest, the couple needs to determine if the marriage is to be celebrated within the Mass or in the Liturgy of the Word. The couple will be provided with a copy of *"Together for Life"* at the end of the formal marriage preparation process: which contains the scripture readings they can select for the ceremony.

Many times particular requests are made for the ceremony. Weddings celebrated at St. Mary are celebrated according to the norms of the Roman Catholic Church. Please contact the priest with any specific questions.

The order of procession at the beginning of the wedding celebration takes the form noted in the Rite of Marriage. The procession begins with the priest and other ministers leading the procession into the sanctuary, followed by the attendants two-by-two, then the groom (preferably with his parents), and then the bride (preferably with her parents). The focus of attention is on the entire wedding party that honors all four of the parents as well as the wedding party.

A wedding rehearsal will be conducted prior to the wedding ceremony. The marriage license should be presented to the priest at that time. The rehearsal is a simple affair to practice procession and recession. It should take only thirty minutes if all parties are on time. The wedding party, parents, lectors, and ushers should be in attendance. Confession can be heard for those who wish to go, prior to or immediately following the rehearsal.

**Environment**

Flowers should enhance the church but not detract from the ceremony. Arrangements with the florist are made by the couple directly. Keep it simple!! Flowers on the altar are not allowed. Arrangements should not be higher than the altar candles. If the flowers are not to be kept in the church, they need to be removed immediately following the ceremony. Any of the church's flowers which were moved to place the wedding arrangements must be replaced!

Pew Bows are not recommended for a Wedding Liturgy; however, they are permitted. Please do not use tacks or anything which will damage our pews. Bows must be removed immediately after the Wedding Liturgy.

Mass or wedding pamphlets are recommended for a Wedding Liturgy. Please consult the wedding coordinator for the order of liturgy and for samples from previous weddings. The pamphlets must be picked up immediately after the Wedding Liturgy from the pews and the floor.

Artificial rose petals are permitted.  
Floor or aisle runners, and real rose petals and are prohibited.  
The use of wagons pulling animals or children are prohibited.

The use of candelabras provided by the Parish are recommended. The use of other candelabras provided by florists are prohibited.

Food, drink and gum are prohibited in the church.

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Throwing of rice, bird seed, etc. is prohibited. Such material can cause persons to slip and fall as well as be tracked through the church.

A lasso and veil are approved local customs when a Nuptial Mass or a Wedding Liturgy is celebrated.

The Parish Center is available for the bride as a “Bride’s Room”. The groomsmen are to come dressed for the wedding. You will need to make arrangements for keys with the wedding coordinator. Please leave these rooms clean after your usage!

Photography and Videotaping: The liturgy of the marriage is a sacred moment, one of which you will want recorded. Please advise your photographer(s) of the following:

- Photographers are not permitted to roam about the church once the liturgy has begun.
- Only the light already available in the church may be used during the ceremony.
- Flashes are permitted only during the processional and recessional.
- Guests are not permitted to take pictures during the ceremony.

Musicians from the parish: Should be considered in your monetary gifts.

Servers: If you need Mass Servers, please inquire at the St. Mary Parish office.

Musicians, florist, photographer, and others you hire to perform a service at your wedding and throughout the day will let you know their standard fees.

Cancellation: if for any reason you decide to cancel or postpone your wedding, please call immediately 316.282.0459. It may give someone on a waiting list the opportunity to schedule their wedding.

Music Ministers: Music selection must express the **Christian** dimensions of marriage and good liturgical practices. Classical Hymns are appropriate in the liturgy whereas secular songs or ballads are appropriate at Wedding receptions and other celebrations. Congregational singing is encouraged at weddings over solos. A parish accompanist and cantor are encouraged to lead the people in the sung and recited responses. Please contact Mr. Rob Tierney for Wedding Music Inquires.

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