

# Marriage

## In St. Irenaeus Parish

Prior to the ceremony, you will meet with the priest who has been assisting you and he will help finalize the details of your Celebration of Marriage.

The Rehearsal Coordinator will provide information regarding the rehearsal and wedding day, and is present to facilitate the rehearsal. You will need to contact Melinda Renshaw at 248.736.0764. The Rehearsal Information sheet that you will be given by the priest will let us know exactly what you need, and inform you what is permissible in our Catholic Wedding Liturgy which is a sacred sacramental moment. You will be made aware of the options available for your liturgy. This form must be completed and brought to the church at your rehearsal.

### Church Requirements

We extend to you our welcome, and wish to serve you on your special day. There are a number of norms to guide you. With this in mind, be aware of the following:

### Flowers and Decorations

It is important to note that flowers may not be placed on the main altar table. If you have a unity candle arrangement this is to be provided by the couple or florist, and placed in the area designated by the wedding rehearsal coordinator on the day of your wedding. Your flowers are yours and you are most welcome to take them to your reception hall or you may choose to leave them in church. No aisle runners are allowed in church. With a carpeted aisle, the runners become punctured easily by footwear and become safety hazards. For safety and care of the church the throwing of flower petals, rice, or birdseed is discouraged and may not be any part of your celebration. Pew decorations can be tied or attached with pipe cleaners only. No tape is to be used. Be sure to assign someone to remove decorations and bows immediately after your service is complete, in consideration for others that may follow you.

### Time

The church will be opened for your wedding two hours before your ceremony. Since we normally do not schedule two weddings on one day – there generally is not a time constraint – however we do ask that on a Saturday afternoon wedding excessive time is not taken after the ceremony since people do arrive at church for prayer, the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the 5p.m. Mass.

### Photography

You are welcome to record your wedding. Photographers must know, however, that they must work with the presider of the wedding. The photographer/video technician cannot become the center of attention at any wedding. Also, proper regard for the sacred space of the church must be observed. Their movements must be unobtrusive.

We ask that you inform your photographer/video technician to speak with the priest before the ceremony begins.

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

You are encouraged to avail yourself of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and hope that you will make it a habit during the time of your wedding preparations, and continue this practice into the marriage. The normal time for Reconciliation is on Saturdays at 3:30 p.m. If this is not convenient, private time can always be scheduled.

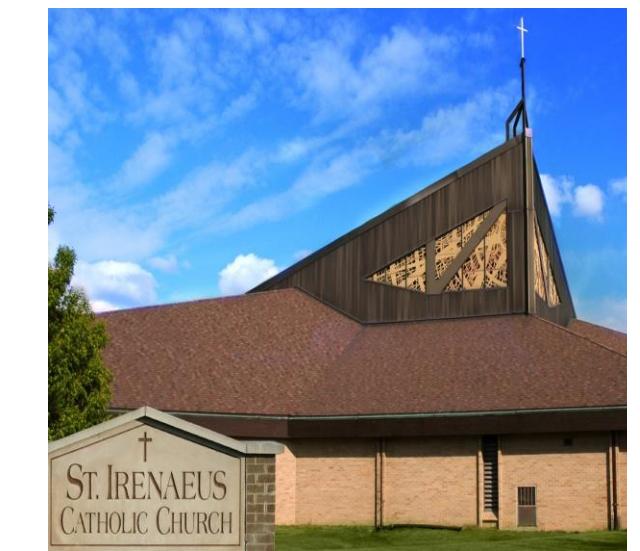


### Fees

Because we believe our parishioners are good stewards and generous with their support of the Church, it is important to know that there is no monetary charge for the celebration of the sacraments. However, it is customary to make a “mature offering” in gratitude to the church since it will be cleaned and prepared for your wedding and will also be cleaned after your wedding for the weekend liturgies. Fees are required for the organist, soloists, and other musicians. Those fees are to be discussed with the church musician, Cliff Wilkins, at a private meeting with him.

### Expression of Gratitude

It is customary to acknowledge the priest who prepared you for your special day and will make your wedding so very unique. There is no financial charge or set amount for your wedding as the sacraments are sacred moments that are not bought and sold. However, common courtesy and gratitude is deeply appreciated by those who become involved in your wedding. Any particular questions that you may have about this can be discussed with the priest, who will witness your wedding, during your



Date of Marriage: \_\_\_\_\_

Time of Marriage: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Rehearsal: \_\_\_\_\_

(May not be set until six months prior to scheduled wedding date)

Time of Rehearsal: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: You must be prompt for the scheduled time of both your rehearsal and the wedding. Any delay will result in losing your allotted time for use of the church or chapel.

