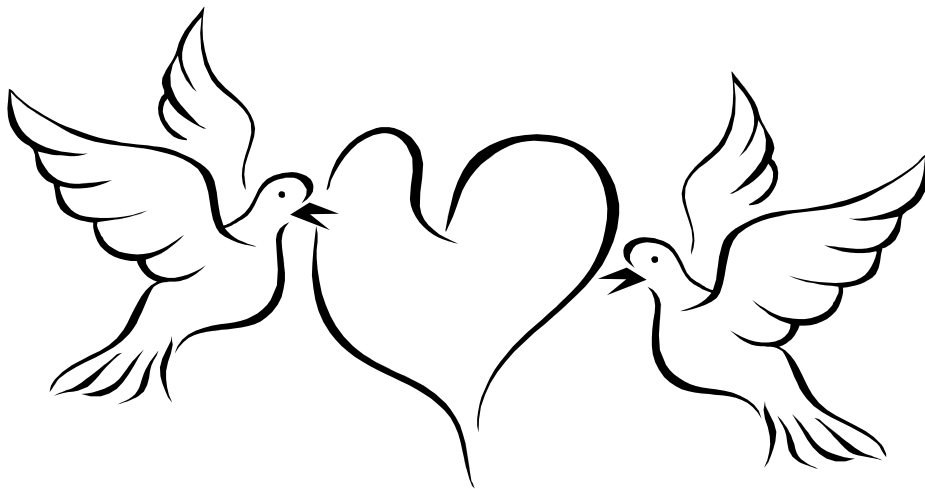


*St. Joseph Parish  
Wedding Policies*



*1940 South 77<sup>th</sup> Street  
Lincoln NE 68506  
(402) 483-2288*

*Dear Friends,*

*Congratulations on your upcoming wedding! We look forward to sharing the sacrament of marriage celebration with you.*

*We know you want your wedding to be an encounter with Our Lord whose memory will be treasured for the rest of your life. As Pastor, I share that desire with you. We are interested in helping with the spiritual dimension of your marriage and the portion of the wedding which will take place in the church. We consider it to be the most important aspect of your wedding day, and trust that you are of similar mind.*

*Consequently, we would like to assist you in planning the liturgy of your wedding, within which you vow yourselves to each other for life, before God and the Church. It is essential that your wedding liturgy reflect your belief that God is the Third Partner in your marriage. This belief will be reflected in the readings and music you select for your wedding.*

*In order to assist your planning, we present you with the following wedding policies of St. Joseph Parish. Our wedding coordinator, along with the priests, is available to assist you with these policies to prepare for a meaningful and inspiring liturgy.*

*May the Holy Spirit enlighten you in your liturgical choices, and Jesus, Mary and Joseph be models of inspiration in your wedded life.*

*God bless you always,*

*Rev. Msgr. Liam M. Barr, V.F.  
Pastor*

# St. Joseph Parish Wedding Policies

(Revised January 30, 2011)

**Documents Required:** During the marriage preparation, Catholics must furnish a recent (no older than six months) copy of their baptismal certificate. This can be obtained from the church where the baptism occurred. In the case of an interfaith marriage, the non-Catholic party should also produce documentation of his/her baptism. Pre-nuptial forms, affidavits of freedom to marry and dispensation forms (if any) must be completed during this time also. The marriage license must be presented to the priest during or before the rehearsal.

**The Diocesan Marriage Policy** must be adhered to strictly in its totality, including the procedures and timetables involved in the assessment and marriage preparation process. A copy of the policy is provided at your first meeting with the priest.

**Interfaith Weddings:** “Marriage between a Catholic and a baptized non-Catholic shall take place in the church. Such a marriage may be celebrated in the context of Mass but serious consideration should be given to a marriage ceremony without Mass.” (1996 Synod of the Diocese of Lincoln, Art. 5.102)

**Celebrant:** The priest of the parish will always be the celebrant at the wedding liturgy. If either the bride or groom has a priest-brother, uncle or nephew, he will be granted permission to preside at the ceremony, if requested. A priest friend of the couple is always welcome to con-celebrate the Wedding Mass.

**Wedding Coordinator:** St. Joseph Parish has experienced Wedding Coordinators to assist you with your wedding plans. Please see the St. Joseph Wedding Coordinator Services sheet for a description of services and fees. No outside wedding coordinators may be utilized.

**While in the House of God:** Please remember that you are preparing to receive the sacrament of holy matrimony. The church is not a theatre and the utmost respect of the church and its guidelines should be followed.

All out of the ordinary body piercing and visible tattoos of wedding party attendants including parents will need to be removed or covered for the ceremony.

