



Sincere congratulations on your upcoming wedding here at the Parish of Blessed John XXIII, composed of the churches of Sacred Heart and St. Lucy. This information should be helpful to you.

Your choice of one of our churches is based on your being a regularly participating parish member, attending mass every weekend. It should not be only because our buildings photograph well. Church is where the community gathers in faith to worship via the scriptures and the sacraments. Any wedding here presupposes a Catholic's genuine Church loyalty. Likewise, a Catholic's habitual failure to attend weekend mass is interpreted as an immaturity in the faith that could hinder his/her being married in the Church.

Baptism

You will need to obtain baptismal certificates issued within the last 6 months if baptized outside St. Lucy/Sacred Heart. You will also need a certificate of attendance at Marriage Preparation gatherings: e.g. Pre-Cana, or Engaged Encounter. These two fill quickly, so reservations should not be delayed.

Time for Weddings

Weddings may be celebrated on Friday evenings, or on Saturday mornings or afternoon (no later than 2 pm.)

Fees

The stipend for the use of the Church, required paperwork, etc. is \$200 for registered parishioners who *regularly* support the parish. For *non-contributing*, the fee is \$400. A deposit of one half of the fee is payable at the time the date is set. It is *not* a gift for the priest or deacon. The stipend for musicians must be negotiated directly with them. A gift for altar servers and the priest or deacon is customary at your discretion.

Photography

We welcome photographers and videographers, who should consult with the priest before the ceremony. Picture taking after the wedding has to end by 3:30 pm so that there would be no conflict with Saturday confessions.

Promptness

It is important to the wedding party and to the parish that weddings begin on time. N.B. 3:30 confessions.

Church Interiors

The aisle of St. Lucy's is 45 feet, that of Sacred Heart is 60 feet. St. Lucy seats 126, Sacred Heart 164. The couple is to supply any wedding candles, pew bows, flowers, and aisle runners if these are desired.

Rehearsal

This too should begin promptly, with the couple presenting:

- a. The civil marriage license (which should not be gotten from any town hall more that 27 days before the ceremony nor less that 2 days before);
- b.
- c. The balance of the stipends for the parish (\$200 for active parishioners and \$400 for inactive) – and for the musicians and servers, if any.

Suggested Musicians

Kathy Merlino	609-567-2869	Chris Dunleavy	609-561-3995
Linda Mickus	856-767-1933	Gloria Knoll	856-767-2824
Kathy Ezekiel	609-561-6689	Marie Phero	609-561-8203
Beverly Morocco	856-228-2339		

While other competent musicians are welcome, they must be familiar with liturgical norms, which call for sacred music only before and during the wedding ceremony.

Visiting Clergy & Family

Priest or deacon friends or family are welcome to witness weddings. Family and friends not in the bridal party are encouraged to read the readings and to form the Offertory Procession. In this way, the couple can involve many more people in their ceremony.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

The Church recommends this healing sacrament for the couple, their parents and the bridal party before the ceremony. The parish schedules confession on Saturdays from 3:30 to 4:00 pm at St. Lucy's. Leaving this to the last moment at the rehearsal is almost always impractical, resulting in the bridal party leaving the church late for the rehearsal dinner. Please attend to this in advance.

The Priest The priest is happy to attend the rehearsal dinner and/or the wedding reception when possible, but he does not presume he is invited. Please remember to ask him. Feel free to consult with him before the wedding with any questions.

Reminders

- Unfortunately it has become necessary to remind couples that no alcoholic beverages of any kind may be consumed, distributed or used on church grounds, including the parking lot. It is the couple's responsibility to inform the wedding party, drivers and guests of this prohibition, which exists for reasons of safety and liability.
- For reasons of cleanliness as well as liability, no rice, confetti or birdseed may be thrown.

All the parish wishes you a happy and blessed celebration of your wedding, asking God to bless you with many years of life and love together.



Contact Information

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