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St. Irenaeus  
Parish

As a couple planning marriage at St. Irenaeus Parish, you will have many questions about the process. This brochure outlines the steps you need to take.

## Initial Contact with the Parish Office Staff

Diocesan guidelines require that weddings be celebrated only after a minimum six-month preparation period.

You need to contact the parish office to arrange to meet with the pastor to confirm your date with his calendar.

## Appointments with the Priest

The Church requires a number of documents and in some situations obtaining them may require considerable time. You will gather and complete several forms, all of which will be given to the pastor who is more than happy to assist you.

**Baptismal Certificates:** Both parties must provide new Baptismal Certificates, meaning issued (within the past six months) by the parish where you were baptized. Originals issued in the past or copies of originals are not acceptable.  
You must present the certificates to the priest at your first meeting or as soon after as possible.

**Annulments:** If you have been previously married, and the Catholic Church has annulled the marriage, a copy of the annulment certificate must be made available to the priest. No date for marriage can be reserved at the church if you have an annulment pending. You will be able to hold a date only after the annulment has been granted. Please note: The Catholic Church recognizes all marriages. If one of the parties who is not Catholic has had a previous marriage, or if the Catholic party was married other than in the Catholic Church, these situations must also be addressed by the Tribunal. If your previous spouse is deceased, a copy of the death certificate or date of death must be provided for your file.

## Pre-Marriage Information Form

Each party in the presence of the priest or his representative answers this questionnaire. This form is kept in the marriage files of St. Irenaeus. Its purpose is to provide a statement of your freedom and proper intention to marry. Baptismal Certificates are necessary at this time.

## Couple Inventory

This is a required pre-marriage inventory conducted at St. Irenaeus by a licensed marriage counselor designed to identify the strengths and growth areas in your relationship. You will be instructed to arrange to have the inventory as soon as possible after you have scheduled a date for a wedding. This couple profile is designed to help you examine your thoughts and expectations about entering marriage. Generally the couple will meet with the counselor 2-3 times before the marriage. The fee for taking and processing the inventory and the sessions with the counselor will be discussed at your first meeting with the pastor.

## Civil Requirements

Marriage Licenses in Oakland County can now be applied for on line. Please check [www.oakgov.com](http://www.oakgov.com). The side bar on the left side of the home page will be the place to begin. Complete information will be given to you regarding the application and the pick up and the fee for your license.

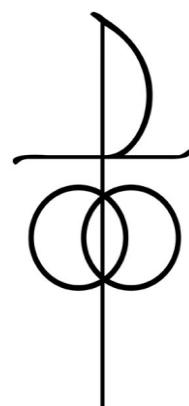
The marriage license **must** be delivered to the parish office for processing **at the latest on the Wednesday before the wedding at the parish office.**

## Celebrant of Your Wedding

The question of who officiates at your wedding is an important one. Any priest in good standing, approved, and delegated by the Pastor of St. Irenaeus may preside at your wedding. If you are having a priest from outside the parish, you will need to inform the parish office of the name, address, and telephone number of the celebrant of your wedding. If the visiting priest is from outside of the Archdiocese of Detroit, he will need to present to the pastor a letter of good standing from his diocese or congregation.

## Marriage with a Non-Catholic

If one of the parties is not Catholic, some additional information must be provided, along with a copy of that person's baptismal certificate, if they have been baptized. A dispensation must be applied for through the Archdiocese of Detroit. Your celebrant will assist you with this application.



## Other Participants

A minister of the faith of the non-Catholic part can be invited to share the wedding ceremony. Also you may invite others to serve at your wedding as readers and Eucharistic ministers. The requirement is that they be competent in the ministry that they perform.

## Music for the Wedding

Plan to meet with the Director of Music three to six months prior to your wedding to discuss selections. The music selected for a wedding must reflect the religious character of the service. You may contact the Director of Music Cliff Wilkins at 248.762.1993. The Director of Music must approve all music for your wedding. The text and context of all musical selections, including preludes, must be appropriate classical pieces, or ones based on liturgical or scriptural sources.

## Wedding Day Plans

You will be provided with a book entitled Together for Life, which is designed to assist you in preparing for your wedding ceremony, be it Mass or Scripture Service. It provides you with the prayers and suggested scripture readings that may be used at your wedding. You will be asked to make selections so that your wedding will be personalized.