

CATHOLIC WEDDING ARRANGEMENTS

Saint Daniel the Prophet Church – 630-384-0123 – www.StDaniel.org
101 West Loop Road, Wheaton, Illinois 60189-2004

Arrangements for Weddings

- Congratulations on your engagement and thank you for requesting the sacrament of Matrimony in the Catholic Church. We are very happy for you!
- We celebrate wedding liturgies for our regular parish members and, in many cases, we also do so for their extended family members as well.
- To make arrangements, the bride and the groom should personally meet with the pastor about a year in advance of their desired wedding date.
- Weddings are celebrated on most Saturdays at 1:30 p.m., and on most Fridays at about 5:00 p.m., but never on Sundays at St. Daniel Church.
- Timely participation in our marriage preparation program is a special requirement for celebrating the sacrament of Matrimony at St. Daniel Church.
- Requests for outside clergy and musicians are considered on a case by case basis by the pastor, according to our parish and diocesan norms.
- St. Daniel Church is not in the wedding business. We do not charge set fees for weddings. We appreciate any contributions that you may give.
- We faithfully follow the teachings of the Church regarding the celebration of wedding liturgies, in full accord with the official liturgical ritual books.
- We faithfully follow the teachings of the Church regarding sacred music at wedding liturgies, in accord with traditional liturgical music standards.
- We want you to know all of these things up front, so that we may have clarity about all our mutual expectations and understandings in this regard.
- For more information about our parish wedding customs and protocols, please request a copy of our liturgical notes for sacramental weddings.

Marriage Preparation Process

- **1) Initial Meeting:** With the pastor, confirm the wedding date, fill out some church paperwork, and go over the marriage preparation program.
- **2) FOCCUS Survey:** After completing this online survey, meet with the pastor to discuss the results in preparation for going to the Pre-Cana program.
- **3) Pre-Cana Program:** Attend a local marriage preparation for engaged couples celebrating the sacrament of Holy Matrimony in the church.
- **4) Liturgy Preparation:** After attending the Pre-Cana program, meet with the pastor, and then with the music director, to prepare for the liturgy.
- **5) Wedding Rehearsal:** In addition to rehearsing the liturgy, confessions are available before and after, in spiritual preparation for this sacrament.



SAINT DANIEL CHURCH . . .

**LOOKING UPWARD IN FAITH
MOVING FORWARD IN HOPE
LEADING ONWARD IN LOVE**

. . . TO NEW LIFE IN CHRIST!

STEP BY STEP THROUGH THE WEDDING LITURGY

- After the Pre-Cana marriage preparation program is completed, the priest prepares the liturgy with the bride and the groom. Then the parish music director prepares the wedding music with the bride and the groom.
- All the legal matters relating to marriage must be taken care of at DuPage County, before the wedding rehearsal. The church needs either the marriage license or the legal marriage certificate before holding the rehearsal.
- The wedding rehearsal is usually held at about 5:00 p.m. on the evening before the wedding. Everyone with a role in the wedding should be present so that they may rehearse their roles well. Thank you for being on time!
- The church opens about an hour before the wedding. Everyone should arrive fully attired and with their flowers. No food or drink may be brought onto church property, except bottled water (and baby bottles for infants).
- There are special regulations for photographers and video personnel. The church staff will show them where they can record the wedding and take pictures. There is limited time for pictures in church after the wedding.
- Please check with the parish office before ordering any extra flowers, candles, pew bows, or aisle runners for the church, as many of these items are neither necessary nor needed for weddings celebrated at our church.
- The liturgical procession begins at the narthex doors. The bride and the groom may enter together, or the groom may come first, and the bride may come last. This solemn procession is done with noble simplicity.
- The priest escorts the bridal party to their places in the front of church. There is special seating for the bride, the groom, and the bridal party, in the front of the church. This will all be practiced at the wedding rehearsal.
- The Scripture readings are selected from the official church ritual book for weddings. If there are lectors, they are specially trained for their liturgical role. The parish provides participation pamphlets for the wedding liturgy.
- The ritual of Matrimony is taken from the official church books. These are the only approved rites that will be included in the wedding liturgy. Other customs and rituals may be observed at the wedding reception hall.
- If there are enough practicing Catholics present, who know their Mass responses well, and who are spiritually prepared to receive the Eucharist, there can be a Mass. Otherwise, there should be a wedding ceremony.
- At a Mass, practicing Catholics may be invited to bring up the bread and wine at the Offertory. At a Mass, if there is a Sign of Peace, it is done very simply, without any receiving lines or any other delays in the liturgy.
- After the Lord's Prayer, the newly married couple receives the special Nuptial Blessing of the Church. At a Mass, Catholics who are properly disposed are invited to come forward to worthily receive Holy Communion.
- After the Final Blessing, the bride and groom lead a procession out of the church into the narthex. The church closes thirty minutes later, so there is only a limited time for a few appropriate formal pictures after the wedding.
- Approved sacred or classical music is used in church. There is one piece of music for the processional, and one piece of music for the recessional. Music always serves the liturgy, and never delays the liturgical action.
- After the wedding, no rice or anything else like that may be thrown on our church property. Other customs and rituals, which are not part of the official church liturgy, should be reserved for use at the wedding banquet hall.
- Our church does not charge for the celebration of the sacraments. We are grateful for whatever donations that you may wish to give for the support of our parish and its spiritual, educational, and charitable programs.
- Please contact the parish office for any questions or clarifications that you might have regarding these matters. The parish contact information can be found at the beginning of this document. Once again, congratulations!

May God bless, with his Love, all who are joined in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony!