

ST. PETER PARISH

WEDDING BOOKLET



JEFFERSON CITY, MO

Congratulations on Your Engagement

Your commitment to love one another and your intention to marry is a sign of joy and hope. Your request to be married in the community of the Church is a sign of faith. This booklet is intended as a guide on your journey toward a union of love and to help you prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage at St. Peter Church.

The celebration of marriage is a sacrament, a rite that celebrates not just the union of two people, but the reality of God inviting them. Marriage is a vocational call to a lifestyle, a lifestyle that gives all who know them a glimpse of God's faithful love for all people. We celebrate your decision to undertake this permanent and faithful covenant with each other and with God.

We welcome you and your wedding party to St. Peter Church. We trust you will treat our church with respect. St. Peter Church is the house of God where the People of God gather in the Holy Eucharist reserved in the tabernacle. Therefore when we Catholics enter the church for any purpose, the first thing we do is genuflect toward the tabernacle. When finished, we genuflect again as we leave. The Altar is a religious object, a symbol of God's presence, and the focal place of celebrating the Eucharist. Please do not place anything on the altar that is not used for Mass.

It is so easy at a wedding rehearsal, and at a wedding to treat the church as a social gathering place or a photography studio. We want you to enjoy being with your loved ones and friends while in the church, but at the same time, please conduct yourselves with appropriate respect.

St. Peter Church has established guidelines to help you prepare for one of the most important steps in your life. Please use this booklet as a guide for reflection and preparation.

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Chapter 1 General Policy

Use of the Church and Its Facilities

Couples who live in our parish and are registered, or whose immediate family live here as registered parishioners are welcome to use the Church and its facilities for their wedding. Any donation the parishioner would like to make to the Church, would be greatly appreciated. A typical donation ranges between \$75 and \$100.

Couples who are not members of the parish may hold their wedding at St. Peter Church, but will be asked to pay a user fee of \$400.00 (please pay during the period of marriage preparation).

Couples who are parishioners, but have no record of contributions to the church, may also be charged the user fee.

All couples **are required** to employ the services of our Wedding Liaisons. The Liaison will work closely with the wedding couple and the Priest/deacon, musicians, ministers, etc., providing assistance for all phases of your wedding at St. Peter Church.

Notes

People to Contact

Priest: _____ Phone: _____

or Deacon: _____ Phone: _____

Wedding Liaison: _____ Phone: _____ (Please refer to approved list in Packet)

Marriage Prep Workshop: _____ Phone: _____

Pastoral Musician: _____ Phone: _____ (Please refer to approved list in Packet)

Reserving the Church for the Wedding

Scheduling the use of St. Peter Church for your wedding liturgy should be done **at least** six months prior to the date you intend for your wedding. This scheduling is done by one of the priests of the parish. The usual times to schedule weddings are Friday evenings, and Saturday at 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM.

For weddings at 11:00 AM, you may come into the church at 10:00 AM to decorate and take pictures. You will have until 1:00 PM to take pictures after the ceremony and return order to the church.

For weddings at 2:00 PM, you may come into the church at 1:00 PM to decorate and take pictures. You will have until 4:00 PM to take pictures after the ceremony and to return order to the church.

Note: If you would like a priest or deacon not assigned to the parish as your Celebrant, please contact the pastor of St. Peter's to obtain his permission before you proceed.

Notes

Scheduling the Rehearsal

Please remember to schedule your rehearsal time when you schedule your wedding liturgy with the priest/deacon. The time and day of the rehearsal are dependent upon the availability of the priest/deacon who will preside, the wedding party, as well as the availability of the Church.

Meeting Your Wedding Liaison

St. Peter Church utilizes a Parish Wedding Liaison to provide couples guidance in Church etiquette during rehearsal and on the day of the wedding. When you contact the priest/deacon for the first time to schedule your wedding and rehearsal, they will provide you with a list of Liaisons. We encourage wedding parties to contact their Liaison as soon as possible.

