

Who can marry at St. Joseph Church?

1. Parishioners: Registered and active members of St. Joseph Church, who are free to marry in the Catholic Church, are welcome to celebrate their wedding at the Church. They must contact a priest of their own choosing prior to scheduling their planned wedding day. This is true even if one party is neither a member nor a Catholic, as long as the party is also free to marry in the Catholic Church.

2. Non-Parishioners: Couples who are neither registered nor active members of St. Joseph Church are also welcome to celebrate their wedding at the Church. All weddings must be celebrated in accordance with Archdiocesan policies and those of St. Joseph Church. You are encouraged to invite your priest or deacon (relative, family friend, etc.), who is in good standing, to preside and officiate at your wedding.

Note that at least one party must be Catholic in order for a wedding to be celebrated in a Catholic church.

It is important that you make the following arrangements:

A visit to the pastor of the bride (or the groom) must be made prior to the scheduled wedding date. In a mixed marriage, visit the pastor of the Catholic party. Ask for written permission to marry outside your own parish.

Ask your pastor, deacon, or other priest to officiate at your wedding. The one who agrees to officiate at the ceremony will be responsible for taking you through the marriage preparation program and fulfilling all Archdiocesan regulations regarding obtaining dispensation for a mixed marriage, freedom of both parties to marry in a Catholic Church, etc.

Church required documents:

- + The **“First Step to the Altar”** form to be completed by the priest/deacon preparing the couple for marriage at initial interview.
- + Completion of the Archdiocesan Prenuptial Inquiry Form
- + Catholics need a reissue of Baptismal Certificate dated within six (6) months of the wedding date.
- + A Certificate of Attendance at one of the qualified marriage preparation programs offered in the Archdiocese.
- + Completion of the Pre-marital Inventory (FOCCUS)
- + Any other Pre-marital Affidavits may apply. Check with the priest/deacon preparing you.
- + Obtain the civil marriage license in accordance with the law of the State of Louisiana.

PLEASE REFER TO THE “ST JOSEPH CHURCH GUIDELINES” FOR MORE DETAILS.