



GETTING MARRIED AT ST. PETER DAMIAN PARISH, BARTLETT IL

DOCUMENTS NEEDED

BAPTISM

A newly issued Baptismal Certificate dated within six months of the day you wish to be married must be submitted by each Catholic party. In the marriage of a Catholic and a non-Catholic Christian, the non-Catholic is also to present a record of baptism. These certificates are easily obtained by phoning the church in which the baptism took place and asking them to send a copy to St. Peter Damian - 109 S. Crest Ave. Bartlett IL 60103. You may also pick up the certificates in person and bring them to the pre-nuptial meeting. For a Catholic, copies of original certificates obtained on the day of your baptism are not acceptable.

CONFIRMATION

If you received the sacrament of Confirmation at the same church of your baptism, this should be noted on your baptismal certificate. If not, please call the church where confirmation took place and request a certificate. Adult confirmation prep sessions are locally available to help facilitate receiving the sacrament if it has not been done. Please discuss with the wedding coordinator.

MARRIAGE LICENSE - COOK COUNTY

A civil Marriage License is required for the marriage to take place in church. This license should be obtained at the Office of the Cook County Clerk (www.cookcountyclerk.com/vitalrecords/marriagelicense or 312-603-5656) and should be submitted to our office a week prior to the wedding.

Once purchased, a marriage license is then good for sixty days. In the United States of America, marriages in churches are legal and binding. There is no need to get married in the courthouse before your church wedding. We will complete and mail the signed license after the ceremony to the county it may take a few weeks for you to obtain official marriages records from Cook County.



If you are already civilly married and wishing to have your union “convalidated” - blessed by the Catholic Church, you will need to bring an official marriage record issued by the County where the wedding took place.

OTHER DOCUMENTS

If you were previously married and your spouse has died, a copy of the death certificate will be necessary. If either party received an annulment from the church for a prior union, a copy of the decree will be necessary to submit.

FREEDOM TO MARRY

If you have been previously married in any type of ceremony to any person regardless of religious affiliation, a discussion with the wedding coordinator will be necessary to determine if an annulment is needed prior to scheduling any marriage date.



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PRE -CANA CLASS

Pre-Cana preparation is a mandatory requirement when getting married in the Archdiocese of Chicago. It is a program that offers you the time and setting to consider together your life as a married couple. Several programs are available to you. We highly recommend the live Saturday sessions instead of the online Zoom classes to enjoy a more fruitful experience. Please utilize the link through the Archdiocese of Chicago to register and pay for the class online. Certificate of completion should be submitted after attendance.

<https://pvm.archchicago.org/lifelong-formation/marriage/marriage-preparation-courses>.

If there are scheduling conflicts, an alternate online self-study option is available year-round.

www.themarriagegroup.com

There may also be sporadic opportunities for a live class at St. Peter Damian - check with the wedding coordinator.

CHURCH DOCUMENTS THAT NEED TO BE FILLED OUT TOGETHER

1. A Statement of intention by both bride and groom, called a pre-nuptial questionnaire, is required. The Priest or Deacon preparing your wedding will fill out this form with you at your meeting before you are married.

2. Two Witness Affidavits for each of you are required. It is best to have these completed by parents or close relatives who have known you for a long time. Both sets of witnesses can come to our parish office and have this completed.

We can also provide the forms, and they can complete them in person with a priest or deacon at their own parish; forms may not be filled out individually.

3. In case of a marriage between a Catholic and non-Catholic, a dispensation must be granted by either the pastor or Archdiocese; varies by specific situations. The Catholic party will be asked to sign a declaration promising to baptize and raise children born of this union in the Catholic faith. Couples should be aware of this obligation and discuss prior to marriage.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Marriage is an unbreakable bond established by God between one man and one woman. In the Roman Catholic tradition, the bride and groom minister the sacrament to one another. A priest or deacon receives their vows and blesses their union on behalf of the church; two witnesses are also required to be present.

WEDDING MASS OR CEREMONY?

Most Catholic parties choose to have a Wedding Mass during which the exchange of vows and rings takes place. However, a wedding ceremony without mass is also an option. A wedding mass is not permitted if one of the parties is unbaptized. A ceremony is highly suggested if one of the parties is baptized but not Catholic as Holy Communion can only be offered to practicing Catholics; at times, Mass is accommodated in these cases if there is a significant desire by the Catholic party and family to have a Mass celebrated.

A wedding Mass duration is at one hour with a ceremony averaging 35-45 minutes.



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You may select the presider/priest or deacon (deacons-ceremony only) or have a visiting member of the clergy. Visiting priests and deacons outside of the Archdiocese of Chicago will need to submit letters of good standing/suitability for ministry. Visitors will be asked to observe parish customs regarding the celebration of weddings. Be advised that when bringing in an outside clergy, St. Peter Damian will not provide any stipend for him. Any donation is your responsibility.

MUSIC

Live music and singing play a significant role in liturgy. You will be provided the name and phone number of our Music Director and any alternate musicians. Please contact them and they will assist you with planning the music for your wedding at our church. You are responsible to pay their stipend (\$250) and any additional stipends for vocalists, violinist, trumpet, etc. as requested.

Hymns and processional music must be appropriate for liturgy; secular songs are not permitted not is pre-recorded music. Visiting musician must be approved prior; approval is only given to musicians with piano/organ experience in Catholic liturgy.

LITURGY PLANNING

At your initial meeting with the coordinator, you will be given a "Together for Life" booklet.

You are encouraged to select one or two readings and have family members or friends proclaim them. Families where other languages are spoken may have a reading, song, or prayers accommodated in

i.e. Spanish, Polish, Tagalog, etc..

