

THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

PREPARING FOR YOUR WEDDING AND MARRIAGE
AT ST. MARY STUDENT PARISH

Congratulations on your engagement! We look forward to helping you prepare for the very special sacrament of marriage. Please review the following guidelines and policies for weddings at St. Mary Student Parish. Should you have any questions, we are here to help—please call Lanette Mele at the parish office at (734) 663-0557, ext. 232.

REQUIREMENTS FOR MARRIAGE AT ST. MARY STUDENT PARISH

Registered members of St. Mary's and University of Michigan students and Catholic Alumni may schedule weddings in our parish.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION GUIDELINES

The first step in your marriage preparation is to call Lanette Mele at the parish office to schedule an appointment with a St. Mary's priest. This meeting must occur at least nine months prior to your wedding. Once you have met with the priest or deacon and completed the necessary paperwork, your wedding date can be scheduled.

FOCCUS Questionnaire

After the initial meeting, you will be asked to complete the Facilitating Open Couple Communication, Understanding and Study (FOCCUS) questionnaire. Please contact the parish office at (734) 663-0557 to schedule a time. Plan at least one hour to complete the questionnaire. Once the questionnaire has been completed, a second meeting will be scheduled.

Pre-Marriage Seminar

The St. Mary's Pre-Marriage Seminar is held in February, and takes place on a Friday evening and all day Saturday. The seminar includes group and one-on-one discussions, as well as presentations by St. Mary's priests. If you are unable to attend this seminar, you must attend an Engaged Encounter weekend in its place. Brochures are available in the parish office with dates and locations.

We C.A.R.E.

Pre-marriage couples are also required to attend the We C.A.R.E. conflict resolution seminar. Contact the parish office for brochures and registration forms. The Engaged Encounter and We C.A.R.E. seminars are sponsored by the Diocese of Lansing.



ST. MARY STUDENT PARISH

FR. GABRIEL RICHARD NEWMAN CENTER

331 THOMPSON STREET
ANN ARBOR, MI 48104
(734) 663-0557

Additional Meetings

In the months prior to your wedding, your priest or deacon will schedule additional meetings with you to guide you in preparation for the sacrament of marriage.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

The following documents must be provided at least three months before your wedding.

1. *Baptism Certificate* ~ Contact your church of baptism to obtain your baptism certificate. The certificate must be issued within the past six months. Please note a baptism certificate is required for non-Catholic Christians as well.
2. *Annulment Certificate* ~ If either party has been married before, an annulment certificate must be provided. Any previous marriage must be annulled before a new marriage can take place.
3. *Marriage License* ~ You may apply for your marriage license at the county office in the county where either party resides. The wedding must occur within thirty days of the date the marriage license is issued. You must bring the marriage license to the parish office at least three days before the wedding.

FEES

The fee for the use of the church is \$300 for registered parish members and University of Michigan students, and \$500 for University of Michigan Catholic alumni. There is a 50% deposit due when wedding date is set. The balance will be due three months before the wedding. Fees will be returned should the wedding date be cancelled. If you would like to give a stipend to the priest celebrating the marriage, you should do so separately since voluntary stipends are not included in the fee for the use of the church.

WEDDING DATES/TIMES

Weddings cannot be scheduled during Advent and Lent or when there is a home football game. If there is a Mass on Saturday (usually September – April), weddings cannot be scheduled after 1:00 pm. If there is more than one wedding, the 1st wedding of the day must be scheduled at 1:00 or earlier or 5:00 or later. The 2nd wedding of the day must be scheduled 4 hours before or after the 1st wedding.

WEDDING POLICIES

On the day of the wedding, the church will be available to the couple two hours before and one hour after the wedding.

Bridal Room

A bridal room is available for the bride and her attendants only. The bridal room will be locked during the ceremony. Men should arrive dressed for the wedding.

All items (florist boxes, hangers, shoe boxes, etc.) are to be removed from the bridal room and restrooms after wedding.

Food, Beverages, Alcohol

No food, beverages or smoking are allowed in the bridal room or lower church area. Absolutely no alcohol is permitted on church property. The priest reserves the right to cancel the wedding in the event alcohol is found on the premises, or if any member of the wedding party has been drinking prior to the wedding. Use of alcohol prior to a wedding may invalidate the marriage.

Flowers

All flowers and decorations must be removed from the church after the wedding.

Rice, flower petals and birdseed are not allowed to be thrown in or around the church building due to safety concerns.

Flower deliveries may be made within two hours of the wedding. If you are the last wedding of the weekend and want to leave your flowers for Sunday Mass, please arrange this with Lanette Mele.

Photography and Video

Videos and photos are allowed during the wedding as long as they do not interfere with the ceremony. Photographers are not allowed in the altar area.

Music

St. Mary Student Parish has many musicians available. The fees are worked out individually with the musicians. Call Lanette Mele for contact information.

