

# WEDDING INFORMATION

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

Updated on July 16, 2021

## 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 at our church for our regular parishioners and for their immediate family members, in accord with church law.
- 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.
- It is the duty of the parish priest to conduct weddings in our church. It is the responsibility of our parish music director to provide the music.
- St. Daniel Church is not in the wedding business. We do not charge any 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.

## Sacramental Preparation Process

- **Spiritual Preparation:** Faithfully attend Sunday Mass together each week as an engaged couple, and worthily receive Holy Communion together as part of a genuine Catholic Christian lifestyle.
- **Marriage Preparation:** Take the online marriage survey and receive the results from the priest. Then attend a special Pre-Cana workshop for engaged couples as scheduled by the diocese.
- **Liturgy Preparation:** After attending Pre-Cana, meet with the priest to plan the liturgy, and then meet with the music director to select the music. The parish provides the worship booklets.
- **Other Preparations:** Before placing any orders for flowers and decorations, please consult our parish protocols. Then alert your photographers and any video personnel about our rules as well.



**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 conducting 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).
- The parish staff decorates the church for you. Your florist provides the flowers that you carry or wear and, if you request, two floral arrangements for the altar. There are special regulations for your florist in this regard.
- 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.
- The liturgical entrance procession begins at the narthex doors. From the narthex doors, the priest leads the entire bridal party to the altar. The congregation respectfully stands for the entire entrance procession.
- 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.
- For the vows and the rings, the best man and maid of honor come forward as official witnesses of the church. If there are not too many other attendants, they may come forward to the altar steps at this time as well.
- A Wedding Mass is recommended when both the bride and the groom are Catholic. Otherwise, a Wedding Ceremony is recommended. In either case, the full Sacrament of Holy Matrimony is always celebrated.
- At a Mass, there may be an Offertory procession with the gifts of bread and wine. At a Mass, the Sign of Peace is done very simply, without any receiving lines, presentations, 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 liturgy.
- 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 fees 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 live a new life.  
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.  
Thank you, Lord. 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](mailto: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](mailto:Prayer@StDaniel.org). God bless you!*

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