

WHO MAY BE MARRIED AT ST. PATRICK'S?

Weddings, like other sacramental celebrations, are a service offered to the members of St. Patrick's Parish. Consequently, it is expected that either the bride or the groom is a registered member of the parish. Weddings may also be performed if the parents of the bride or groom are members. If neither the couple nor their parents are members of the parish, we would not normally celebrate the wedding here. Exceptions can be made only by the pastor for a serious reason.

HOW MUCH NOTICE IS REQUIRED?

The initial contact for the scheduling of a wedding should be made with the parish at least six months prior to the wedding. There are many elements involved in marriage preparation and it takes several months to complete all of the requirements.

HOW DO WE BEGIN?

Initial contact should be made with Meg McManmon at mmcmanmon@stpatrik-edina.org. She will discuss further details of the preparation process, answer questions and provide resources. Rehearsal and ceremony dates can be reserved only after a personal meeting.

WHAT ARE THE COSTS INVOLVED?

The parish requests a donation of a minimum of \$500 for a wedding. Weddings that take place over holiday weekends are subject to a \$600 donation. This is to be paid by a check made out to "The Church of St. Patrick." This donation helps to cover the costs of the parish's pre-marriage program, as well as the costs involved in the use of the church or chapel and the services of the parish staff. If the wedding is later canceled or postponed, the donation will be refunded in whole or in part. Costs involved with music should be handled directly with St. Patrick's Music Director. The church can accommodate up to 900 people and the chapel up to 150 people.

WHEN CAN MARRIAGES BE CELEBRATED?

Marriages can be celebrated on nearly any day except Sundays and Holy Days. Most weddings take place on Friday evenings, Saturday mornings, or Saturday afternoons. A Friday evening wedding can be scheduled no later than 8:00 p.m. A Saturday wedding can be scheduled no later than 3:00 pm. At a Saturday afternoon wedding all photographs **must** be taken before 4:30 pm and all photographic equipment **must** be removed from the church by that time.

The church will be open by 8:00 a.m. for a Saturday morning wedding. It will be open by 12 noon for a Saturday afternoon wedding. If there is a need to use the church prior to those times please consult with the priest. There is an additional charge if a custodian must come early to open the building.

The pastor reserves the right to accommodate a funeral that may take place over the dates of the rehearsal and ceremony.

WHAT ARE THE PRE-MARRIAGE REQUIREMENTS?

- Personal meeting with the priest.
- Work with a trained couple from the parish in the parish's PREPARE program.
- Participate in a pre-marriage retreat.
- Work with the environment coordinator early in your planning process.
- Work with the Director of Music in the planning of music, readings and prayer petitions for the wedding.
- Fill out marriage papers, including an Archdiocesan Questionnaire administered by the sacramental prep coordinator.
- Meet again with the priest.
- Provide ceremony specific details to the wedding coordinator no less than two weeks in advance of the ceremony.
- Submit marriage license paperwork to the administrative assistant one week before the ceremony.
- Schedule and attend the wedding rehearsal.



WHAT IF ONE PARTY IS NOT CATHOLIC?

Permission from the Archbishop is given when a Catholic marries a non-Catholic or a non-Christian. The priest will arrange for this permission to be granted. Marriages between a Catholic and non-Catholic normally do not include a Mass. It is also possible to receive permission for a wedding to take place before a Christian minister of another denomination. The priest can work with you if you wish the wedding to take place in a non-Catholic church, while still being recognized as a Sacrament by the Catholic Church. The basic elements of pre-marriage preparation are still required even if the wedding does take place in another church.

WHAT IF ONE PARTY HAS BEEN MARRIED BEFORE?

The Catholic Church does not recognize civil divorce as ending the sacramental bond of marriage if a previous wedding is recognized as such. In some situations the Church does grant a sacramental annulment if it has been shown that some essential quality was lacking in a marriage from its beginning. Because this can be a complex issue, it should be discussed with the priest as early as possible. If there has been a previous marriage and no Church annulment has been granted, a sacramental church wedding is not possible.

CAN A PRIEST OR DEACON FROM OUTSIDE THE PARISH BE ASKED TO PRESIDE AT A WEDDING AT ST. PATRICK'S?

A close friend of the family, or a relative who is a priest or deacon, may, with the permission of the pastor of St. Patrick's, preside at a wedding at St. Patrick's. He must, however, be registered as a cleric in the State of Minnesota in order to preside at a wedding in this state. The regular requirements of the parish for a wedding must also be fulfilled.

IF ONE PARTY IS NOT CATHOLIC, CAN THEIR MINISTER PARTICIPATE?

A non-Catholic minister is welcome to participate in a wedding ceremony. While the priest must be the official witness for the exchange of vows, there are other elements of the service which a non-Catholic minister might do. These can be discussed with the priest.

ARE THERE ANY RESTRICTIONS REGARDING ATTENDANTS?

The parish has no restrictions on the number of attendants. Flower girls and ring bearers must be a minimum of 3.5 years or older.

ARE THERE ANY RESTRICTIONS REGARDING DECORATIONS?

There are some restrictions regarding decorations. **Decorations that have been put up as part of the parish's observance of a liturgical feast or season may not be removed or altered.** The parish has candles which may be placed along the main aisle. The large candelabra in the rear of the sanctuary may also be used. The environment coordinator will explain what options there are for placement of flowers. We do not allow the "throwing of rice" or any other material after the wedding either inside or outside the church building.

ARE THERE RESTRICTIONS REGARDING PHOTOGRAPHY OR VIDEO TAPING?

It is important that photographers or video camera operators not become a distraction. As a simple "rule of thumb" they are not allowed anywhere in the sanctuary. They should check with the priest before the service if they have any questions.

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Generally a couple can plan on being able to use the church for about two hours before the wedding. Photographs and decorating should be finished within that time span. At Saturday afternoon weddings all photographs **must** be taken before 4:30 p.m. and all photographic equipment **must** be removed from the church by that time.

CAN WEDDINGS BE SCHEDULED DURING ADVENT AND LENT?

Advent (the time before Christmas) is a season of hopeful waiting, not penance. Therefore, there are no restrictions on weddings during Advent. Lent (the time before Easter) is a season of penance and sacrifice. The joy of a wedding would be in sharp contrast to the more somber spirit of Lent. We, therefore, discourage weddings during that season. If a wedding is scheduled during Lent, **no decorations** (flowers or candles) are permitted. However, the bride and bridesmaids are permitted to carry flowers, even if the wedding does take place during Lent.

WHEN IS THE WEDDING REHEARSAL?

Rehearsals are usually scheduled for the evening before the wedding. The exact date and time can be worked out with the priest. It is a good idea to schedule the rehearsal as soon as possible.

CAN WE RENT THE SOCIAL HALLS FOR A BRIDAL SHOWER, GROOM'S DINNER, RECEPTION, GIFT OPENING?

Yes. Visit our Mahon Center facility rental page at www.stpatrick-edina.org. To schedule a tour, contact our Facility Rental Coordinator at 952-941-3164.

We look forward to working with you!
stpatrick-edina.org

CHURCH OF ST. PATRICK
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WEDDING ARRANGEMENTS

Congratulations on your engagement!

This brochure is meant to help clarify some of the basic policies regarding weddings at the Church of St. Patrick-Edina.

Details regarding the policies and procedures listed here will be clarified when you meet with Fr. Tim. The members of our engaged couples ministry team also look forward to helping you prepare to celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage.