Depending on the need of the couple, the Liaison may assist with some or all of the following:

1. Answering questions about Church policy via telephone or email prior to the wedding.
2. Meet with the Bride/Groom before the wedding to help organize the wedding party, church decorations, order of procession, etc.
3. Be present at rehearsal.
4. Be present on the wedding day, setting up for the service, assisting the Bride (and her party) while they dress, assist with the procession, coordinating between the procession and musicians, assisting with the photographers, etc.
5. Return the church items to their proper place after the service.

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Chapter 2

Preparing for the Marriage Ceremony

Pre-Marriage Assessment

In preparation for your marriage and in an effort to help couples understand and communicate openly about many things that are important to your relationship, couples will complete the FOCCUS assessment before their marriage at St. Peter Church. The FOCCUS assessment is not a test or a way to predict the future. It is designed to help you target the topics you need and want to talk about as a couple. Your priest/deacon will review the assessment with you.

Marriage Preparation Workshops

St. Peter's offers two programs for couples contemplating marriage in the church. Please choose one of the following:

- Pre-Cana Day
- Engaged Encounter Weekends

For information regarding dates, times and registration please go to our diocesan website:
www.diojeffcity.org

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Before entering into the Sacrament of Matrimony, you are encouraged to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. You may receive the Sacrament on your own a couple of weeks prior to your wedding or you may receive the Sacrament on the evening of your rehearsal.

Notes

The priest/deacon will help you to prepare the Pre-Nuptial Investigation form. The form will be kept on file at the parish where the marriage takes place.

Please provide a Baptismal Certificate **6 months prior** to the wedding date. When requesting the Baptismal Certificate, ask that the date and place of Confirmation and the date of First Communion be included. Please have the Baptismal Certificate sent directly to St. Peter's from the church where you were baptized.

License for Marriage

A marriage license from any county in the State of Missouri is valid. Locally you may obtain the license from:

Cole County Recorder of Deeds
311 East High Street
Jefferson City, MO 65101
(573) 634-9116

A marriage license is valid for 30 days. When applying, please bring with you a driver's license or social security card. If the couple applies together, they will receive their license in about three days. If the couple does not apply together, the license will be issued three days after the second person applies. The Recorder of Deeds does not take checks, so please be prepared to pay in cash.

The license must be brought to the priest/deacon preparing you for marriage prior to the wedding.

Chapter 3

Planning the Wedding Liturgy

The liturgy should encourage the full and active participation of all who gather to celebrate your marriage. The engaged couple will actively plan the liturgy with the assistance of the priest/deacon. He will give you a copy of the book "Together for Life" by Joseph M. Champlin or "The Two Shall Be One" by Kathleen McAnany and Peter Schavits, which gives you the actual texts of scriptures, prayers, and music.

Assisting Ministers

Couples are encouraged to invite family and friends to take part in the wedding ceremony through various ministries, namely: Lector, Extraordinary Minister(s) of Holy Communion, altar server(s), musicians, cantors, presenters of gifts, celebrant-concelebrants, deacons, and clergy of other faiths.

Please make your priest/deacon aware of the people you wish to fulfill these duties and try to choose people with the faith, poise and skill to do their particular role. For example; the person(s) asked to be the Lector should be familiar enough with the reading so that the Word of the Lord is truly proclaimed to the people. Please use the Lectionary for proclaiming the Word of God.

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Flower Girl and Ring Bearer

Many brides have a Ring Bearer and Flower Girl, but it is optional. If you choose to have either, the Flower Girl and Ring Bearer usually process down the aisle immediately before the Bride. An adult should be designated to receive the child/children into one of the front pews.

Consideration should be given to the age of the children and their ability, as well as their willingness to walk in the procession. Something is lost if the little children, in their foibles, "steal the show".

