

## St Rose of Lima Wedding Policies

Our wedding policies are in place to ensure that the liturgy will be prayerful, and as a result, a more meaningful encounter with Christ for you. Many things that might take place outside an act of worship are not appropriate to include in a Catholic wedding ceremony. The policies of our parish reflect the policies of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati for the Rite of Matrimony.

For any questions or clarifications, please contact:

Amy Obermeyer, Wedding Coordinator: [weddings@strosecincinnati.org](mailto:weddings@strosecincinnati.org); 513/439-2342

Stella O'Neil, Wedding Music Coordinator: [music@strosecincinnati.org](mailto:music@strosecincinnati.org)

### Wedding Fees

The total \$1500 fee that you pay to St Rose of Lima Parish includes the following:

- Full use of the church
- Wedding Music Coordinator
- Professional Keyboard Accompanist
- Professional Cantor
- Wedding Coordinator at the rehearsal and the wedding

To hold the date, we ask for a **\$250 non-refundable deposit** to be submitted within 30 days once the Church is reserved for you. You should **submit the \$1250 balance** two months before the date of your wedding. Fees are nonrefundable; however, a wedding date can be rescheduled to an open date.

Not included in the fees paid to St Rose of Lima Parish:

- Registration fee for the Pre-Cana Workshop or a Natural Family Workshop
- FOCCUS Inventory (unless our Pastor or Parochial Vicar presides)
- Stipend or Honorarium for the Priest or Deacon Presider
- Stipend for the Server (for ceremonies with Mass)

### The Wedding Coordinator

A wedding coordinator from our parish will be available at the rehearsal and at the wedding. They have thorough knowledge and understanding of the lighting sound systems. They will have keys and access to parish facilities. They will assist visiting clergy presiding at wedding ceremonies at our parish. They will facilitate the wedding rehearsal with the presider.

This day-of wedding coordinator will inform guest musicians, florists and photographers of the relevant policies and guidelines of the parish. They will monitor unforeseen circumstances that may occur and communicate these to the presider, the wedding party, and others that need to be informed. And finally, they make sure the wedding party and

family members in the procession are in the right place at the right time before the wedding, and they monitor the time allotted for pictures after the wedding.

If you have a personal wedding planner, please inform them that the parish Wedding Coordinator is the person designated to assist with the coordination of the rehearsal and the wedding ceremony at the church. They will reach out to you with standards and questions to review before the rehearsal - this is a good time to share contact information with your personal planner.

### **The Rehearsal**

We will not book rehearsals here at St Rose more than six months before your wedding so they do not interfere with the scheduling of other weddings. If there is a Friday evening wedding, rehearsals for any Saturday wedding the same weekend must be scheduled around it or for another day. A well-planned rehearsal should last 45-60 minutes.

We do ask all visiting priests and deacons attend the rehearsal so that they can become familiar with our church and have a chance to meet with the wedding coordinator to make certain that everything is organized for the day of the wedding.

All members of the wedding party are expected to attend the rehearsal as well as anyone who will be part of the entrance procession. Anyone who will be reading during the ceremony is also asked to attend so that they can practice using the microphone at the Ambo. It is helpful to remind everyone to arrive on time. We allocate an hour for each rehearsal.

Please bring the following with you to the rehearsal:

- Your civil marriage license
- Programs for the wedding (we do not print programs, but a good resource for creating one is here: [foryourmarriage.org/rite-of-marriage](http://foryourmarriage.org/rite-of-marriage))

Musicians do not attend wedding rehearsals.

### **The Liturgical Environment**

Since the Roman Catholic Church follows a liturgical calendar, there will be certain liturgical symbols and decorations present throughout the year, especially during Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter. The seasonal environment is intended for all liturgical celebrations during that time of the year, including your wedding. The existing environmental features may not be changed or removed for your wedding unless you have received permission from our pastor or wedding coordinator.

