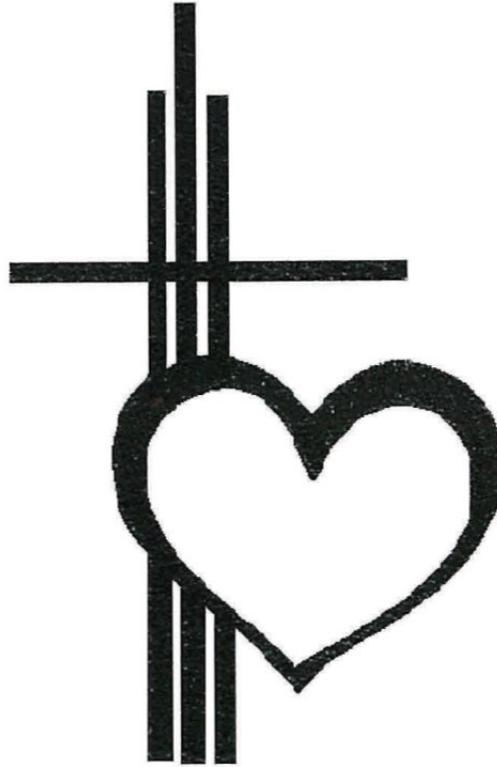


Marriage Guidelines



All Saints Catholic Church
Sunrise, Florida

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Church Information:

All Saints Catholic Church

10900 W. Oakland Park Blvd.

Sunrise, FL 33351

(954) 742-2666

Rev. Liam Quinn, Pastor

Rev. Andy Lorenzo, Parochial Vicar

Church has seating capacity for 800 persons

Chapel has seating capacity for 100 persons

Parish Hall is available for Wedding Receptions and

can accommodate 300 persons.

Introduction

Congratulations! You are in love, and now you have decided to commit your love to each other for the rest of your lives.

How blessed you are!

We are happy that you are contemplating Marriage at All Saints Catholic Church. It is our hope that the information provided on the following pages will assist you in your choice to celebrate your wedding here, as well as with the preparation and planning of your special day.

May you always recognize Christ as the Third Partner in your marriage, and share your lives with Him.

What is Marriage?

According to the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church, the Sacrament of Marriage is a covenant by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership of the whole of life. By its nature, Marriage is ordered toward the good of the spouses, and the procreation and education of children.

Since the Sacrament of Marriage is a life-long commitment, it cannot be taken lightly, or without knowledge and full consent. With this in mind, it is easy to understand that preparation is required before entering into this Sacrament.

Preparation

The freedom of the bride and groom to be married must first of all be verified. During your first conversation with the priest, he will ask you both some questions to determine this. If one of the parties is not free to marry, (i.e, married in the Church before) it is not possible to set a wedding date in the Church. The priest will discuss any procedures which may be available to attempt to rectify the situation. The Archdiocese of Miami 's fees for these procedures range from \$50.00 to \$650.00. Once the freedom of both parties to marry has been determined, there is a minimum period of six (6) months preparation. Given the seriousness of this commitment, the reasons for this time are understandable. During this period of preparation, it will be necessary for you to obtain a current copy of your Baptismal Certificates. The priest will tell you how to go about this.

You will be required to:

- Complete the FOCCUS questionnaire & discuss the results.
- Attend an Engaged Encounter - a two day retreat as a couple.

There will be a number of meetings with the priest who will be preparing you for marriage. During one of these, you will complete the Pre-Nuptial Questionnaire called the “A Form” with him. Two witnesses for the bride and two for the groom must testify to the individual’s freedom to marry by completing a “B Form”. It is necessary for you to obtain a Marriage License from Broward County. The West Satellite Courthouse is located at 100 N. Pine Island Road, Room 180, Plantation, FL 33324. The License is valid for sixty (60) days from the effective date. Bring the license to the Parish Office as soon as you get it. After the ceremony, the Maid of Honor, Best Man, and the priest will sign the document. An employee of All Saints Catholic Church will mail it to the county.

You should also choose two to four people to bring the Offertory Gifts to the Altar. These gifts include the wine, water, bread and chalice.

The order in which the wedding party will process to the Altar should be determined before the rehearsal. *All those with an active part in the wedding must attend the rehearsal.*

The use of the Unity Candle and bringing flowers to the Blessed Mother's statue are optional. If you choose to have the Unity Candle, bring it before the rehearsal. Your parents will light a candle - symbolizing the individual lives of the bride and the groom. After the Exchange of Vows, you will together light the center candle from the individual candles your parents lit. Then together each extinguish your individual candles, symbolizing that your two lives have become one.

If you choose to bring flowers to Mary's statue, you go together and the bride places the flowers at the foot of the statue. You pray together briefly then return to your places.

