

WEDDING INFORMATION

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

Arrangements for Weddings

Congratulations to you on your engagement! Here is some information about celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony at Saint Daniel Catholic Church.

- Catholics may be married in the parish church of either the bride or the groom. Please start by introducing yourself to our priest at Sunday Mass.
- Our priest will make an appointment with the bride and the groom to discuss the date, the time, and the parish wedding preparation process.
- Weddings are celebrated on most Saturdays at 1:30 p.m., and on most Fridays at about 5:00 p.m., but not on Sundays here at our church.
- We recommend that you meet with our priest to set the church date for the wedding liturgy before you reserve or confirm your banquet hall date.
- It is the duty of our priest to celebrate weddings in our church. It is the responsibility of our parish music director to provide the wedding music.
- Since our parish is not in the wedding business, we do not charge any fees for wedding liturgies, but we do appreciate any donations freely given.
- We faithfully observe all the liturgical instructions for celebrating this sacrament, and we provide sacred music that is both prayerful and liturgical.
- For more information about our parish wedding arrangements, please read the next page of this special wedding information document.

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:** Participate in a marriage preparation survey and receive the results from our priest. Then attend a Pre-Cana workshop for engaged couples, as scheduled by the diocese.
- **Liturgy Preparation:** After attending Pre-Cana, meet with our priest to plan the liturgy, and then meet with our music director to select the music. The parish provides programs for the liturgy.
- **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!

For any questions that are not answered in this document, please send an email to Weddings@StDaniel.org.
Saint Daniel Church . . . looking upward in faith, moving forward in hope, leading onward in love . . . to new life in Christ!
We are a faith community of prayer, learning, and service. Come and join us as intentional disciples of Christ!

PRAYERFUL, SIMPLE, TRADITIONAL WEDDINGS

Holy Matrimony. At Saint Daniel Church, our wedding liturgies are prayerful, simple, and traditional. As a special sacrament of our Catholic Christian Faith, our weddings are religious celebrations for people who share our faith values, and who are committed to living a Christian family life according to the teachings of the Catholic Church.

- First, we celebrate *theme* weddings, and that theme is *sacrament*. We are here to celebrate Holy Matrimony as a sacrament of the Catholic Church. Because Christian marriage is a sacrament which continues the saving work of Christ, we do not charge any fees for weddings. God's grace is priceless.
- Second, we celebrate *destination* weddings, and that destination is *heaven*. We believe that marriage is a vocation in which a man and a woman walk hand in hand with each other throughout life, assisting each other on their way to heaven. Our Christian lives are then fulfilled in the wedding feast of heaven.
- Third, we celebrate *spiritual* weddings, and that spirituality is our Catholic *faith*. We celebrate weddings as sacramental liturgies focused on the wedding vows, the exchange of rings, and the nuptial blessing. These religious rites express our traditional faith values about the sacred covenant of Holy Matrimony.

By reflecting on these core values, we hope you will be able to understand and appreciate the way that we celebrate sacramental wedding liturgies at Saint Daniel Church. Faith-based wedding liturgies are designed to help people express their religious beliefs and their spiritual values, as they are "Married in the Lord" and start their new family.

Sacred Rites Reverently Celebrated

- Our priest goes through the entire wedding ritual with the bride and groom in preparation for the wedding liturgy.
- We faithfully follow the instructions in the liturgical books for the celebration of all the sacraments at our church.
- As faithful guardians of sacred tradition, we do not add anything to the liturgy or leave anything out of the liturgy.
- At your wedding reception, you can always celebrate other customs that are not part of the official church liturgy.
- At the rehearsal, we provide an optional betrothal blessing rite, with a votive candle and flowers at Mary's statue.
- The sacred music used at weddings in our church is liturgical and fitting for the worship and praise of our God.
- Whether celebrated during a Ceremony or a Mass, our wedding liturgies are solemn, dignified, and memorable.
- May all who attend a wedding liturgy at our church receive inspiration and blessings for their own married life!

Church Decorations and Decorum

- We decorate our church for weddings, so you only need to provide the wedding flowers that you carry or wear.
- Your florist should deliver your flowers to your home or wherever you are getting ready, but not to the church.
- Please arrive at church on time and fully attired, as we do not have any private changing rooms at our church.
- Please do not throw rice, etc., after the wedding, and do not bring any alcohol, etc., onto our church property.
- There is a time and place for everything. So, please pray now at church, and party later at the reception hall.
- Please instruct your guests to respect our place of worship with the reverent dignity that it rightfully deserves.

Photography and Video Recordings

- Procession: Pictures may be taken during the entrance procession, but without disrupting the procession itself.
- During the Liturgy: Pictures and videos are taken from the special recording booth located at the back of church.
- Afterwards: Limited time is allotted for some dignified pictures, mostly of the bride and groom at the altar steps.
- Elsewhere: Other pictures should be planned for elsewhere to preserve the prayerful atmosphere of our church.
- Grandchildren: Only take those pictures that you will be proud to show your grandchildren in the years to come.
- Memories: May the joyful memories of your wedding celebration continue to inspire you all the days of your life!

As you spiritually prepare to begin your happy new life together in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony, please prayerfully reflect on the following message about discovering or deepening your new life in Christ. For more information about Christian marriage and family life, please check out ForYourMarriage.org.

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 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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