

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2016

PREPARATION

In order to get married within the Little Flower Parish, you first need to notify the parish wedding coordinator to confirm that your date is available. You will then need to contact the Priest or Deacon of Little Flower (if one of these is the officiant) **at least six months in advance**. Before you pay your deposit, make sure that the Priest or Deacon is available for the ceremony. Then, you will take the following steps to prepare for marriage in the Catholic faith:

1. First, the Priest or Deacon will meet with you to explain the preparation process and fill out the Pre-Nuptial Investigation paperwork.
2. Second, you will take the FOCCUS survey, which is designed to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the relationship. The FOCCUS is not a test, but a tool to encourage discussion and growth. After evaluating FOCCUS, the Priest or Deacon will suggest topics for discussion with you.
3. The rehearsal and wedding times will be determined.
4. The Archdiocese requires an engaged couple to participate in a formal marriage preparation program. Many options are offered so you find the preparation method that best suits your needs. You may view these options at www.stlcatholics.org.

To schedule a marriage preparation program, call the office of Family and Laity at 792-7182. The following are the marriage preparation programs offered:

- a. The Engaged Encounter Weekend
- b. Marriage Preparation Mini-retreat
- c. Archdiocesan Marriage Preparation

DOCUMENTS NEEDED

Baptism Certificates

- Catholics – If baptized at a parish other than Little Flower, request a copy of your baptismal certificate from the parish of your baptism and provide it to Little Flower prior to your wedding. **YOUR BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE SHOULD NOT BE MORE THAN SIX MONTHS OLD ON THE DAY OF YOUR WEDDING.**
- Christians – **Furnish proof of baptism in the same fashion as your Catholic partner.**
- Non-Baptized- You will need to request and receive a dispensation to marry in the Catholic Church. Your Priest or Deacon will help you with the necessary paperwork.

Marriage Licenses

A Missouri marriage license is valid in any county within Missouri, but not valid outside the state of Missouri. To obtain a Missouri marriage license, both the bride and groom must visit the county Recorder of Deeds Office. (If you live in St. Louis City, you must go to the City Recorder of Deeds Office; otherwise you may visit any county Recorder of Deeds office.) You both must have State identification and proof of social security number. A blood test is not required. The cost is usually around \$50.00. There is no waiting period for the marriage license. It is issued the time of the application. In most counties, the wedding must occur within 30 days from the date of issuance of the license, or the license is void. In St. Louis City, the wedding may occur within 6 months from the issuance of the license, or the license is void.

DATE AND TIME OF WEDDING LITURGY

After consulting with the parish Priest or Deacon, you may set your time of the wedding and rehearsal, which cannot conflict with the regularly scheduled services in the church. If you would like to be married on a day of the week or at a time of day other than those listed below, please discuss this in detail with the Pastor prior to reserving your date.

Wedding Times are:

Fridays: No later than 7:00 p.m.

Saturdays: No later than 1:00 p.m.

WEDDING LITURGY

The Eucharist is the central prayer and worship of the Church; therefore, weddings between two practicing Catholics are usually celebrated during a Eucharistic liturgy.

Interfaith weddings are usually celebrated as a Liturgy of the Word, or without Eucharist. The non-Catholic bride or groom may invite a member of his or her clergy to participate in the wedding.

OFFICIANT

You may invite Priest-friends to either be the Presider or to concelebrate with the Presider. You may also invite deacons to participate at the Nuptial Mass or officiate outside of the Liturgy of Eucharist. You may invite Ministers or Rabbis to participate by offering a blessing.

If a Little Flower parish Priest or Deacon is not officiating at the wedding, the Priest or Deacon who is officiating is responsible for instructions, rehearsal and wedding, and mailing the marriage license. Please inform the presider of this requirement. Paperwork the wedding **MUST** be brought to the rehearsal. If the presider is not from the St. Louis Archdiocese, he must provide a letter from his diocese stating that he is in good standing.

WEDDING PARTY

We suggest a wedding party totaling no more than 12 people in order to comfortably fit within the sanctuary. If your wedding party totals more than 12 people, we may need to make special accommodations. You may discuss this with the wedding coordinator.

WEDDING PLANNERS

Many couples choose to hire a wedding planner. But, Little Flower wedding coordinators are in charge of the church the day of the rehearsal and the day of the wedding. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Keep in mind the person's comfort level with public speaking when choosing lectors to proclaim the Word of God. It is highly suggested that you use the booklet – *Together for Life* – this comes in both the Mass version and non-Mass version. We have the booklets available at the rectory.

