

St. Patrick Catholic Church **Marriage Policy**

A. Diocesan:

1. A couple desiring to be married is expected to contact the celebrant at least six (6) months prior to the proposed date of their wedding.
2. Both parties, if Christian, need certificates of Baptism. Catholics need baptismal certificates issued by the Church of Baptism within the past six months.
3. The bride and groom must fill out a Pre-Nuptial questionnaire with their celebrant on their personal status and marital convictions.
4. In an interfaith marriage between a Catholic and a Christian of another Church, the ceremony will consist of the Liturgy of the Word and the Rite of Marriage. Neither Mass nor Communion Service can be permitted.
5. The Marriage may be delayed for any one of the following reasons: 1) non-practice of the Catholic faith by either party with no evidence of an intention of practicing the faith; 2) lack of readiness or maturity for marriage; 3) lack of appreciation for the spiritual and sacramental aspects of the marriage; 4) refusal to cooperate with the marriage preparation guidelines.

B. Civil

A Marriage License must be obtained from the parish Clerk of Court no more than 30 days and no less than 3 days before the wedding. The marriage license is valid for 30 days from the date of issuance. Both parties will need birth certificates and social security numbers. For further information, including fees, call the Clerk of Court Office at 233-0150. Without a license, a wedding cannot take place.

C. Parish

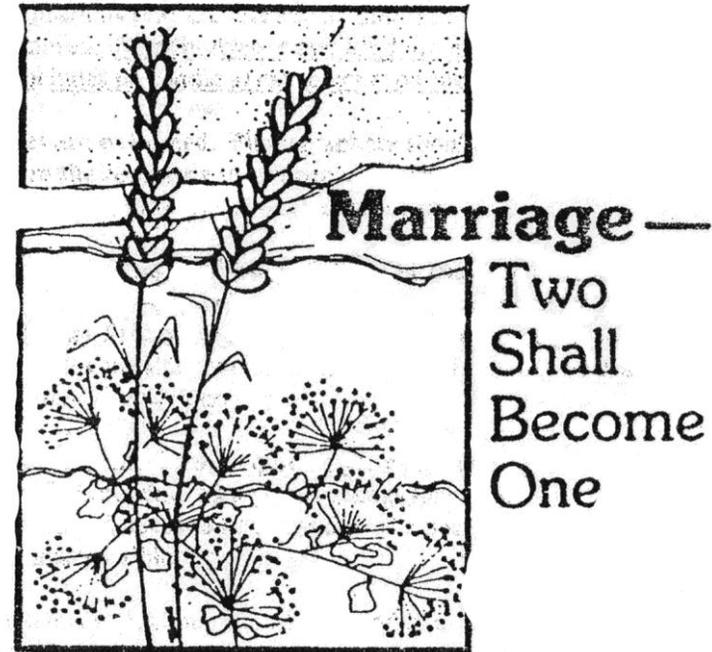
1. Available Wedding Times:
Friday: 6:30 pm, 7 pm
Saturday: 10 am, 11 am, 1 pm
Saturday evening (no nuptial Mass): 6 pm, 7 pm
Sunday: No Weddings
2. Every couple desiring to be married at St. Patrick will be expected to attend one of the marriage preparation programs approved by the Diocese of Lafayette. These are programs that stress communication and sharing of your values and vision with each other.
3. A fee of \$500 is charged for the use of the Church to non-members of the parish. This fee is payable upon reserving the Church. The member status of the groom, bride, or parents of either, must already be established by a census record or residence within the parish when the first inquiry is made about setting the date for the wedding.
4. When out of parish individuals use the Church for their wedding, they will normally provide for a presider of their choosing, who will be responsible for all marriage preparation. All pre-nuptial paperwork is to be completed and delivered to St. Patrick at least two weeks before the wedding.
5. If one or both parties to be married do not frequent Church on a regular basis, the ceremony will consist of the Liturgy of the Word and the Rite of Marriage.
6. The wedding will start on time.
7. Due to the size of the Church, only six (6) groomsmen and six (6) bridesmaids will be allowed. It is strongly recommended that children under 4 not be part of the wedding ceremony.
8. Additional candles are allowed only if they are encased in a glass globe, and are not allowed in the body of the Church.

ST. PATRICK CHURCH

WEDDING POLICY

9. The unity candle is not part of the Catholic wedding ceremony. Sacramental unity is symbolized by couple's joint sharing in the Eucharist. If desired, the unity candle might instead be used by the couple at the reception.
10. The use of rice, flower petals, confetti, etc., is not allowed in Church or on the Church grounds.
11. No decorations that are already in Church for liturgical purposes may be removed. No adhesives of any kind are allowed on the pews.
12. Pictures are allowed, though photographers are not permitted in the sanctuary. Photographers / videographers should check with the celebrant before the ceremony to safeguard the solemnity of the Liturgy.
13. Rehearsals will be held at 6 or 6:30pm at least one or two evenings before the wedding—but no later than Thursday evening (so as not to conflict with any Friday evening wedding). The rehearsal is normally conducted by the presider (priest or deacon).
14. You are responsible for acquiring your own musicians. Only sacred music is allowed at the ceremony, and needs to be cleared by the pastor. This should be done as soon as possible, to avoid last minute changes.
15. No food or drink of any kind is allowed in or around the Church and its grounds.

When the Church calls marriage a "sacrament", she recognizes that the exclusive, permanent and fruitful love of husband and wife are a reflection of the love Christ bears for the Church. The wedding ceremony initiates that union of conjugal and love, and draws its importance from the sacredness of the shared life we call marriage.



"Love one another, as I have loved you"
