

St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church
Guidelines for celebrating the Sacrament of Matrimony

Congratulations! We share your happiness and look forward to helping you during this time of preparation for your wedding. The Sacrament of Marriage is a public sign that two individuals promise to become one in a permanent covenant. It is also a public statement about God's gift of marriage: the loving union of husband and wife to fully express their love for each other freely, totally, faithfully, and fruitfully.

Steps on the way:

1. Meet with the pastor Father Donald Staib
2. Wedding should be booked 6-8 months in advance. The days and times for weddings at St. Mary Magdalene Church are:

Saturdays at 11:00 am or 2:00 pm

Friday Evenings – other days of the week can be available, but never Sundays

Wedding date: Father Staib will confirm your wedding date once he has met with you and it is determined the suitability of the wedding and the date is available.

Rehearsals take place at 5:00pm the evening before your wedding.

3. Meet with Wedding Coordinator to discuss your wedding plans.
4. Schedule and attend the Diocesan Marriage Preparation Workshop or the Engaged Couples Weekend at least 4-6 months before your wedding date.

All couples must attend this One-Day Marriage Preparation Workshop [or a Weekend for Engaged Couples] sponsored by the Diocese of Raleigh. For more information, see the Diocesan web site at www.dioceseofraleigh.org.

5. Take the online Fully Engaged assessment in a timely manner. Our Marriage Prep Coordinator – Julie Hoffman julie_hoffman@nc.rr.com will contact you and help you register for this. When that assessment is completed, you will be assigned a parish Mentor Couple that will review the Fully Engaged assessment in multiple counseling sessions.

Fully Engaged is a study about communication and understanding. The results of this study are used primarily as a counseling tool. Fully Engaged is taken on-line. The results of your assessment will be sent your Pastor and you will be assigned a Diocesan trained Fully Engaged Mentor Couple to meet with both of you for pre-marital counseling and Fully Engaged assessment review and assist you in the spiritual preparation for your marriage.

6. For Catholics: contact the parish of your baptism and ask for a fresh copy [recently dated] of your Baptism Certificates as soon as you can.
7. For non-Catholics a baptism document is helpful; in addition, Form B will need to be completed. The pastor can explain this at the initial meeting.
8. Meet with Music Minister Kristin Wagner to plan your wedding music.
9. Choose Scripture reading selections from the *Together for Life* booklet the pastor will give you. The other choices in the book the priest will select.
10. Submit required fees in full to the Church to reserve the date.
11. You can view some of the Church Marriage Forms on the Diocese of Raleigh website; we will help you complete them at the appropriate time.

Contacts:

Father Donald Staib via email donfs22@aol.com to set up the initial meeting. This meeting will be about an hour. Father can meet with engaged couples on Monday-Thursday between the hours of 10am-4pm. Please contact him to schedule a convenient time.

The church Wedding Coordinator - Pam Andrejko will assist you throughout the wedding preparation process. Please contact her via email: weddings@stmm.net

Marriage Prep Coordinator – Julie Hoffman: julie_hoffman@nc.rr.com

Music Minister - Kristin Wagner stmm.music@gmail.com or 919-636-0114

CIVIL REQUIREMENTS - MARRIAGE LICENSE

You must obtain a Marriage License Application from the Wake County [or any North Carolina County] Register of Deeds, available 60 days before your wedding. For information: <http://wakegov.com/rod> or call (919) 856-5490 (both the bride and groom are required to be present together at the ROD office). Bring your marriage license on the day of the wedding rehearsal and give it to the Priest. The Priest will return it to the County.

OFFERING TO THE CHURCH

For participating and supporting members of StMM there is a fee of \$250. This is due to reserve the wedding date. This fee is to help defray expenses for your wedding, such as heat, air conditioning, lighting, maintenance, and to compensate those who help with setting up the facility for your day.

For those who are not contributing members the fee is \$800. Half the fee is due at booking and the remainder two months before the wedding. Checks should be made out to St. Mary Magdalene.

WEDDING MUSIC

All wedding music must be coordinated through the parish Music Director. Please contact Kristin Wagner stmm.music@gmail.com or 919-636-0114. The Music Director will guide you with selecting appropriate music for your wedding. Do not secure any outside musicians until you have received approval from the Music Director. Couples will be provided with names of vocalists, cantors or instrumentalists that are available for consideration. Fees for all musicians are paid directly through the Music Director and are not set by the church.

