

NO SATURDAY NIGHT WEDDINGS

PARISH WEDDING POLICY

STS. PETER AND PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH
SCOTT, LOUISIANA, 70583
(337) 235-2433

There will be no Saturday night weddings. Weddings can be Friday night or Saturday from 10:00-1:00pm. There will be no exception to this rule.

Weddings in the Catholic Church are part of the public worship of the Church. This community idea does not mean that you, as a couple, will be unable to make this celebration “your own.” In addition to choosing the members of your wedding party, you are to select Bible readings, choose liturgical music, and also decide who will participate as ministers in your celebration.

These guidelines are meant to help you prepare for your wedding. Since marriage is a public act, both Church and State have certain requirements.

We ask that you read over this policy. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call us for clarification (235-2433).

CIVIL REQUIREMENTS:

Louisiana Law requires that a marriage license be obtained from the Clerk of Court’s office no earlier than 30 days before the wedding and at least 72 hours before the wedding begins. Please bring it to the church office as soon as you get it along with any other certificates of requirements completed. The ceremony and marriage license must be witnessed and signed by the celebrant, the bride and groom, and two witnesses at the wedding. Witnesses have to be 18 years of age or older. Bring the license to the church office as soon as possible but no later than two weeks before the ceremony as listed on #6 of Sts. Peter & Paul Requirements.

Please contact the Clerk of Court’s office for other information on civil requirements for marriage.

DIOCESAN REQUIREMENTS:

You should make an appointment to see a priest concerning your wedding at least 6 months prior to the wedding date you have in mind. Come earlier to get the date you want.

At the initial appointment it would be helpful to have new copies of your baptism certificate with notations. The first interview will deal with basic family and faith history information. Date for the wedding and rehearsal will be set. You will receive further information concerning diocesan requirements at this initial interview.

STS. PETER & PAUL REQUIREMENTS:

1. There will be no Saturday night weddings. Weddings can be Friday night or Saturday from 10:00-1:00pm. There will be no exception to this rule.
2. There will be no weddings during Lent.
3. There is no set fee required or expected by the Church for a marriage for those persons who are actively contributing parishioners using the envelope system and have done so for over 1 year. If you want to make a donation, you could make a donation of \$350 to help defer the utility costs of the Church. All couples are asked to give a \$100 fee to the rehearsal coordinator/sacristan (Cindy LeBlanc – 235-9732.) Parishioners can schedule the ceremony one year in advance.
4. Non-parishioners may schedule 6 months in advance of the wedding and will need to bring in their own priest. For non-parishioners there will be a \$750 charge for the use of the Church. This fee must be paid half at the time of booking and the remainder at least one month prior to the date of the wedding. (A non-parishioner is: 1) someone who does not live within the territorial boundaries of Sts. Peter & Paul Parish; 2) couples who are co-habiting and live outside the territorial boundaries of this parish are considered non-parishioners – even though their families may live within this parish. All couples are asked to give a \$100 fee to the rehearsal coordinator/sacristan (Cindy LeBlanc – 235-9732.)
5. Witnesses must be 18 years or older. No minors will be allowed as Maid of Honor or Best Man. Ring bearers/flower girls must be 4 years of age or older.
6. We must have the marriage license two weeks before the ceremony. Out of town priests must have all paperwork turned into the office two weeks before the ceremony.
7. There will be no smoking inside the Church and no alcoholic beverages brought on the Church property. Any person who is visibly intoxicated for the rehearsal or wedding will not be permitted to participate in the ceremony. So, it is very important that the couple express to their attendants that they want their wedding to be dignified and respectful – intoxicated persons are not dignified or respectful.
8. Be on time for the rehearsal and the wedding. That means you are responsible for your attendants. The person conducting the rehearsal will begin on time with or without the entire wedding party.