Flowers to the Blessed Mother

Presenting flowers to the Blessed Mother is a practice meant to express a personal devotion to her. It is not a part of the Catholic wedding liturgy. If you have a special devotion to the Blessed Mother, you may:

1. Wish to incorporate this devotion as a part of your wedding ceremony by presenting flowers to her during the ceremony.
2. You may decide to show your respect for Mary by including a bouquet for the Blessed Mother's altar when choosing decorations for the rest of the Church.

Either option is acceptable.

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Sign of Peace

The sign of peace is part of the ceremony, which is usually given by the bride and groom publicly to the members of the wedding party and the parents of both the bride and groom. However, the couple may choose to enhance this action by giving flowers to their parents and/or other relatives.

Music at Your Wedding

As soon as you have set a date for your wedding, please contact one of the approved musicians and cantors. **Musicians should be scheduled at least three months in advance.** If you choose a musician or cantor other than one on the approved list, they must be approved by the Pastor and Lisa Fender, Liturgical Music Director.

Music “should be considered a normal and ordinary part of (this) liturgical celebration” (Liturgical Music Today, #13). Music at your wedding has the power to encourage the participation of the assembly. At St. Peter, we use music which invites all to participate. Music should be in approximately the same places as at Sunday Mass with Sunday Mass as our model.

Selection of Music

Text which are limited to personal dialogue between two people in effect negates the communal dimension of worship. Texts which violate the form of liturgical language, neither representing God speaking to us nor our addressing God, are also inappropriate. Music such as secular ballads and love songs, while they have personal meaning to the couple, are best left to the reception where other dimensions of the wedding celebration prevail.

Notes

“The Bridal Chorus” (“Here comes the Bride”)
and “The Wedding March”

These two pieces of music come from two operas and the music accompanies the actions of a forced marriage with an unwilling partner. The marriage ends in murder and suicide; and a staged, illicit marriage of two people committing their lives to each other in Christian love. Both operas mock what we understand as Christian marriage and the music that accompanies them has been determined inappropriate by Church authorities.

Musicians at Your Wedding

We encourage the use of Pastoral Musicians because they are familiar with the flow and rhythm of the liturgy. Pastoral Musicians are also able to suggest suitable music and are skilled at leading and inviting the assembly to join in the sung prayer. Relatives and friends who are musicians are welcome to assist at weddings, but we suggest they contact and work closely with a Pastoral Musician in planning the music for this liturgy. If your organist is from outside the Parish, please notify the Liturgical Music Director prior to the wedding.

Fees for Musicians

The fee for the organist and cantor is negotiated on an individual basis. This fee includes: planning the music for the wedding liturgy, rehearsal of the music individually and together, and playing for the actual wedding.

Musicians are not required to attend rehearsals. You may request a musical selection that neither musician nor cantor have; if so, please provide the music for them. It is the responsibility of each couple to notify the priest/deacon of the music selections made for their liturgy.

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Procession Options

- Groom:**
- Groom escorts mother to her seat and remains in the front.
 - Groom processes in with the Priest.
 - Groom stands in front of the first pew.
 - Groom processes down aisle with parents before the wedding party.

- Bride:**
- Processes down the aisle with both parents.
 - Processes down the aisle with one parent or designate.

Optional Processions of the Wedding Party (includes Best Man and Maid/Matron of Honor)

- Bridesmaids process down the aisle individually and groomsmen are waiting in front of the first pew.
- Bridesmaids and groomsmen process down the aisle as couples.
- Bridesmaids and groomsmen process down the aisle as couples, except that the maid/matron of honor processes by herself and best man is in front with the groom.

Bridesmaids and groomsmen will be seated in pews; there are kneelers available only for Bride, Groom, Maid/Matron of Honor, and Best Man. If parents are not included in the procession of the Bride and Groom, they should process down prior to the wedding party.

