

WEDDING INFORMATION

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

Updated on July 1, 2020

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!

As you spiritually prepare to begin your happy new life together in the sacrament of holy matrimony, please prayerfully reflect on the follow message about discovering or deepening your new life in Christ.

NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

**The basic message of salvation can be shared in four points:
purpose, problem, provision, and pathway!**

- **God's Purpose:** God created us to be good, with the purpose of sharing his love and his happiness with us forever.
- **Our Problem:** We rejected God's plan through sin, and thus we lost our way both in this world and in the life to come.
- **God's Provision:** God provided a sacrifice for the forgiveness of our sins through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- **Our Pathway:** We are on the way to heaven when we personally commit our lives to Jesus Christ in the community of his Church.



Once you understand and embrace this basic message of salvation, you can begin to act upon it wholeheartedly in three important ways!

**First, make a personal commitment of your life to Jesus Christ as God.
Use these or similar heartfelt words for your prayer!**

***Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.
Fill me with your Spirit, so that I may give glory to your Father.
Help me to know you, to love you, and to serve you in this world,
so that I may be happy with you both now and for all eternity. Amen.***

*Thank you for sincerely reciting this powerful prayer. Your new life in Christ has begun.
Please let us help you make your new life in Christ grow and develop well!*

**Second, start following through today on your commitment to Christ
with your fellow forgiven sinners in the community of his Church!**

- **Mind:** When your mind is filled with the truth of Christ, your whole perspective on life changes!
 - MyCatholic.Life – This is an online summary of the truth that will truly set you free for excellence.
 - CatholicsComeHome.org – This is an encyclopedia of information and inspiration for daily living.
 - ChristLife course at our church – Please contact the parish office to enroll in this exciting course.
- **Heart:** With the renewal of your mind, there comes a profound change within your heart as well!
 - Personal Prayer – Christ is someone who really understands and truly cares for you.
 - Scriptural Reflection – The words and deeds of Christ inspire you to respond in kind.
 - Sacramental Lifestyle – The sacraments keep you connected to Christ until he returns.
- **Life:** Become an active member of our parish community! Please check out StDaniel.org for information.
 - We are looking upward in faith to the God who saves us! – Come and look upward with us!
 - We are moving forward in hope toward our heavenly goal! – Come and move forward with us!
 - We are leading onward in love to new life in Christ! – Come and lead onward with us today!

*We are a faith community of prayer, learning, and service.
Please come and join us as Intentional Disciples of Christ!*

Third, here are some ways to tell that you are on the path of Intentional Discipleship as a faithful Catholic Christian!

- **First**, you are starting to do things Jesus' way because, with his love and his grace, you can! Your personal relationship with Jesus changes everything in your whole life. Repentance means a change of mind and heart in how you live out your life according to the truth of Christ's Teachings and with the grace of his Sacraments.
- **Second**, you are starting to avoid evil because you no longer feel okay about sinning! Because Jesus died on the cross for you, you are experiencing life in a whole new way. With your increasing desire to please Christ in every way, you are overcoming vice and are growing in virtue, within the supportive community of his Church.
- **Third**, you are starting to give your life totally to Christ, in a personal and communal relationship with Christ and his Church. Because of your deepening commitment to Christ and his Church, you are starting to pray like this: "Lord Jesus, I want what you want, because you want it, as you want it, when you want it!" Amen!

Please contact us at Prayer@StDaniel.org for prayer, guidance, and support in leading your new life in Christ. Your prayer requests are welcome too!

In conclusion, here are some further thoughts for you to prayerfully consider about your new life in Jesus Christ!

- **How do you know that you need a Savior?** Consider the good, the bad, and the ugly. 1) The Good: the best that you have is just never good enough. 2) The Bad: your own solutions don't really work out that well. 3) The Ugly: in the end, you know that you are going to die anyway. You need Christ because only he can replace the good, the bad, and the ugly, with all that is really true, good, and beautiful.
- **Jesus Christ invites you to experience all that is true, good, and beautiful!** 1) The True: there is a reason and purpose to life, which you discover through faith in Jesus Christ. 2) The Good: there are values that endure forever, which you encounter through the love of Jesus Christ. 3) The Beautiful: you realize that the only life really worth living is one in which Jesus Christ is at the center of it.
- **Isn't it enough to be spiritual, instead of being religious?** The short answer is "no." Here is the long answer. 1) Being religious without being spiritual is like going through the motions, but without having faith. 2) Being spiritual without being religious is like talking the talk, but without walking the walk. 3) Being religious is the lifestyle that spiritually transforms your everyday existence for the better in Christ.
- **The opposite of spiritual is not religious – the opposite of spiritual is worldly.** 1) Being Worldly is acting as if this life were all that there is. 2) Being Spiritual is realizing that there is so much more to life. 3) Being Religious is living spiritually within a broken world. Religion is what connects your highest aspirations with your everyday lived experience. Religion is thus the bridge from this life to the next in Christ!
- **The Christian Religion, founded by Jesus Christ, holds your life together in three ways.** 1) Creed: you understand life more fully through the teachings of Christ's Church. 2) Code: you get along with others better because you realize how much Christ loves you in the community of his Church. 3) Culture: you connect with Christ spiritually through the sacraments of Christ's Church.
- **Why should you be a Catholic Christian?** Because the Church that Jesus founded is one, holy, catholic, and apostolic. Everything that Christ intended for his faithful followers from the very beginning, continues faithfully even now in the Catholic Church, through Scripture, Tradition, and Magisterium, until Christ returns in glory at the end of time. So, come and join us as Intentional Disciples of Christ in the Catholic Church today!

For prayer, guidance, and support in all these important spiritual matters, please contact us today at Prayer@StDaniel.org. God bless you!

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