

*“And the Two
Shall Become One”*

Wedding Guidelines

SAINT JOHN VIANNEY

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

YOUR WEDDING AT ST. JOHN VIANNEY

We rejoice with you as you prepare to enter into Holy Matrimony, a Sacrament of the Church. As such it is a sacred time. Be assured that you will be kept in our prayers and when things become hectic remember that you are in the prayers of many.

Your wedding day will take a great deal of planning and we are here to help. We have years of experience and are eager to share it with you.

Remember to keep important things important. Everything will work out! Important above all else is God's love for you and his desire for your happiness. The other thing to remember is that God truly knows what makes us happy. We only think we know!

Because this is a holy time, remember to pray together. Attend Mass every week, go to Confession, read your Bible and pray your rosary. There is no substitute for prayer.

WEDDING DATES AND TIMES

Weddings may be celebrated in the Church or in the Chapel and are celebrated on Saturdays (except when prohibited by Church law). ***There are no Friday or Sunday weddings.*** Nuptial Masses or Wedding Liturgies can be celebrated at 1:00 pm or 3:00 pm. The Church and Chapel are also available at 7:30 pm for Wedding Liturgies only. Each wedding is allotted two hours beginning one hour prior to the time of the ceremony (e.g., a 1 pm wedding has the Church from noon to 2 pm). Everything must be completed within two hours.

Rehearsals are generally on the evening before the wedding. They are conducted by the Parish and should last no longer than 30 minutes. Rehearsal times are generally 5:15 pm, 5:45 pm, 6:15 pm.

Wedding dates, times and rehearsals are scheduled through the Pastoral Care & Spiritual Life Office and are secured with a \$200.00 deposit collected at the first meeting.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Marriage Preparation classes occur on alternating months on the first, second and third Sundays, 12:30 pm - 2:30 pm, unless otherwise noted. You will receive the class schedule at the initial meeting.

An “Initial Couples” session is held on the first Sunday of the month. The FOCCUS Communication Instrument is administered on the second Sunday and the additional sessions are on the third Sunday. Topics include Communication, Finance, Sexuality/NFP and The Creed. Preparation classes must be completed prior to the date of the wedding. Failure to complete all marriage preparation classes can result in the postponement of the wedding.

As the wedding date draws near, there is an additional meeting to discuss the wedding liturgy with the priest or deacon receiving the vows for those couples marrying at St. John Vianney.

THE WEDDING

A Catholic wedding is celebrated within the context of the Sacred Liturgy and is a part of the Church's praise of God. During the Rite of Marriage the Church seeks God's blessings for the couple as they profess their solemn vows to God and to each other. The Rite of Marriage may be celebrated within the Nuptial Mass or the Wedding Liturgy. The Nuptial Mass is celebrated when bride and groom are both Catholics.

THE WEDDING LITURGY:

THE ORDER OF CELEBRATING MATRIMONY OUTSIDE MASS

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Greeting and Opening Prayer

LITURGY OF THE WORD

1st Reading (Old Testament)

Responsorial Psalm (sung)

2nd Reading (New Testament)

Gospel Acclamation (sung)

Gospel

Homily

THE CELEBRATION OF MATRIMONY

Consent

Exchange of Vows

Blessing and Giving of Rings*

The Lord's Prayer

Nuptial Blessing & Dismissal

*Arras, Lazo, Veil, Presentation of Bible and Rosary, and flowers to the statue of the Blessed Mother, may occur after the exchange of rings.

THE NUPTIAL MASS: THE ORDER OF CELEBRATING MATRIMONY WITHIN MASS

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Greeting and Opening Prayer
Gloria

LITURGY OF THE WORD

1st Reading (Old Testament)
Responsorial Psalm (sung)
2nd Reading (New Testament)
Gospel Acclamation (sung)
Gospel
Homily

THE CELEBRATION OF MATRIMONY

Consent
Exchange of Vows
Blessing and Giving of Rings*

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparation of the Altar
Eucharistic Prayer
The Lord's Prayer
Nuptial Blessing
Holy Communion**

CONCLUDING RITE AND FINAL BLESSING

*Arras, Lazo, Veil, Presentation of Bible and Rosary may occur after the exchange of rings.