Please share names of any close relatives who have died that you would like mentioned during the Universal Prayers. These prayers may be read by a person of your choosing, or if not, by the presider.

While not part of the Catholic ritual, if you desire to have a Unity candle it can be accommodated. You would be responsible for purchasing and bringing the candles.

Cultural adaptations for Latino or Filipino Catholics i.e. Lazo & Arras can be included in the ceremony. Families bring their own supplies.

You may select 2-3 family members to present the gifts of bread and wine if Mass is being celebrated.

At the end of the service, it is customary, but not required to bring flowers to the altar of our Blessed Mother asking for her intercession on behalf of the newly formed family; the couple should come together for prayer while the musician can sing/play an appropriate hymn.

LOGISTICS

We encourage open seating in our church or chapel space; any type of divided seating between families of the bride and groom is discouraged to foster a greater sense of unity.

The church has no formal directives on opening and closing processions. Groom may be escorted by his parents and then simply wait for the bride at the altar, or he may wait with the presider at the altar. Bride may be escorted by her father or both parents.



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Commonly the bride and groom sit in chairs with kneelers in front of the main altar. Maid of Honor and Best Man may have separate seats to the right and left of the couple or simply sit in the front pews with the rest of the bridal party. Please decide these matters prior to the rehearsal to avoid any conflicts.

Vows are utilized from the Ritual; writing your own vows is not possible.

FLOWERS/DECOR

You may choose to have (2) large arrangements placed on each side of the altar for your ceremony; use of stands/pedestals is encouraged to enable their visibility in your photos.

Flower delivery and decorating may begin no sooner than (1) hours prior to your scheduled time.

If you choose to have bows or other decorations placed upon pews in the center aisle, please inform your florist that they may not use tape on the wooden pews. Alternatives to tape, such as elastic bands or ribbons, should be utilized. Decorations must be removed immediately after your service.

For the safety of all, a white runner down the main aisle is discouraged. A runner tends to bunch up when walked on and can be a hazard. Artificial flower petals may be strewn down the center aisle, or fresh white colored rose petals only to avoid staining the carpet. These must be cleaned up after the ceremony.

Because of the danger it poses to elderly and handicapped parishioners, we ask that

nothing be thrown on church grounds. This includes rice, bird seed, and other items such as confetti. We appreciate your concern for the safety of others.

Please do not bring balloons or bubbles into the church. Utilized them outdoors after the wedding.

TIMING

Typically we accommodate weddings on Fridays, 4pm, 5pm, 6pm. Saturdays 12N, 1p, 2p. Weddings must begin at the scheduled time. Do not be late as this may mean there will be no time for pictures inside the church after your ceremony.

PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEOGRAPHY

We respect your desire to obtain a remembrance of this most important day. However, we do ask that the photographer and/or videography you employ be unobtrusive and not obstruct or distract attention from the primary focus of the celebration which is the bride and groom and the sacrament you are celebrating. They are asked to respect sacred space; walking beyond the altar steps into the sanctuary is never permitted. Furthermore, there is adequate lighting in the church for all contemporary photographic and videotaping equipment. No additional lighting is required or permitted.

Eating or drinking inside the church property is never appropriate; members of the bridal party and visitors should not chew gum while in the church. Men are asked to remove hats while inside the church. Consumption of alcohol on parish grounds is never permitted.



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REHEARSAL

Rehearsals are recommended if there are two or more attendant couples (bridesmaids and groomsmen). Please book the rehearsal date/time when you book your wedding date with us. Thursday or Friday rehearsals are held at 5, 6 or 7pm. Please ask everyone who will be attending the rehearsal to be on time. Our priest or deacon will facilitate the rehearsal.

If you plan to employ an outside Wedding Consultant/Coordinator to assist with your wedding, please be advised that they will not be needed at your rehearsal or on the day of your church wedding. This is to ensure the sanctity of your ceremony and to prevent outsiders, who are not familiar with the liturgical and religious aspects of your ceremony, from interfering. Your wedding planner/coordinator is welcome to attend the rehearsal and marriage ceremony to observe only.

A Bride's Room/private space and bathroom will be available on the day of the wedding.

RECONCILIATION

Catholic parties (bride/groom) are required to go to Confession prior to their marriage celebration. Confessions are heard in our church every Saturday from 3:30pm - 4:30pm or by appointment. If it has been a long time and a refresher on how to prepare is necessary, our wedding coordinator will offer this support.

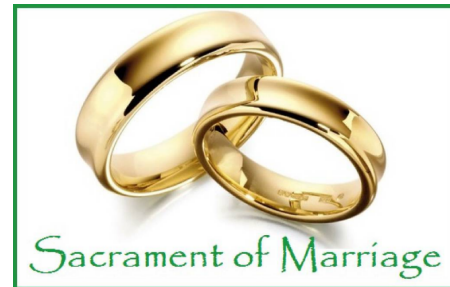
FEES

All fees are due no later than one week prior to your wedding.

Our non-parishioner fee is \$450.00. Those actively registered or whose parents: \$350.00. Checks for the parish donation should be made payable to St. Peter Damian. In addition, all couples are to submit a \$125.00 wedding coordinator/documentation fee in either cash or check payable to Cash.

Musician fees are paid separately.

It is your choice to provide the presider (priest/deacon) with any gift. If available, the church will provide (2) altar servers for your wedding. \$10 cash per server is suggested.



CONGRATULATIONS

We look forward to sharing this time of preparation and celebration with you. The commitment you make to one another in the presence of God, and the community is important to the ongoing life of this parish. Information can also be found on our website at www.stpeterdamian.org. Parish office 630-837-5411.