Music

The Music Director and/or Parish musicians will be present for all weddings. Outside organists are not permitted at any time. Additional instrumentalists and/or vocalists are permitted during the wedding but are to be used only in last resort. They must be arranged and approved in advanced by the Music Director.

The processional and recessional marches are reserved for the organ. This is the only way to ensure that everything will flow smoothly and that the music will start and stop at the appropriate times.

Secular or non-sacred music is not permitted during the wedding ceremony. This should be reserved for the wedding reception.

The Music Director is Robert Ekonomou. His phone number is (561) 707-1087. The Music Director has music available for English and Spanish ceremonies.

Please note that it is the responsibility of the bride and groom to contact the Music Director at least two months prior to the wedding. If you do not contact the Music Director and arrange a meeting with him, there will not be any music for your wedding. The musicians will not automatically show up. If you do not contact the Music Director at least two months prior to your wedding, it is not guaranteed that you will have any music for the Ceremony. The fee for the music is \$350.00 for the Ceremony and Mass. This includes organist and vocalist as well as a meeting with the Music Director prior to wedding date to determine music selection. Fees for additional instrumentalists and/or vocalists are set by the individual. These fees vary from person to person, so you must contact them for their fee.

Decorations

Flowers are permitted in the Sanctuary area. Two baskets are appropriate, and are usually placed on pedestals (which the church has) on either side of the altar. These flowers are not to be removed after ceremony.

If you choose to attach flowers to the pews, it is absolutely imperative that your florist is aware that All Saints Church allows only rubber bands or ribbon to be used as fasteners. Tape, clips, pipe cleaners or anything other than rubber bands or ribbon are not permitted. If any other material is used, the material AND the flowers will be removed before the ceremony begins.

An aisle runner is not acceptable because of liability purposes since someone may trip on the runner.

The only candles permitted are those used in the Unity candle portion of the ceremony. Candles are not to be used for decoration in the church.

Photography

Photography is permitted during the Wedding ceremony.

Please instruct your photographer/videographer to speak with the priest at least 30 minutes before the wedding begins for instructions. Bright lights are not permitted, nor is it permissible for a microphone to be clipped to the groom, or anyone in the wedding party, by the videographer. Please note that the church must be completely vacated within one and one half hours of the scheduled starting time of the wedding. In other words, if your wedding is scheduled to begin at 2:00 PM, you must be finished with photographs and out of the church by 3:30 PM. This enables us to prepare for the regular Mass which follows.

Church Etiquette

The church is a sacred place which should be respected by those who enter it. The behavior of those in the wedding party will set the tone for the guests. There should be no loud talking, and no cursing in the building. If there is evidence of anyone in the wedding party drinking alcohol or using drugs immediately prior to the wedding, it will not take place.

In order to maintain the appearance and dignified atmosphere, it is necessary for you to designate someone who will be responsible for cleaning up after the wedding. This includes removal of any flower petals that may have fallen, and any other materials from the body of the church. Rice, confetti, birdseed or flower petals are not allowed to be thrown inside or outside of the Church.

The priest, or his delegate, will conduct the rehearsal. This is not the responsibility of a wedding coordinator.

Fees

For those who have been registered and are worshipping weekly with verifiable contributions at All Saints Catholic Church for at least one year prior to the wedding, the minimum stipend for the church is \$550.00. For those who are not participating members of our parish, but are from other parishes within the Archdiocese of Miami, the minimum is \$750.00. The stipend for those who reside out of the Archdiocese of Miami is \$1,000.00. If your preparation requires filing documents with the Archdiocese of Miami Tribunal, additional fees apply. (We ask that in considering your donation to the Church, you would consider it from the perspective of the overall cost of your wedding, and give accordingly.) It is proper to give the priest a stipend as a token of your appreciation for his work in preparing you and celebrating the wedding. A minimum of \$100.00 is appropriate. Altar Servers should also be compensated for their time, with \$20.00 each being appropriate.

A non-refundable security deposit of \$200.00 is required for all weddings within one week of the booking of the wedding, with the balance due at least two weeks prior to the date of the wedding. No couple will be denied a wedding due to inability to pay the fees. If there is a hardship, after review of the couple's total wedding budget, an alternate payment plan may be arranged on an individual basis.

In Conclusion

It is the hope of the priests and the entire Parish staff that your wedding day will be the beginning of a life of love and happiness together. If you remember to include our Lord Jesus in your married life, offering Him your daily joys and sorrows, there is every chance that your relationship will last. Our prayer is that twenty-five or fifty years from now, you will come back to All Saints Catholic Church to celebrate your Silver or Golden Jubilee, and you will be more in love than you are today.