**Presentation of flowers to the statue of the Blessed Mother may take place after Communion.

DOCUMENTS

Documents which couples will need to complete and/or provide include:

- **Baptismal Certificate** that is issued within six months and notated from the Church of Baptism (for Catholics only).
- **Marriage License** which will be signed by the Priest or Deacon after the wedding.

The Marriage License can be obtained at any courthouse in Texas and is valid in all counties of the state. It should be obtained approximately one to two weeks prior to the ceremony. In Texas, a license is valid for 90 days and has a 72 hour dormant period. The Best Man or father of the bride should give the license to the Wedding Assistant either at the rehearsal or immediately prior to the wedding ceremony.

FLOWERS

Floral arrangements may be placed in the designated areas of the Church, which are: In front of the Altar; in front of the Ambo; in front of Mary's statue; and on the far sides of the Sanctuary. The Parish Wedding Assistant will be on site to direct the florist in the proper placement.

Floral arrangements are not permitted during Lent. Silk or plastic flowers are not permitted in the Church at any time. Florists must provide their own decorative containers and/or pedestals. Couples may opt to gift their floral arrangements to the Church for weekend liturgies. They may also share flowers (and the expense) with other couples being married the same day. To arrange this consult with the Pastoral Care & Spiritual Life Office.

Aisle runners, candles/lanterns with live flames and the scattering of flower petals are not allowed for safety reasons. Throwing rice, birdseed, bubbles, confetti, etc., outdoors after the celebration, is also prohibited.

Please see that all empty floral, bouquet, corsage, and boutonniere containers are disposed of after the wedding.

MUSIC

Couples are to attend a “Wedding Music Seminar” which is offered on alternating months; for a schedule, contact the office. All couples marrying at St. John Vianney must use the SJV staff musicians unless otherwise arranged and approved by the Director of Music. Chorale ensembles, harpists, brass, strings, etc., may be contracted through SJV music ministry office. All music must be in compliance with the liturgical guidelines of the Catholic Church.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

For weddings within and without Mass, there are two readings, one Old Testament, one New Testament, a Psalm response, and Gospel proclamation. These must be taken from the Order of Celebrating Matrimony and are listed below. The full scriptural passage is available for viewing on the parish website. Once selected, the readings should be printed and given to the lector(s) to rehearse. Lector(s) must be practicing Catholics who are comfortable with public speaking. The selected scripture readings are to be submitted to the Pastoral Care & Spiritual Life Office at least 2 weeks prior to the wedding date.

First Reading (from the Old Testament):

*Genesis 1:26-28, 31a; *Genesis 2:18-24; *Genesis 24: 48-51, 58-67; *Tobit 7:6-14; *Tobit 8:4b-8; *Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31; Song of Songs 2:8-10, 14, 16a; 8:6-7a; *Sirach 26:1-4, 13-16; Jeremiah 31:31-32a, 33-34a.

Responsorial Psalms (Sung):

Ps 33:13 and 18, 20-21,22; Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Ps 103:1-2, 8 and 13, 17-18a; Ps 112:1bc-2, 3-4, 6-7a, 7bc-9,9; *Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5ac and 6a; Ps 145:8-9, 10 and 15, 17-18; Ps.148:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-13ab, 13c-14a.

Second Reading (from the New Testament):

Rom 8:31b-35, 37-39; Rom 12:1-2, 9-18; Rom 12:1-2, 9-13; Rom 15:1b-3a, 5-7, 13; 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20; 1 Cor 12:31-13:8a; Eph 4: 1-6; *Eph 5:2a, 21-33; Eph 5:2a, 25-32; Phil 4:4:4-9; Col 3:12-17; Hebrews 13:1-4a, 5-6b; *1 Peter 3:1-9; 1 John 3:18-24; 1 John 4:7-12; Rev 19:1, 5-9a.