**Time of Ceremony:** Weddings may be scheduled at any convenient time on Mondays through Fridays. Weddings may be scheduled no earlier than 11:00 a.m. and no later than 2:30 p.m. on Saturdays. If no receiving line occurs, there is no Mass, and no photographs are taken after the ceremony, the wedding can be scheduled as late as 3:00 p.m.

**Music:** Please refer to the St. Joseph Wedding Music Policy.

**Stipends:** A stipend of \$150 to the parish is requested if you are a parishioner. If you are not a parishioner of St. Joseph a stipend of \$250 is requested. This should be paid to the parish when the date is booked. A stipend for the priest is also recommended of \$100 or more, as is a stipend of \$10-\$15 for each altar server.

**Rehearsal:** The rehearsal should begin on time. Decorum of the participants shall be suited to the House of God.

**The Sacrament of Penance** will be made available immediately after the rehearsal in the church reconciliation room. The Catholic bride/groom should feel obligated to avail themselves of the Sacrament of Penance the night of the rehearsal or a few days before the wedding. Catholic members of the wedding party are likewise encouraged to receive the Sacrament.

**Photographs:** Photographs may be taken of the wedding, provided the ceremonies are not thereby interrupted, distracted or delayed. Posed pictures may be taken before the ceremony starting at 12 noon. Photos taken prior to the wedding ceremony will need to be completed 45 minutes prior to the ceremony. There shall be no flash photos taken during the ceremony, nor shall the photographer take photos in or near the sanctuary area during the ceremony. Photos may be taken during the ceremony without flash and from the rear of the church only. Photos may be taken after the ceremony, provided they are finished by 3:45 p.m. This is out of respect for those coming to confession. All posed photos must be standing poses. Decorum of the participants during the photo session shall be suited to the House of God. Members of the congregation should be advised in advance to refrain from taking flash photos from their seats during the ceremony.

**Videography:** Video taping is to be done either from the rear of the church or from the far sides of the sanctuary. The Wedding Coordinator will direct placement.

**Dressing Rooms:** The bride and her attendants may dress in the Nursery/Bride's Room. It is the first room on the left in the north hallway, adjoining the women's restroom. The groom and male attendants may dress in an assigned area. **NO food or beverage is allowed in the Narthex or Sanctuary at anytime. Food is only allowed in the Bride Room.**

Arrangements should be made to leave the rooms in neat order after its use. Valuables should not be left in the dressing room at any time. Please make sure that you and your attendants have all of your belongings prior to leaving for the reception from the Bride's Room. The Wedding Coordinator and St. Joseph Church are NOT responsible for these items.

**Reader:** It is preferred that trained lectors read the scriptures. However, if a friend or relative is desired for this role, he/she must be a Catholic who has had experience in reading in their parish. Readers must be appropriately dressed when proclaiming God's Word.

**Readings/Vows/Prayers:** Options allowed in the wedding liturgy shall be restricted to those provided in the Official Rite of Marriage.

**Candle Lighters:** Only the altar servers shall light the candles before the ceremony.

**Flowers/Candelabra/Aisle Runner/Flower Petals:** The extent of the floral and candle decorations, whether in the sanctuary or main aisle, should be within reason. The flowers may be placed in front of the ambo provided they do not obstruct it. They may NOT be placed on the altar. Liturgical documents state that real flowers should be used in the sanctuary. It is befitting and the desire to have the best in the House of God.

Flower arrangements cannot overpower the altar and need to be placed at an appropriate distance from the altar. The arrangement must also be in line with the altar and may not block the priests view. Only one small floral arrangement may be placed on the floor in front of the altar. The entire front of the altar is not to be blocked.

The Environment & Art Committee prepares the sanctuary for the liturgical seasons. The decorum serves as a means to help set the mood for celebrating liturgy. The greenery is changed periodically as needed to reflect the various seasons and feasts throughout the church year. Fig Trees may be used only when placed there for a season. Tree lights may be used during the Christmas season only (December 24 through the Baptismal of Our Lord (date varies)). Please discuss your decorum plans with your Wedding Coordinator before finalizing plans with florist.

The Environment and Art in Catholic Worship Paragraph 34 states:

*“Because the assembly gathers in the presence of God to celebrate his saving deeds, liturgy’s climate is one of awe, mystery, wonder, reverence, thanksgiving and praise. So it cannot be satisfied with anything less than the beautiful in its environment and all its artifacts, movements, and appeals to the senses. Admittedly difficult to define, the beautiful is related to the sense of the numinous, the holy.”*

We welcome any floral arrangements you may wish to leave in the church after the wedding. Your flowers will continue to enhance parish worship.

If a flower girls drops flower petals in the procession, the petals must be made of silk. Real petals are not allowed. Arrangements should be made in advance for petals to be picked up.

For safety purposes, the use of an aisle runner is absolutely forbidden.

If desired, St. Joseph has candelabras available.