WEDDING WITH MASS/WITHOUT MASS

The obligation of the church's ministers (priests and deacons) is to witness the marriages of those couples who have fulfilled all canonical requirements. Their obligation does not mean that Mass must be celebrated with the wedding ceremony. Therefore, all couples who wish to marry in this church parish will have the Mass celebrated with their wedding ceremony **ONLY** if they have shown that the Eucharist is an important part of their lives by regular Sunday attendance at Mass. The priest will make the final determination as to whether Mass will be celebrated or not!

For those couples who are entering into a “mixed marriage,” the Mass will not be celebrated to accommodate the non-Catholic party.

There will be no weddings in Lent.

DRESS CODE

The church is a sacred place and dress should reflect that. Modesty should be considered when choosing dresses. For bridesmaids—no low cut necklines, nor high slits, and of course---dresses should be well below the knee.

FLOWERS AND OTHER DECORATIONS!

The Sacrament of Marriage is a sign of God’s love and faithfulness. We encourage simplicity in decor and restraint in spending. The beauty of the wedding is your love. Let that be what stands out.

1. Florists appreciate being notified at least 1 month before the wedding. Your florist should check with the Parish Office before the wedding to find out when the Church will be available for decorating. The families are responsible for the Church being cleaned up immediately after the ceremony. If there is no professional florist being paid to clean up, then someone must be responsible.
2. There will be **no** weddings during Lent. During the Liturgical Seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Easter the wedding decorations must take into account the liturgical decorations already in Church.
3. Unity Candles, Unity Sand, and Unity Crosses **are not** permitted as well as banners or signs.
4. The use of trellises, arches, and garlands **is not** permitted.
5. The use of an “Aisle-runner” **is not** permitted; it is useless and only clutters the church aisle. Also, this plastic runner on top of the terrazzo floor makes for a safety hazard (slipping easily happens). A cloth runner pleats and presents a safety hazard as well.
6. There will be no throwing of anything inside or outside of the church.
7. While the use of a Professional Wedding Consultant may prove helpful in some instances, his/her responsibility **CEASES** at the Church door and is picked up again at the reception. The priest or his designate alone is responsible for working with you on the wedding rehearsal and liturgy.

PHOTOGRAPHY

One still-photographer and one videographer are allowed during the wedding ceremony. A second videographer may remain in the choir loft during the ceremony.

All camera equipment, film packaging, etc...is to be removed as soon as the ceremony is over.

Please be respectful of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament when taking photos before and after the service.

All photographers must be properly dressed.

You will be allowed 30 minutes after the service for pictures.

MUSIC

Music adds solemnity and joy to your wedding. Its primary purpose is to help make your wedding a truly prayerful experience for all present.

1. Only Denise Melancon will be allowed to play the organ for the weddings. Her number is 258-9574. Her fee is \$300. If you desire to have anyone else, you will still need to pay a bench fee. No exceptions.
2. A vocal soloist is usually hired to sing at the appropriate times. These times are: the seating of mothers, the entrance of the wedding party, the entrance of the bride, a true responsorial psalm from the approved texts after the first reading, offertory song, communion song (which should be about the Holy Eucharist), presentation of flowers, and recessional. All Mass parts are to be sung.
3. Secular music, while often requested, **should not** be used during the Mass. Non-religious music is best reserved for the reception after the wedding.

POLICY APPROVAL:

This policy has been approved for use in the parish of Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church. Any revision of this policy is at the sole discretion of the Pastor of this parish. No one may change, modify or in any way deviate from this policy without the permission of the Pastor.

Given in Scott, Louisiana on this _____ day of the month of _____ in the year of our Lord _____.

We understand and agree to all the information contained in the Marriage Preparation Packet. We also understand that the church use fee must be paid half at the time of booking and the remainder at least one month prior to the date of the wedding.

Bride

Groom

Pastor

Date

Date Church Use Fee Paid: _____

Cash _____

Check # _____

This page needs to be brought with couple on the day they come to the Parish to book wedding.