

ABOUT THE PARISH FOR YOUR WEDDING

Saint Daniel Church – 630-384-0123 – www.StDaniel.org
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Congratulations to you on your engagement! What a wonderful time in your life. May God bless you as you prayerfully prepare for your special wedding day! The purpose of this document is to help you understand the protocols for scheduling your wedding liturgy at a Catholic parish.

- The bride and groom should personally contact their parish priest about a year in advance of their proposed wedding date. Their parents should not try to do this for them. Also, it is wise to schedule your wedding date with your parish church before you book your reception hall.
- The general rule is that Catholics are to get married in the parish where the bride or the groom 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 celebrated at the church where you regularly attend Mass each week.
- Most parish priests are also willing to do weddings for the adult children of their established parishioners, even if they live elsewhere. The unmarried children of parishioners are still considered part of their parents' family. A letter of recommendation from your local parish priest may sometimes be requested in order to set a wedding date in your parent's parish.
- What if you are not a member of a parish? Then please join one! Do so, not just for a wedding, but for the sake of establishing it as your spiritual home. Attend Mass there each Sunday, support the ministries of your parish community, and join in some parish activity that helps you to feel like you really belong to your parish. That is what parishes are really for!
- What if you don't really want to join any parish? Well, Catholic churches are actually not in the wedding business. Their primary focus is on bringing people to salvation in Jesus Christ. Please talk with a priest to explore why you are seeking to have your wedding in a church. You may actually rediscover the underlying importance of your religious faith in the process!
- Can you join a parish to schedule a wedding? Well, yes, if you are really going to attend Mass there each Sunday, if you are really going to support the parish, and if you are really 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 certainly set your wedding date there, for then it will truly be "your" parish community.

Thank you again for inquiring about weddings in the Catholic Church. We hope that this information helps you understand the Catholic wedding protocols better, and the religious values that go along with these customs. Holy Matrimony is a sacrament of our Catholic Christian faith. As such, Catholic marriage and family values are part of a complete Catholic Christian lifestyle. For more information about all these matters, please check out www.ForYourMarriage.org today!