

Marriage Preparation



St. Jude of the Lake
Catholic Church

Your Wedding Checklist



9 months prior to your wedding:

- Meet with Fr. Chad
- Pay full amount to secure the date of your wedding.

6 months prior to your wedding:

- Register for Archdiocesan Marriage Preparation Retreat.
<https://www.archspm.org/marriage/marriage-preparation/>
- Contact Rita Bagley, Director of Music Ministry regarding your music options
- Attend the Wedding Workshop at St. Jude of the Lake (TBD each year)

3 to 4 months prior to your wedding

- Submit your music choices to Rita Bagley for approval.

Your Wedding Checklist

2 months prior to your wedding

- Take pre-marital inventory
- Meet with mentor couple to discuss your inventory results
- Meet with Fr. Chad twice for marriage preparation and completion of pre-marriage paperwork.
- Work with Rita Bagley to book musicians.

1 month prior to your wedding:

- Marriage license
 - Fr. Chad will give you a document for a discount.
 - It takes approximately (10) days to get a license. Once you receive your license, review it to assure its accuracy. The license must be brought to your rehearsal.
- Meet with Fr. Chad a third time to plan liturgy
- Submit reading selections to Fr. Chad

Preparation Process

Marriage is one of the most important sacraments a person can receive. Therefore, the Catholic Church wants couples well-prepared and ready for this life-long commitment.

Marriage preparation at St. Jude of the Lake begins at least six months prior to the actual wedding date.

Either the bride or groom need to be a registered member of the parish or a son/daughter of a registered member.

A wedding date is scheduled after consultation with Fr. Chad. A deposit will secure the date of your wedding.

Basic Requirements

Archdiocesan engaged couples Retreat

Offered in a weekend format, *Living God's Love* is structured to help engaged couples reflect on the beauty and richness of the Church's teachings on marriage and the family. Couples receive presentations by priests, educators, physicians

Preparation Process continued

and married couples that share the beauty of the Church's teaching about the vocation of marriage as a call to holiness and a gift of self. The fee for this retreat is the responsibility of the couple.

A listing of Archdiocesan pre-marriage retreats and other resources can be found on their website.

Pre-Marriage Inventory

Each couple will complete an inventory which is designed to help the couple identify their strengths and weaknesses as individuals and as a couple.

Meetings with Mentor Couple

As an engaged couple you will meet with a marriage mentor couple to review and discuss the results of the inventory. There will be two meetings, typically. This cost is included in the wedding fee.

Sunday Mass

Your presence at Sunday Mass is an outward sign of your desire to have God as part of your marriage. We invite you to worship with us and participate in the life of the church.

Preparation Process continued

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Forgiveness and peace of mind and soul is a special grace from God. We invite you to share in the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation as a critical part of your marriage preparation.

Ideally, you will schedule this sacrament with Fr. Chad on the day of your rehearsal. Catholics who are part of your wedding party are also welcome.

Marriage Preparation Meetings

Each couple will meet with Fr. Chad to discuss aspects of marriage preparation. He will help you prepare for the ceremony about two months before the wedding date.

If you prefer that a family member or friend, who is a priest or a deacon, preside at your wedding liturgy please forward his contact information to us. We will need confirmation of his availability.

Wedding Workshop

Attendance at our Wedding workshop is required. We will cover the ceremony and answer questions. Fr. Chad, Rita Bagley and the wedding coordinators will be in attendance.

Required Documents

A variety of documents are required by the State of Minnesota and the Catholic Church to assure the validity of your marriage.

○ **Baptismal Certificate**

Contact the church in which you were baptized for a copy of your baptismal certificate. Submit the certificate to the priest who is preparing you for marriage.

○ **Marriage License**

The State of Minnesota requires you to obtain a valid marriage license from the county recorder of deeds no earlier than six months prior to the wedding date. It takes about ten (10) days to obtain a marriage license.

○ **Pre-marriage inventory**

○ **Archdiocesan Pre-Marriage Retreat certificate of completion**

These additional forms may also be necessary

○ Freedom to marry forms may be required to demonstrate readiness of the person to marry.

○ Other documents may be required by Church law.

Fees

St. Jude of the Lake requests a minimum donation of \$500 from couples who have their marriage witnessed at the parish. The full amount is due at the first meeting with the priest to secure the wedding date. Checks should be made payable to St. Jude of the Lake Catholic Church.

The wedding donation fee covers the following services:

- ◇ Pre-marriage inventory fees and expenses
- ◇ Individual marriage preparation meetings with the priest or deacon and a mentor couple
- ◇ A liturgical music planning consultation
- ◇ A meeting with the priest (or deacon) to discuss the liturgy
- ◇ Facility and cleaning costs
- ◇ A wedding coordinator who will be present at your rehearsal and on the day of your ceremony
- ◇ Use of the church for approximately four hours on your wedding day and one hour for your rehearsal

Fees

The fee does not cover the following expenses:

- The Archdiocesan *Living God's Love* retreat
- Additional instrumentalist(s) stipend

Couples must make arrangements for musicians through the Director of Music. The fee for your accompanist and cantor is \$500 (\$250 each). This fee should be paid to St. Jude no later than your wedding date.

If you are completing your marriage preparation elsewhere, but are celebrating the wedding at St. Jude of the Lake, the fee is \$400.