THE NUPTIAL MASS OR CEREMONY

When both parties are Catholic, it is presumed there is a Nuptial Mass. If one party is of another faith, the ceremony usually does not include a Mass. This can be discussed with the priest and the Wedding Coordinator.

PRIVATE WEDDING PLANNERS

Private wedding coordinators are helpful toward keeping the secular aspects of your wedding day running smoothly; however they do not participate in the Church rehearsal or planning of the liturgy. The rehearsal and ceremony are the traditional liturgy of the Church. If you have hired a wedding planner, please let them know that our wedding coordinator under the direction of the Priest handles all matters pertaining to the Church rehearsal and ceremony.

In the interest of safety, time, and maintenance the following are *not* permitted:

- Aisle runners
- Rice, birdseed or confetti
- Flower petals (silk or live) scattered by a flower girl
- Unity wedding candles – these should be reserved for the Reception
- Receiving lines after the ceremony which delay the photographers
- Alcoholic beverages & tobacco products are prohibited on the Church grounds.

PLANNING THE CEREMONY

Fr. Staib will give you a copy of *Together for Life*, which is a booklet to help you plan your wedding liturgy. The *Together for Life* booklet has the choices of prayers, readings, and blessings that are most often used in the wedding liturgy. Your selections of Old Testament, New Testament, Gospel Reading and Prayer of the Faithful need to be shared with the parish Wedding Coordinator one month prior to your wedding.

READERS AT THE LITURGY

You may have members of the wedding party, family, or friends as readers at your wedding. Readers should attend the rehearsal so that they can be familiar with the ambo, the book, the layout of the Church, and the use of the sound system. Reading the text before the ceremony is strongly recommended.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT YOU NEED

Memorial Candle – If you wish to have a candle burning near the altar in memory of a loved one(s). Please purchase a dripless candle from a craft store and print the appropriate information in your wedding program. Please let the Wedding Coordinator know if you plan to do this.

FLOWERS

If appropriate we are receptive to leaving the wedding flowers for the Church to use at weekend Masses. Two large flower arrangements can be placed on the ledges on each side of the Tabernacle behind the altar. Please communicate to the parish Wedding Coordinator if your intentions are to take or leave your flowers.

If the flowers will be left, please ask your florist to set them in disposable containers to be placed in our vases. Flowers should arrive one hour before the wedding.

Pew bows/pew greenery are permitted; these items must be attached by ribbons or pew clips to avoid damage to the wooden pews. Scotch tape or similar substances are damaging to wood and should not be used.

WORSHIP AIDS (WEDDING PROGRAMS)

Most couples provide guests with a worship aid. The Wedding Coordinator will share an electronic template to guide you in this process. Before your final program is printed, it should be emailed to Father Staib and the Wedding Coordinator for proofing to be sure that the program is in the correct order for the Mass or Liturgy of the Word Ceremony. Once approved, a final copy of the program should be emailed to the Music Director Kristin Wagner.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Your wedding is a sacred event; therefore photographers should conduct themselves in a professional manner with respect for the Church liturgy and for those who attend your wedding. A good photographer is virtually “invisible” and should not be a distraction. The church Wedding Coordinator will inform the photographer what locations photographs can be taken and when it is appropriate to take pictures. Flash photography during the ceremony should be avoided.

VIDEOGRAPHER

Video cameras must be on a stationary tri-pod and are only permitted in designated areas. The Wedding Coordinator will guide the videographer where the proper tri-pod location is in the Church.

BRIDE’S ROOM

There is a room available for the bride and her attendants one hour before the wedding. This room is to be used for dressing only, please do not schedule to have your hair/make-up stylist work with you in this room. Be sure to secure valuables elsewhere. The groom and groomsmen should arrive at the Church in full attire.

AFTER THE WEDDING LITURGY

After the liturgy, the wedding party and families may return to the Church for formal pictures. Due to the Saturday 5pm Vigil Mass and other events that take place at StMM, we can only permit a 30-minute time after the wedding for pictures to be taken. The first photo should be with the Priest.

We at St. Mary Magdalene look forward to serving you in your marriage preparations. All wedding questions and details should be addressed to the parish Wedding Coordinator at weddings@stmm.net