ST. JOSEPH SHRINE

INSTITUTE OF CHRIST THE KING SOVEREIGN PRIEST
1828 JAY STREET
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48207
(313) 784-9152 · SJDETROIT@ICKSP.ORG

Congratulations on your engagement! As you consider the possibility of celebrating your marriage at St. Joseph Shrine, the guidelines below will give you some specifics about weddings held here. Please remember that the Shrine is not a destination "wedding chapel" but a church with an active community of practicing families and individual faithful. We are not a geographical parish, and weddings are held here as part of the pastoral care of existing members of the Shrine who have decided to make this their regular spiritual home. *All couples, without exception, will be expected to abide by the established guidelines of the Shrine*. Please keep these guidelines in mind as you make your preparations. May God bless you and place His peace in your hearts as you prepare for the reception of this sacrament.

WEDDING POLICY

All liturgical celebrations at the Shrine follow the traditional Roman rite (the "Latin Mass"), which uses exclusively the Latin language. In a marriage ceremony the exchange of vows (consent of the spouses) would be in English but all else would be in Latin. It is not the policy of the Shrine for weddings to be conducted by visiting clergy.

Part I – Preparation of Marriage

The priest who will celebrate your marriage will give you complete details about this policy. It involves:

A. Preliminary assessment of readiness for marriage.
B. Marriage Preparation program.
C. Completion of the necessary forms with information to be recorded in the Marriage Register.
D. Planning the ceremony.

Contact the Shrine <u>at least six months</u> before the desired date for the wedding, so that we may begin the marriage preparation process. (Usually total of 6 meetings, one meeting every month). With exceptions.

*** <u>Moral and Spiritual Preparation:</u>** A couple preparing for marriage should remember the importance of prayer and regular reception of the sacraments. It should go without saying that a chaste courtship and engagement, in keeping with the norms of Catholic morality, is an indispensable preparation for marriage. The widespread modern habit of "living together" before marriage (the sin of cohabitation) is absolutely unacceptable. If an engaged couple has been living together, they must immediately obtain separate residences and commit themselves to living apart until they are married. **Under no circumstances will the mandatory 6-month marriage preparation even *begin* until the couple has permanently ended cohabitation.**

Part II – Confirming St. Joseph Shrine for your Wedding

Before a date and time can be confirmed, the following requirements must be addressed:

A. At least one of the parties must be an ***active registered member at the Shrine**. If the engaged couple are students or live somewhere else, it suffices that their parents meet these requirements of being active registered members of the Shrine. ****

***Active registered members of the Shrine attend Mass here every Sunday and contribute regularly to the support of the Shrine.**
**** Exceptions possible according to the rector's judgment.**

B. Contact the rector of the Shrine, who will discuss with you:

   a. The date and time of the wedding,
   b. The necessary paperwork that must be filed with the Shrine, no later than six months before the wedding,
   c. The preparation for the sacrament of Marriage and married life,
   d. The arrangements for the rehearsal,
   e. The witness of your marriage (N.B. only priests of the Shrine are allowed to celebrate marriages here and this will be only in the traditional Roman Rite.)

C. The Shrine requires a **$200.00 non-refundable deposit** at the time of reserving the date for the wedding. (Refund within 30 days after the wedding if all requirements in Part III have been met.) (initials: _____ and _____)

D. Pay a usage fee to St. Joseph Shrine in the amount of $500.00 for active registered members at the Shrine**. The usage fee must be paid in full at least sixty days prior to the wedding date.** In the event of the cancellation of the wedding, the fee ($500.00) is refundable. (initials: _____ and _____). In the event of extraordinary permission for a wedding of those who are not registered members of the Shrine, a usage fee of $800.00 is requested. The amount of the honorarium for the priest is at the discretion of the couple.

E. Meet with the Rector of the Shrine or the secretary to review these guidelines. This meeting can be arranged by calling the Shrine office at **(313) 784-9152** between 9:30am and 3:00pm Monday through Friday and should take place as soon as you decide to have your wedding here. This will avoid any misunderstanding later. Please note that the date for your wedding **can not be confirmed until items B, C, and D have been satisfied.**

F. The above fees do not include the choirs, organists, or musicians of the Shrine. Regular fees for the **organist only** are $200. These fees are discussed when you meet with the music director. All musical arrangements must be made with the Shrine's music director, once the wedding date has been approved by the rector. Check should be submitted to the Rector (*Pay to the order of: St Joseph Shrine*)

Contact: Mr. Michael Semaan, Music Director, Organist
semaanmp@hotmail.com
tel: (248) 250-6005

G. For Sung or Solemn Mass request, once approved by the Rector, please contact our Chant Schola Director. Fees for the Schola is $250 (usually 4 chanters). Check should be submitted to the Rector (*Pay to the order of: St Joseph Shrine*)

Contact: Mr. Harold Rutila, Chant Schola Director
h.rutila@gmail.com

Part III – Planning the Ceremony

The guidelines for planning your wedding are presented in two parts: a section to provide information about the possible arrangements you may wish to make, and a section to delineate the requirements which we have at St. Joseph Shrine.