Chapter 4

Church Decorations

How one decorates the church is a matter of personal taste and budget. Please remember when planning decorations that the Church has many seasons and special feasts in our liturgical calendar, and the church is decorated accordingly (i.e., Advent, and Lent have purple, Easter is white, Pentecost is red and Ordinary time is green). Seasonal decorations (Christmas and Easter) may not be moved. Plan your wedding accordingly. All decorating plans must be approved by the Wedding Liaison in advance of the wedding.

Flowers and Plants

Most bridal couples want to convey an atmosphere of gracious welcome for their guests. Flower arrangements in the church can help guests feel welcome.

“Flowers, plants and trees – genuine, of course – are particularly apt for the decoration of liturgical space, since they are of nature, always discreet in their message, never cheap or tawdry or ill-made” (Environment and Art in Church Worship [EACW], para. 102).

“Decoration should never impede the approach to or the encircling of the altar of any of the ritual movement and action, but there are places in most liturgical spaces where it is appropriate and where it can be enhancing” (EACW, para. 102).

Notes

Tips for Insight and Safety

Candles: The presence or lighting of the paschal or Easter candle would be welcome as a symbol of the risen Christ in our midst. This candle is a symbol of the baptismal call to live in the light of Christ.

If candles are used in the Church, please use dripless candles, or have glass chimneys and have the candles be freestanding.

Aisle Runners: The aisle runner no longer serves any practical purpose. Therefore, for the safety of the bridal party and guests as they exit the Church, aisle runners are **prohibited**.

Pew Bows, Ribbons: Please attach pew bows or ribbons to the pews in a manner that will not cause damage to the pews. Tape, tacks, and adhesives cause damage to the pews, so please have Pew bow attachments approved by your Wedding Liaison.

The Baptismal Font: is very precious and should not be moved. The current location of the Baptismal Font should not be an interference with your wedding ceremony.

Rice, Birdseed, Balloons and Confetti: When used around the Church these create a hazard for people and wildlife, leaving a terrible mess that you will be responsible to clean up. Check with your Wedding Liaison for alternatives.

Receiving Line: Because of time restraints, concerns of temperature control and to conserve electrical energy, we ask that receiving lines be formed at the reception. The front doors of the church should not remain open for extended times as guests exit the church.

Chapter 5

Additional Information

Programs: It is helpful to have a worship program to show the order of the service for all your wedding guests. It is particularly helpful to include in the program the songs and their reference in the “Gather Comprehensive Hymnal” and acclamations in which the assembly is asked to participate. Programs are also a good memento for your guests.

Photography and Videography: Please ask your photographers to be understanding and respectful of the Blessed Sacrament reserved in the tabernacle of our Church. Consider taking many pictures before the ceremony in order to reduce the time guests have to wait for you afterward. Please ask photographers not to take pictures from the area of the sanctuary or pose pictures during the ceremony. Please consult with the priest/deacon or Wedding Liaison should you have questions.

Room for Dressing: The bride and her attendants are asked to dress in the Bishop Marling Room, lower level of the Parish Life Center. Please leave all areas in the same order as found.

Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages: The **consumption of alcoholic beverages in or around the Church** in connection with wedding rehearsals, marriage ceremonies, or picture taking before or after the wedding, **is forbidden**. Food or beverages are not allowed in the Church or outside Selinger Center, if your reception is held there. Alcoholic beverages are also forbidden in the Bishop Marling Room.

Notes

Parish Registration

If you plan to live in St. Peter Parish after your marriage, please indicate this to the priest or deacon helping you prepare for marriage or one of the parish secretaries so you can be registered as a new family.

General List of Fees

User Fee (for non-parishioners)	\$400.00
Candelabra Rental (set)	\$ 20.00
Wedding Liaison	\$150.00
Organist and Cantor	(Individually determined)

Note

St. Peter Church **requires** the use of our Parish Wedding Liaison. The Liaison serves as a link between the priest/deacon and the wedding party. They are knowledgeable of the wedding guidelines specific to St. Peter Church. We want you to feel comfortable in contacting your Liaison, if you have any questions.