Gospel Reading (Chosen by the Celebrant)

WEDDING ASSISTANTS

A Parish Wedding Assistant will be on site for the rehearsal and on the wedding day to insure the celebrations proceed reverently, promptly and according to our guidelines. Professional Wedding Coordinators are not to conduct the rehearsal and are to defer to the clergy's Wedding Assistant.

USHERS

At least two people, apart from the wedding party members, may be designated to serve as ushers. Their primary duties are to assist in the seating of the guests and family members (before and during the celebration) and to aid the Wedding Assistant in opening and closing the doors for the entrance and recessional processions.

Following the ceremony the ushers should insure that the Church is left in good order by collecting and discarding Worship Aids, floral containers and other items left by the bridal party and guests.

CHILDREN

Children are always welcome in Church, however, little ones often find it difficult to sit quietly for long periods of time. If young children become disruptive an usher should see that they are taken to the Narthex or outdoors until they have calmed down. This avoids disruption and distraction during the wedding celebration. Flower Girls and Ring Bearers should be above the age of five.

BRIDE'S ROOM AND BRIDAL PARTY

The Bride's Room is primarily for the bride and not intended as a dressing room for the entire bridal party. The bridal party therefore, should arrive attired in their formal wear. At all times the bridal party should be mindful that the Bride's Room is a part of the Church. This should be reflected before, during and after the ceremony in speech and behavior. No alcohol or food is to be consumed in the Bride's Room or anywhere else on Church property. A designated person should see that the room is left in good order for the following bride. Flower containers, plastic bags, hangers, etc., are to be removed from the room and properly discarded.

BUILDING USE

Care and respect for the Church, as a place of worship and house of God, is to be exercised at all times. It is the responsibility of the bride and groom to see that the following are observed by their guests:

- **Food or drink is not to be brought inside the Church.**
- There is to be **absolutely no alcoholic beverages on Church property**; this includes the parking lot. Anyone with alcohol will be asked to leave the premises immediately.
- The Church and its adjoining rooms are no smoking areas.
- Concealed handguns, knives and other weapons are prohibited inside the Church and in all Church buildings.
- Guests should be instructed in advance to silence cell phones when inside the Church.
- Before, during and after the wedding, a reverent decorum should be maintained: no running or playing around by children, no loud or excessive talking by adults in the Church, Chapel, or Narthex.

ATTIRE

Proper attire should be worn at all times when in Church; this includes those in attendance for the wedding rehearsal: no shorts, immodest halter tops, tank tops or midriffs; no baseball caps, torn jeans, sunglasses, flip flops or other inappropriate attire or accessory.

Brides are to bear in mind the necessity for modesty and appropriateness of attire for this sacred occasion and place of worship. When selecting the wedding and bridesmaids' gowns, low cut or strapless gowns should be avoided or worn with a shawl or wrap during the Wedding Liturgy.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY

The photographer and videographer are to be informed of Church guidelines by the bride and groom prior to the wedding. They must agree to comply with Church guidelines; their failure to do so will result in the couple's forfeiture of the deposit and they may be asked to cease photographing and leave the Church immediately.

- Photography and video may begin in the Church and/or on the grounds 1 hour prior to the commencement of the ceremony.
- Photographer and videographer must check in with the Parish Wedding Assistant upon arrival to the Church.
- The Parish Wedding Assistant will remind the photographers of their designated areas. They are never allowed in the sanctuary or beyond the first pew.
- At all times during the liturgy, they should strive to be unobtrusive.
- Once the ceremony has begun they are not to move about the Church.
- Each couple has use of the Church for 2 hours; this includes the time allotted for the Marriage ritual. This may result in only a brief time for photographs after the ceremony. There can be no deviation from this time frame.
- There is to be no artificial lighting or flash photography during the ceremony.
- The bridal procession is not to be interrupted once it has begun.
- All photos are to be respectful of the sacred celebration and space; no "cutesy" or inappropriate poses.