Wedding and bridesmaid dresses should not include plunging necklines, sheer panels, deep-back gowns, and high slits. (Sleeves and covered shoulders are not required.)

You may bring flower arrangements to the church for your wedding celebration. No flowers or decorative items may be placed on the altars. Flower arrangements in the sanctuary should not be taller than the altar.

Because of the danger of slipping, an aisle runner is not recommended and dropped flower petals are prohibited. Any flowers attached to the pews must be attached with ribbon or elastic – no wire or pins may be used. Items like rice, confetti, bird seed, etc. for throwing outside after the ceremony must be made of a biodegradable material.

If you would like to light a "Unity Candle," please save it for the reception. It is not part of [the Rite of Matrimony](#), so it should not be part of your wedding ceremony here at St Rose.

We do not have a janitorial service on weekends. Please assign someone to remove the flower arrangements, pew decorations, and programs from the church. The church may be closed after the last ceremony of the day, so please be certain that personal items, purses, dresses, shoes, cameras, etc. are removed from the church.

### **Photography & Videography**

Please ask your photographers and videographers to be aware of the solemnity of the occasion and of where they are located during the ceremony. Photography and videography are, of course, permitted, but they should not distract the wedding party, the presider, musicians, singers or your guests. Videographers should also make certain that any microphones used do not interfere with our sound system.

Photographers and videographers must position themselves in a place where they will not be blocking wedding guests or the wedding party. After the procession, the photographers may not position themselves in front of the front pew, and they may not linger in the main aisle, except behind the guest seated farthest from the altar. Photographers and videographers may never come up the steps into the sanctuary at any time.

Photographs may be taken before or after the ceremony when they do not interfere with the schedule of our weekend liturgies.

Whether your photographer/videographer is a professional, friend or family member, that person should always check with our wedding coordinator before the wedding so that instructions are clear.

### **The Wedding Party**

We do not limit or restrict the size of the wedding party, but please keep in mind that with a large wedding party, better organization is needed, and the possibility exists for more complications, creating more stress for the bride and groom. If you are trying to involve

friends and family, ask the priest, the deacon, or the Wedding Coordinator for ideas. We will gladly suggest other ways they can be involved.

We *suggest* that children participating in the procession be at least five years of age and are mature enough to process down the aisle without fear. The best policy is to assume that things will not go as planned. To help minimize stage fright, we recommend that you bring your young wedding participants to Mass a few times and to the rehearsal. Familiarizing them with the church can alleviate some of the wedding day anxiety.

### **Liturgical Ministers**

The presider or wedding coordinator will help you decide how many Lectors (readers) and Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist you will need. It is helpful if all these ministers are present at the rehearsal so they can receive instructions and practice if necessary.

Only those who have been commissioned in their local parish can be an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist.

### **Acolyte or Altar Server**

An acolyte or altar server is not required if you are not having a Mass. If you do not have a friend or family member who can serve in this capacity, we will arrange for a member of our parish to assist in this capacity. It is customary to deliver a small monetary gift to the server. A gift for the officiating clergyman is also appreciated.

### **Transportation to the Church**

The bride should arrive 10-15 minutes before the start of the wedding or wait in the vehicle. The main doors will be locked after you arrive in the vestibule. Guests can then enter the church through the doors on the right and left of the main entrance.

The parking lot is reserved for your wedding party and guests for two hours after the start time of your wedding. Overnight parking is not permitted.

### **Smoking and Alcohol**

All Parish buildings are smoke free.

Please note that the intoxication of any member of the wedding party is cause for their removal from the ceremony. The intoxication of the bride or groom is cause for cancellation of the wedding by the Presider since it is expected that he/she is able to give full consent to the promises they will make to one other. If this occurs, no fees paid to the parish will be refunded.

**We do our best to make your wedding a great event—one you can look back upon with fond memories. Communication will ensure that your wedding will be the truly meaningful, liturgically correct, and spiritually uplifting event you want it to be.**