MUSIC

All music selections must follow the guidelines of the Archdiocesan Liturgical Commission. In accordance with those guidelines, all music chosen should reflect the sacred dimension of the wedding liturgy emphasizing the divine aspect of marriage. Therefore, secular music that has a special meaning for the couple **should be reserved for the reception.**

Chuck Chauvin, our music director, is also our wedding organist. You may reach him at 314-645-1445, ext. 16, to discuss the music for your ceremony.

DECORATIONS

Prior to your wedding, you should contact the Little Flower Wedding Coordinator, Debra Richter, to discuss the decorations for your wedding. You may reach her at 314-610-0220 or at drichter@littleflowerstl.org.

LOGISTICS

Little Flower Church is very unique in its design. The altar is in the center of the church with the pews surrounding it in a circle. The main aisle is 35 feet long. Each section contains seven pews and the seating capacity is nearly 700.

FLOWERS

The Catholic Church feels that flowers that are part of the wedding scene take on the spirit of the sacrament. Therefore, only fresh flowers are allowed in the sanctuary. Flowers may be placed on flower stands next to the altar, but may not be placed on or in front of the altar.

EXTRAS

1. You may use free standing or rubber clamp candle stands down the main aisle.
2. You may use ribbons, rubber bands or clamps to attach bows or flowers on the ends of the pews.
3. You may use ribbons or wire to attach wreaths on the doors of the church.
4. Decorations on the altar, in the sanctuary or on speaker/light stands in church are not allowed.
5. If you would like an aisle runner, you should request one from your florist. You may also purchase aisle runners from Garden Ridge, Michael's or Old Tyme Pottery for less than many florists rent them.
6. Tossing rice, birdseed, confetti, flower petals, etc., inside or outside the church is not allowed due to Archdiocesan insurance guidelines. Noise makers are not allowed.
7. Under NO circumstances will liquor be allowed at the rehearsal or wedding. If anyone shows up "under the influence", the rehearsal and/or wedding WILL BE CANCELLED.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND VIDEOS

Both photographs and videos are allowed during the ceremony; however, there are some regulations regarding the set-up of equipment. For instance, photographs are permitted before or after the ceremony, but no cameras or camera stands may be set up inside the Sanctuary railing during the ceremony. **In addition, all photographs must be completed by 3:00 pm if the wedding is on Saturday.** The photographer and videographer should consult with the wedding coordinator before the wedding ceremony to be advised of additional regulations.

OTHER ITEMS TO CONSIDER

The following is a list of fees associated with having your wedding at Little Flower. These fees offset the operational expenses incurred by the parish, as well as the time of the individuals providing services for your wedding.

Fees – As of January 1, 2019

1. Offering to the Parish

a. Parishioners - \$400.00

i. Either the bride or groom must have been a parishioner for 1 year or longer and **MUST** be active in the parish by attendance at Mass and financial contributions through Sunday envelopes. If you have further questions, call the parish office at 645-1445.

ii. \$200.00 deposit to reserve date

iii. \$200.00 remainder due 10 business days before the wedding date

b. Non-Parishioners - \$800.00

i. \$400.00 deposit to reserve date

ii. \$400.00 remainder due 10 business days before the wedding date

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE DEPOSIT FEE IS NON-REFUNDABLE.

c. Officiant:

Priest: \$150.00

Due 10 days before the wedding date

2. Music:

a. Parish Organist: please call Chuck Chauvin, 314-645-1445, ext. 16

b. Cantor: please call Chuck Chauvin, 314-645-1445, ext. 16

3. Wedding Coordinator:

a. \$150.00

b. Due 10 business days before the wedding date

4. Clean up fee \$ 50.00 refundable by mail after the wedding

CONTACT INFORMATION

Business Manager:

Debra Richter 314-610-0220

drichter@littleflowerstl.org

Pastor:

Father Larry Herzog 314-645-1445 ext. 12

lherzog@littleflowerstl.org

Parish Music Director:

Chuck Chauvin 314-645-1445 ext.16

cfchauvin@littleflowerstl.org

Wedding Coordinator:

Debra Richter 314-610-0220

drichter@littleflowerstl.org

Marriage Preparation:

314-792-7182 www.stlcatholics.org

We have read and accepted these terms.

Signed _____ Date _____

_____ Date _____

Revised 05/13/2019