

## Pre-Marriage Checklist

### General Items:

- Initial Appointment Completed
- Date and Time for wedding and rehearsal placed in Parish calendar
- Prepare/Enrich Inventory administered and discussed
- Pre-Cana workshop completed
- Dispensation issued (*if needed*)

### Documents:

- Baptismal Certificate (*dated within six months*)
- Marriage License

### Liturgy:

- Together for Life book
- Mass plan to priest
- Musicians contacted
- Readers notified and practiced

### Other Details:

- Flowers
- Photographer
- Videographer
- Unity Candles
- Program (*reviewed by priest or deacon*)

## *Marriage Policy*

*&*

## *Wedding Preparation Guide*



## St. Jude Catholic Church

[www.saintjudeparish.org](http://www.saintjudeparish.org)

## “What will separate us from the love of Christ?”

Photographs are permitted after the ceremony if you wish. Please remember that the Church is a House of Prayer and not a photography studio. Outside photos may be taken without restrictions, however, due to the 4:30 p.m. Saturday Mass, all wedding events should be completed by 4:00 p.m.

### Flowers

Flowers are permitted in front of the Ambo or Altar. We ask that these flowers only be left in the Church for the weekend Masses, if possible.

Ornaments on the pews must be attached in such a way that the pews are not marked (no tape please). You are responsible for their removal afterward.

### Miscellaneous Information

The Bride may use the Community Room to prepare before the wedding. *Please remove all items and clean up after the wedding.*

**Nothing may be thrown after the ceremony:** no confetti, rice or birdseed. Balloon releases or bubbles are allowed.

Any further questions may be referred to the priest or deacon who is preparing you for marriage.



*May God Bless you in your  
married life together  
with many years of happiness  
and love!*

## Forward

*“And the two shall become as one...”*

Welcome!

We congratulate you on your engagement and wish all God’s blessings upon you. We here at St. Jude parish look forward to sharing that special day with you and will do all we can to be accommodating.

Our parish marriage policies are in conformity with those of the Diocese of Cleveland. We believe these policies flow from the Gospel message about the nature and sanctity of marriage and we hope they will help you to grow in your knowledge and understanding of your relationship.

We hope this booklet will answer many of your questions. If you have any other questions, please feel free to call the priest or deacon with whom you are doing the preparations.

January 2015



## “God is Love”

### *Who Can Marry at St. Jude Parish?*

Any registered parishioner may be married at St. Jude Parish. If neither of you are registered here you must receive permission from the pastor of the parish in which you reside.

At least one of the parties must be a practicing Catholic. A practicing Catholic is defined as someone who attends Mass weekly and receives the Sacraments regularly. If you have been away from the Church for a while this could be an excellent opportunity to renew your commitment to your faith.

### *Setting the Date*

Please call the Parish and speak to a priest or deacon before finalizing any other plans. Many dates are booked far in advance; sometimes more than a year. The usual times for weddings at St. Jude Parish are Saturdays at 12 Noon and 2:00 p.m. Friday evening weddings are also possible

The Parish secretaries do not reserve the availability of your wedding dates. Only the priest or deacon who is preparing you for marriage can finalize a date with you.

### *What is the Preparation Process?*

You must first make an appointment with the priest or deacon of your choice. This should be done at least six months prior to the proposed date of the marriage. He will explain the entire process to you. You will meet with him several times prior to your wedding. If a visiting priest or deacon will be performing the wedding he is expected to take care of the preparations and paperwork.

## Sample—Order of Worship

Prelude	<i>“All I ask of You”</i> The Wedding Song
Processional	<i>“Trumpet Voluntary”</i>
Opening Prayer	
First Reading	Genesis 1:26-31 Read by: _____
Response	<i>“The Lord is Kind and Merciful”</i>
Second Reading	1 Corinthians 13:1-8 Read by: _____
Alleluia	
Sung	
Gospel	Matthew 5:13-16
Homily	
Wedding Ceremony	
	Declaration of Intent
	Exchange of Vows
	Blessing of Rings
	Unity Candle
Prayer of the Faithful	<i>“Lord, Hear Our Prayer”</i>
Presentation of the Gifts	
	_____
	_____
	_____
Eucharistic Prayer	
The Lord’s Prayer	
Nuptial Blessing	
Sign of Peace	
Communion Rite	
Closing Prayer	
Visit to the Blessed Mother	
Final Blessing	
Recessional	<i>“The Wedding March”</i>