General Information:

A. You are encouraged to celebrate your marriage with a Sung or Solemn Mass wherein the nuptial blessing is given. Generally, we do not perform mixed marriages at the Shrine (marriage between a Catholic and a non-Catholic).
B. We do not permit weddings during the seasons of Advent (evening before the fourth Sunday before Christmas until Christmas Day) and Lent (Ash Wednesday until Easter Sunday), nor on November 2 and 3, the Commemoration of All Souls, or the day before Pentecost. These liturgical seasons are *penitential* and marriages are *not solemnized* during these times.
C. **The Liturgy:** On most days of the year, it is possible for the wedding Mass to be celebrated as the votive "Nuptial Mass," the special Mass contained in the missal for bride and groom. However, if a wedding is held on a first- or second-class feast day, then the Mass celebrated will be the Mass of the day, with the extra prayers for bride and groom being added in. In either case, the prayers and readings of the Mass are provided already in the missal and it is not possible to choose or "customize" them.
D. Please see the Rector in order to schedule the wedding.
E. The social hall may be used by the bride for dressing, but we do not have a designated "bridal room." The groomsmen may wait in the church in silence.
F. The church is accessible to persons with disabilities through the use of a side door ramp.
G. We provide the altar service for your wedding. It is customary to tip the servers around $10 per server. Often it is the "Best Man" who tips the servers.
H. **Dress Code:** In the Church, a sacred place, everyone should be dressed modestly and appropriately. For this reason, the gowns of the bride and bridal party **must** be approved beforehand by the Rector of the Shrine. Dresses with exposed backs and shoulders are not permitted, and the dresses must fall below the knee (including when seated). Also, reverential silence and behavior is obligatory while in the church. **Guests must be informed of this policy in advance by the couple (for example, on the invitation).**

Requirements:

A. All musical arrangements for your wedding must be made through the music director. In order to avoid later confusion, it is important for you to be aware that it is the policy of this Shrine

to restrict the use of the organ to our musicians. Also, the traditional Roman rite has several requirements for the music used in the liturgy. If you have any questions, you may address them to the music director.

a. Arrangements for visiting vocalists and instrumentalists are made with the music director.
b. **All fees and stipends for musicians are to be paid at least 30 days prior to the wedding date.**

B. Schedule the rehearsal date by calling the office.
C. Decorations:
   a. Only fresh cut flowers are permitted and these should not be removed following the ceremony. No rented flowers, artificial flowers, or potted plants are permitted. Flowers should be placed in a manner as not to obstruct the liturgy; one must consult the sacristan.
   b. No balloons may be used inside or outside the church.
   c. Since the church is decorated during Christmas and Eastertide no additional decorations are needed. Christmastide should be considered to date from December 25 to February 2, and Eastertide from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Saturday. At these times, none of the decorations in the sanctuary may be moved or removed.
   d. Tape is <u>not</u> permitted to be used on the pews.
D. Both still photographs and videotapes are permitted. Wedding photographers should introduce themselves to the Rector and ask about any restrictions on the photographer's activities during the ceremony. The photographer should be as unobtrusive as possible, and he is not allowed in the sanctuary during the ceremonies. Posed photographs before or after the ceremony may be taken in front of the sanctuary or in the nave of the church, but **NOT** in the sanctuary itself. The sanctuary is the space from the communion rail to the altar. These photos may be taken after the wedding for 45 minutes. In addition, for the posed photographs, furniture or other accessories may not be brought into the church nor may any of the church's decorations or furnishings be moved. <u>It is the responsibility of the couple to inform the photographer of these guidelines.</u>
E. The use of the Social Hall before or after the ceremony is possible for group less than 100 people. **<u>Church Hall rental fee: $200.00</u>** (restrooms and small kitchen available)
F. Throwing of rice, confetti, flower petals, birdseed or anything else inside or outside the church is not permitted.

If you have any further questions or would like additional information, please contact the rectory office.

<u>Suggested Professional Photographers</u>:

- *Robertbrucephotography.com* | robertbrucephoto@hotmail.com
- *Intrigue Photography* | www.intrigue.photography | *313.355.9355*

<u>Suggested Caterer</u>:

- *Fishes & Loaves* | rebeccamoore54@gmail.com | *248.943.6468*