

# ABOUT THE PARISH FOR YOUR WEDDING

Saint Daniel the Prophet Church – 630-384-0123 – [www.StDaniel.org](http://www.StDaniel.org)  
101 West Loop Road, Wheaton, Illinois 60189-2004

## THE PARISH FOR YOUR WEDDING

- Congratulations to you on your engagement! What a wonderful time in your life! May God bless you as you prepare for your wedding day. The purpose of this document is to assist you with the scheduling of your wedding at a Catholic parish.
- You really should meet with your parish priest a year in advance of your proposed wedding date. Also, please schedule your wedding date with your church before you book your reception hall.
- Catholics are supposed to get married in the parish where they live. In fact, the local priest has a duty to perform weddings for his parishioners. The same applies if you live in one parish but are registered members of a different parish. Your wedding should be at the church you attend.
- If your priest does not know you personally, then please introduce yourself to him after a Mass, and make an appointment for the two of you to sit down and talk with him about your wedding plans. He will let you know about all the parish details.
- What if you are not a member of a parish? Then please join one! Do so, not just for a wedding, but for your spiritual home. Attend Mass there each Sunday, support the parish community, and join in some parish activity that helps you to feel like you belong. That is what parishes are really for!
- What if you don't want to join any parish? Well, Catholic churches are not really in the wedding business. Their primary focus is on salvation in Jesus Christ. Please talk with a priest to explore why you are seeking a wedding in a church. You may actually rediscover your faith in the process!
- Can you sign up in a parish to schedule wedding? Yes, if you really are going to attend Mass there each Sunday, if you are going to support the parish, and if you are going to be involved in parish community life, especially beyond your wedding day, please join it as your spiritual home. Once you have established yourself as a regular parishioner, you can then set your wedding date there, for it is now "your" parish community.

## WEDDINGS FOR NON-PARISHIONERS

- Please keep in mind that established parishioners have a right to be married in their own parish church. They have a well-founded expectation that the parish they regularly attend and support will care for them in all of their spiritual needs.
- Because of these factors, there would have to be a compelling reason to schedule a wedding for non-parishioners at our church. So, please tell us more about your situation. We are willing to listen to you. Perhaps there are other alternatives.
- If your request seems plausible, we would need a letter of recommendation from your home pastor. This letter would confirm that you are a practicing Catholic and that your home parish would provide the marriage preparation program that is required by your local pastor and your home diocese.
- Upon receipt of this letter, a wedding date may be set at our parish. After completion of your parish marriage preparation program, our staff would then meet with you to prepare the wedding liturgy according to our parish norms and customs.
- General information about wedding liturgies at our parish may be found on our parish website, [StDaniel.org](http://StDaniel.org), under the "praying" tab, along with all our other sacramental ministries. Other parish wedding guidelines will be shared with you in person when your wedding date is scheduled.
- At our parish, wedding liturgies are noted for their simplicity and their prayerfulness. We provide a worship experience in which the spiritual values of the Sacrament of Matrimony are preeminent. We invite you to attend one of our weddings to see for yourself how we celebrate this sacrament.
- Once again, God bless you on your engagement! All the best to you as you joyfully prepare not only for your wedding day, but also for your marriage! You might also want to check out the American Bishops' website, [ForYourMarriage.org](http://ForYourMarriage.org), as well as [CatholicsComeHome.org](http://CatholicsComeHome.org). Most of all, please come to Mass together each Sunday, and pray both with and for each other each and every day.