CLERGY HONORARIUM

This donation is offered to the priest or deacon who presides at the wedding ceremony. There is no designated amount; the average range is \$250.00 - \$500.00.

A check or cash may be presented, along with the Marriage License, to the Wedding Assistant or clergy at the rehearsal or before or after the ceremony.

FEES

St. John Vianney Catholic Church is pleased to have weddings celebrated in the Church and Chapel. As with everything else there are costs associated with keeping our facilities operational and properly maintained. The fees noted below do not cover the entire cost of having a wedding here but do help defray the overhead expenses incurred in opening and operating the Church buildings for a wedding rehearsal and celebration:

Fee Schedule:

Marriage Prep only (wedding not at SJV) \$100.00

Deposit (wedding at SJV) \$200.00

Reservation for the Chapel:

For active contributing parishioner* \$275.00

For non-parishioner \$550.00

Reservation for the Church:

For active contributing parishioner* \$550.00

For non-parishioner \$1100.00

*Must have been an active, contributing and registered parishioner for at least six months prior to reserving the wedding date.

Online payment with a credit/debit card is available via WeShare for your convenience. A 5% increment will be applied to each fee to cover for online processing charges.

The \$200 deposit, payable in cash, check or online, is collected at the time of reservation; at the initial meeting with SJV staff. One half of the deposit is refunded after the wedding if all guidelines are followed.

Fees must be paid in full at least 3 months prior to the wedding. If the wedding is canceled the deposit is forfeited but any payments made toward the total fee will be refunded.

Music Fees:

Fees for the music are paid directly to musicians:

Parish Cantor: \$150.00

Parish Organist: \$250.00

SACRAMENTS FOR CATHOLICS

Catholics who have not celebrated all the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) are invited to receive preparation at St. John Vianney. Not having celebrated Confirmation poses no impediment to marriage however, Catholics are to see to it that Confirmation is celebrated prior to marriage if it can be done without grave inconvenience (C. 1065).

Adult Confirmation preparation occurs each spring. Contact the Adult Formation Director for information on sacrament preparation classes.

CATHOLIC? THINK ABOUT IT

A non-Catholic bride or groom is not required to become a member of the Catholic faith in order to marry a Catholic in the Catholic Church. Non-Catholics are invited to learn more about the Catholic faith and are asked to consider becoming Catholic.

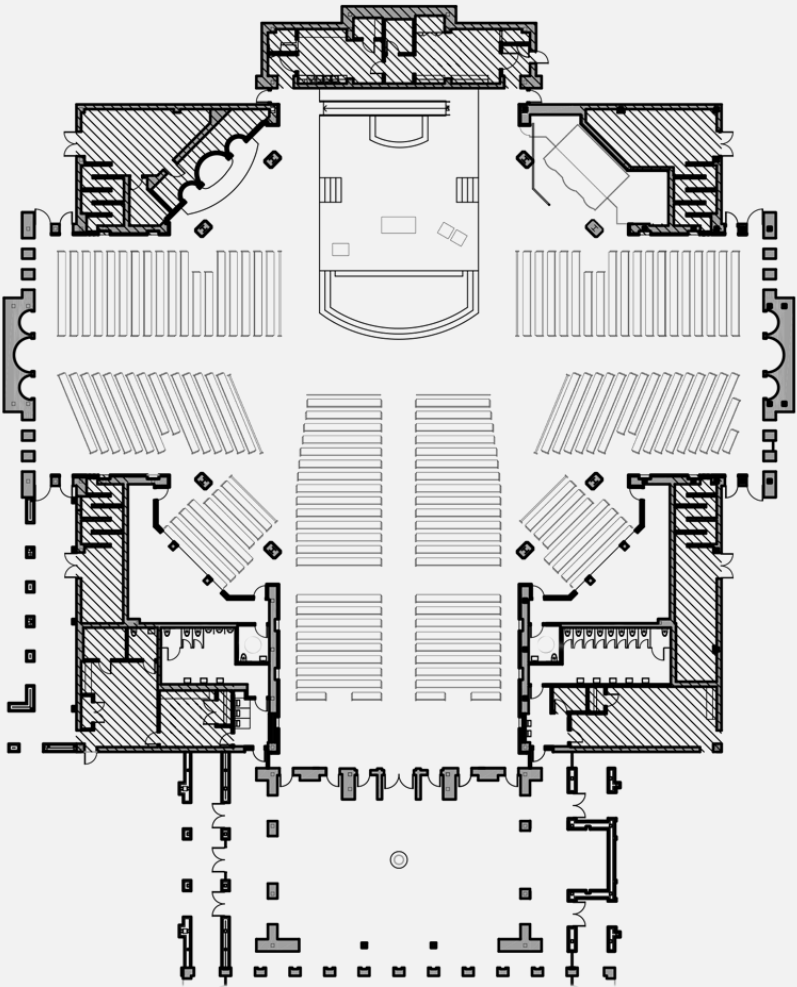
We would be privileged and eager to assist anyone, who after reflection and thoughtful consideration, desires to become Catholic or simply inquire about the Catholic faith.