If you are completing your marriage preparation at St. Jude, but are celebrating the wedding elsewhere, the fee is \$200.



Planning Your Wedding Liturgy

Weddings are scheduled on Friday evenings at 5:00 pm or Saturdays at 1:00 pm. Some flexibility is available.

Rehearsals are scheduled at 5:30pm the evening before the wedding.

You will have access to the facilities for approximately four hours. Please note that when school is in session, options are limited.

When selecting a date for your wedding liturgy, note that weddings are not normally scheduled during Advent and Lent.

Please note that our church is decorated for each liturgical season. All seasonal decorations must remain in place.

Each couple is welcome to use the worship space for four hours on the date of the wedding. The bride and groom rooms will be available for the same time.

Rite of Marriage Liturgy

Fr. Chad will guide you as you plan the various aspects of the liturgy. You will be given a wedding liturgy planning book called "Together for Life." This book includes a selection of readings to choose from

Planning Your Wedding Liturgy

and outlines the order of the Mass. A form will be provided to assist you in the planning of the ceremony.

Please note that Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion, lectors, and gift bearers must be Catholic.

Lectors

You may have up to three lectors (readers) at the liturgy; one for the first reading, one for the second reading, and one for the reading of the petitions (Prayers of the Faithful). You may also have the same person read all three selections. When choosing lectors, please be certain that they have experience in public speaking.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

If celebrating the Eucharist as part of your wedding, you may need one Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion to distribute Holy Communion alongside the priest. This individual should be trained, commissioned and experienced at his/her respective Catholic parish. If requested, we can provide you with a name.

Planning Your Wedding Liturgy continued

Gift Bearers

If your wedding involves celebrating the Eucharist, you may select two or three adults/children to carry the gifts of bread and wine in the offertory procession.

Ushers

Ushers may be male and/or female. They should be available to seat people at least 20 minutes before the liturgy and become familiar with the location of the restrooms.

Witnesses and Wedding Party

Minnesota law requires that the witnesses signing the marriage license must be at least 16 years of age. Children in the wedding party should be old enough to follow directions and are usually seated with the parents of the couple for the duration of the



Music

Music plays a very important part in the wedding liturgy, enhancing the sacred character of the gathering. Therefore, wedding music selections must be appropriate and prayerful.

Our Director of Music Ministry, Rita Bagley, will assist you in the selection of music for the ceremony. Please schedule a music planning meeting with her at least six months prior to the date of your wedding.

To assure the sacred character of the wedding liturgy, as well as ensure familiarity with our sound system and instruments, it is our policy that a cantor AND an accompanist from our approved musicians list be present. Visiting/guest musicians may only participate in wedding liturgies if approved by the Music Director.

If guest musicians are approved, a \$200 additional Administrative fee will be charged to provide sound system and set-up support to your musician.

Photography

We request that photographers and videographers conduct themselves in a manner of reverence and respect. The photographer/videographer should consult with the presider or the wedding coordinator before the wedding.

Flash photography is allowed only during the procession and recession, but *not* during the ceremony. Flash photography may not be used for still photos during the ceremony.

It is preferred that pictures be taken prior to the ceremony and must be finished 30 minutes before the starting time of the wedding. No sanctuary furnishings should be moved without the permission of the wedding coordinator.

The time for taking pictures after the liturgy is limited because of other obligations for the use of the church space. For Saturday afternoon weddings, all picture taking should be completed by 3:00 pm.

Church Use Guidelines

No Alcohol – Mood Altering Chemicals Policy

NO alcoholic beverages or drugs are permitted on church premises, including the parking lot. This pertains to time before, during or after the wedding or rehearsal. Smoking is not allowed inside the buildings.

Flowers, Rice, etc.

For safety and maintenance reasons, the use of rice, confetti, fireworks, or birdseed is not permitted inside or outside the church. Flower petals (real or artificial) may not be strewn in the aisle of the church. All decorations, including flowers, must be removed immediately after the wedding unless specific arrangements have been made.

Candles

If you are using a unity candle ritual, you must provide the candles and the holders for the candles. Candles and stands are available from your florist. The church can provide a simple candle holder and a table; please consult your wedding coordinator.

Church Use Guidelines

Aisle Cloth

For safety and liability reasons, the use of an aisle runner is not permitted.

Ushers

To help the wedding begin on time, please instruct the ushers to begin seating guests immediately upon arrival.

Security

Please do not leave valuables unattended. St. Jude of the Lake is not responsible for the loss or theft of any personal belongings.

Rehearsal

The wedding rehearsal should be confirmed with the priest presiding at your wedding and the wedding coordinator. Again, the rehearsal will be held at 5:30 pm on the evening before your wedding. All members of the wedding party should be present at the time scheduled for the rehearsal. Early arrival is encouraged to allow time for introductions of your guests. The rehearsal lasts approximately one hour.

Church Use Guidelines

Clean Up

Food and beverages must be confined to the dressing areas. You are responsible for removing all wedding decorations, cleaning the dressing rooms, and removing flower boxes, programs, etc. Please designate someone for this task.

Dressing rooms must be cleaned after the rehearsal/ before the wedding. The church must be cleaned before and after the celebration. Thank you for your attention to this detail.



Notes:

Notes:

Rev. Chad VanHoose, Pastor

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Rita Bagley, Director of Music Ministry

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