## Sample Program

### *The Marriage of Robert Jones and Mary Smith*

Parents	Henry and Elizabeth Smith George and Florence Jones
Celebrant	Rev. Peter J. Hitchcock
Maid of Honor	Eileen K. Plummer
Best Man	Frank J. Rizzo
Bridesmaids	Stephanie L. Powers Pauline M. Smith Ethel P. Applecart
Ushers	Paul M. Jones Anthony P. Misner Edward B. Snow
Flower Girl	Christine B. Cute
Ring Bearer	Jacob K. Cavanaugh

## "The God of peace will be with you"

Wedding Program: This is not a necessity, but if you are having a program printed, please submit the text to the priest or deacon before taking it to the printer.

Rehearsal: The rehearsal time is set between you and the priest. Typically the rehearsal is held at 6:00 p.m. the evening before your wedding. Please ask that all parties do their very best to be on time. Parents, bridal party and readers should attend the rehearsal. There will not be an opportunity for music practice at the rehearsal.

### Fees

There is no fee for parishioners to marry at St. Jude Parish. It is customary to make a minimum offering of \$250.00 to the priest or deacon and church and \$10.00 for each altar server. If there is no Mass there will be no server. Please give all offerings to the priest or deacon at the rehearsal.

The organist will tell you his/her fee. You are asked to pay this before the ceremony.

If neither party is a registered parishioner, there will be a fee of \$300.00 for the use of the Church.

### Photography

The photographer and videographer should introduce themselves to the priest before the ceremony. The priest or deacon will explain policies and restrictions concerning pictures.

Flash photography and video lights are permitted during the ceremony.

## Planning the Liturgy

Each couple is asked to take the Prepare/Enrich Inventory. This will help to make the preparation more personal and beneficial to you. There is a \$35.00 fee which you and pay online.

Each couple is required to attend one of the following workshops:

☞ **Pre-Cana Day:** This is a very good one-day experience based on the Engaged Encounter. Pre-Cana Days are held once a month in Lorain County. The priest will give you an application.

OR

☞ **Engaged Encounter:** An excellent experience based on the Marriage Encounter. For information call 216.334.2978.

## Documents Needed

**Application for Marriage:** The priest or deacon will fill this out with you at your first appointment.

### **Baptismal Certificate:**

☞ For a Catholic this must be a recent copy of your Baptismal Certificate dated within six months of the wedding date.

☞ For a non-Catholic any proof of Baptism is acceptable.

**Marriage Dispensation:** The priest or deacon will fill this out if one is needed.



## "A wise man built his house on rock"

**Marriage License:** This is obtained at the County Courthouse. The priest or deacon needs the License, the large envelope and the return envelope. The priest or deacon will return the proper notice to the court. The marriage license from any county in the State of Ohio is valid.

**Previous Marriage:** If one party has been previously married we will need either a Declaration of Nullity or Death Certificate. These must be originals, not photocopies.

We use "**Together for Life**" for planning weddings. This book will be supplied by the Parish. The priest or deacon will give it to you at the appropriate time.

**Organist:** You may hire our Parish Organist/Music Director or hire the organist of your choice. However the organist must be professional and experienced in Catholic Church music. All music must be approved by our Music Director, Jeanne Frey at 440.365.6879 or the priest or deacon doing the preparations. No CDs or tapes. Only live music, please.

**Other Musicians:** Guitarists, soloists, etc., may be hired as you desire. They also must be competent in Church music.

**Bride and Wedding Party:** Please dress for the wedding prior to coming to Church.

**The Liturgy Plan** from the book should be submitted to the priest or deacon prior to the wedding.

**Readers:** You are encouraged to have family members or friends proclaim the Scripture readings. The priest or deacon always proclaims the Gospel. The readers should be comfortable with public speaking and should have a chance to practice prior to the wedding.