For more information contact the Office of Adult Formation.

GROWING IN FAITH AND DISCIPLESHIP

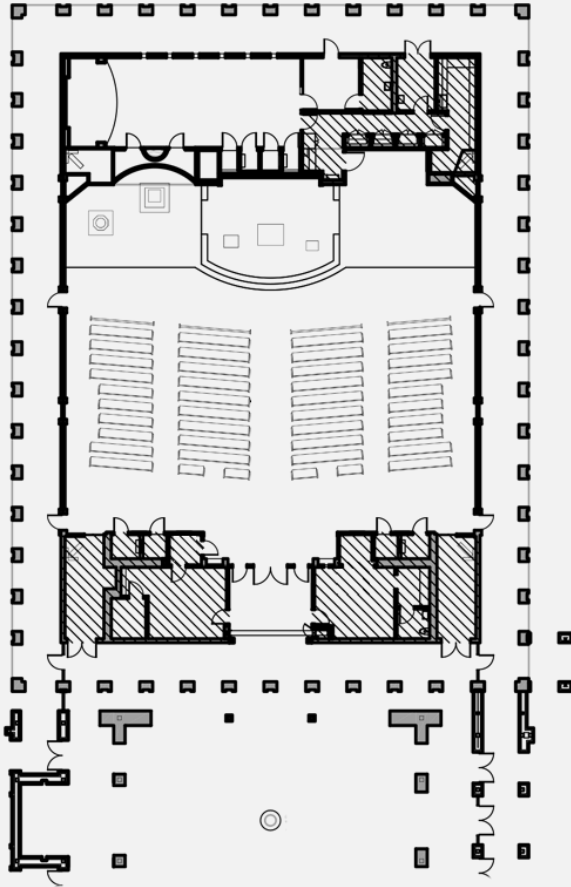
St. John Vianney offers numerous programs and a wide array of presentations throughout the year. Engaged couples are welcome and encouraged to attend. You need not be a registered parishioner to participate. Regularly held Bible Studies, prayer groups, and presentations on various aspects of the Catholic faith and on personal development are available. View the parish website for current offerings.

THE CHURCH



Seating capacity: approximately 1500

THE CHAPEL



Seating capacity: approximately 350

A PRAYER FOR ENGAGED COUPLES

Heavenly Father,
in your great love you established marriage
as a blessing and grace for your people.
Bless and guide this couple who are preparing
to celebrate this wonderful Sacrament.
Give them patience during times of stress.
Give them reassurance in times of doubt
and give them increased peace and joy
as their wedding day draws near.
Strengthen their love for one another,
for their families and for you.
May the fruits of the prayerful intercession
of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the bridal guest at Cana,
be theirs... all the days of their lives.
We ask this in the name of Jesus, Our Lord. Amen.

SAINT JOHN VIANNEY **CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

Living Faith, Changing Lives, Making a Difference!

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