Pew bows and all other decorations shall be removed immediately after the ceremony, to allow preparations for the Saturday evening Mass. Transparent tape is never to be used to affix the bows or other ornaments on the pews.

**Rice/Confetti, etc.:** The launching of balloons, throwing of rice, confetti, potpourri, real/silk flower petals, bird seed or similar materials in the church or on church property after the ceremony is absolutely forbidden because they constitute a safety hazard and/or create custodial and environmental problems.

**Dismissal of Congregation:** The bride and groom may not usher out their guests; this role properly belongs to the ushers who shall do this row by row after they have first ushered out the parents and grandparents. If the bride and groom choose to greet their guests immediately after the wedding ceremony, this shall be done in the narthex of the church, or, weather permitting, outdoors.

**The Official Witnesses:** i.e., the best man and the maid/matron of honor, shall return to the priest's sacristy after the ceremony to sign the official documents. This is the only place where the marriage certificate may be signed.

**Wedding Party:** There will be a limit of:

Seven (7) total bridesmaids and seven (7) total groomsmen.  
This number includes the Maid/Matron of Honor  
and Best Man, per side.

Two (2) Flower Girls and Two (2) Ring Bearers.

**Alcohol/Chewing Gum/Radios, etc.:** Out of respect for the Sacrament and the couple, members of the wedding party shall not be under the influence of alcohol during the rehearsal or the ceremony. **Chewing gum or eating of any foods in the church proper or the narthex area is forbidden, as is the use of radios, portable TV's, etc. Food is allowed during the photographing in the Bride's Room only.** Arrangements must be made for clean up and disposal of trash. Check with the Wedding Coordinator for further information.

**Wedding Program:** If a Wedding Program will be used, a proof copy will be made available to the Wedding Coordinator one month prior to the wedding for approval. You are responsible for making your program. The Order of Worship is slightly different for Mass and follows on the next page.

**The Order of Worship:** We have provided a useful order of worship that you can copy for your wedding program. Music selections shall be approved through the parish liturgist and organists. Your wedding coordinator will provide you with a sample program. The following is the only Order of Worship to follow, even though the program you receive may be printed different.

## **Order of Worship Outside of Mass**

**Prelude**

**Seating of the Family** (cite musical work used, with composer if known)

**Procession of the Wedding Party** (cite musical work used, with composer if known)

**Procession of the Bride** (cite musical work used, with composer if known)

**Opening Prayer**

**Liturgy of the Word**

**Old Testament**

(cite Book, chapter & verse)

**Responsorial Psalm**

(cite Psalm # and refrain)

**New Testament**

(cite Book, chapter & verse)

**Gospel Acclamation** (Sung)....."Alleluia"

**Gospel**

(cite Book, chapter & verse)

**Homily**

**Rite of Marriage**

**Exchange of Vows**

**Blessing and Exchange of Rings**

**Prayer of the Faithful** (cite response - "Lord, hear our prayer")

**Nuptial Blessing**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Sign of Peace**

\*

**Final Blessing**

**Recessional** (cite musical work used, with composer if known)

**\*Note: Lighting of the Unity Candle** (cite musical work used, with composer if known)

In as much as this custom is not a part of the official rite, if it is desired, it may be carried out after the Post-Communion Prayer. Diocesan policy states that the two single candles for the Unity Candle is to be lit by the altar servers prior to the ceremony.

## **Order of Worship with Mass**

### **Prelude**

**Seating of the Family** (cite musical work used, with composer if known)

**Procession of the Wedding Party** (cite musical work used, with composer if known)

**Procession of the Bride** (cite musical work used, with composer if known)

### **Opening Prayer**

### **Liturgy of the Word**

#### **Old Testament**

(cite Book, chapter & verse)

#### **Responsorial Psalm**

(cite Psalm # and refrain)

#### **New Testament**

(cite Book, chapter & verse)

**Gospel Acclamation** (Sung)....."Alleluia"

#### **Gospel**

(cite Book, chapter & verse)

#### **Homily**

### **Rite of Marriage**

#### **Exchange of Vows**

#### **Blessing and Exchange of Rings**

**Prayer of the Faithful** (cite response - "Lord, hear our prayer")

### **Liturgy of the Eucharist**

**Presentation of the Gifts** (cite musical work used, with composer if known)

### **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Nuptial Blessing**

### **Sign of Peace**

**Communion** (cite musical work used, with composer if known)

### **Prayer after Communion**

\*

### **Final Blessing**

**Recessional** (cite musical work used, with composer if known)

**\*Note: Lighting of the Unity Candle** (cite musical work used, with composer if known)

In as much as this custom is not a part of the official rite, if it is desired, it may be carried out after the Post-Communion Prayer. Diocesan policy states that the two single candles for the Unity Candle is to be lit by the altar servers prior to the ceremony.