

**Wedding Guidelines of
Saint Victor Parish
Diocese of Cleveland
3435 Everett Road, Richfield, Ohio, 44286
(330) 659-6591**

Revised 3/22/2025

Congratulations! If you are reading this, you must be planning a wedding. St. Victor Parish is pleased to assist you at this very important and joyous time in your lives. These wedding guidelines are intended to assist wedding couples with their plans.

Eligibility for Marriage at Saint Victor: Our policy of eligibility for marriage is one of hospitality. Any couple who qualifies for marriage according to Canon Law (the code of law for the Catholic Church) is welcome to celebrate marriage at Saint Victor. Ordinarily this means that at least one party is Catholic, and that neither party has been previously married. Also, this ordinarily means that at least one party resides within the geographical boundaries of the parish. However, the universal law of the church provides for certain exceptions which must be discussed with the parish priest.

Dispensation from the Canonical Form of Marriage: There are at times extenuating circumstances that require a lawful Catholic wedding to take place other than in a Catholic church. The Bishop of Cleveland may be able to provide a special dispensation in order for such a marriage to be fully acknowledged by the Catholic Church. Please ask the pastor to explain this in greater detail if such is the case.

Setting a Wedding Date and Time: Please contact the parish as soon as possible in order to discuss your choice of a wedding date and time. Within the Diocese of Cleveland it is necessary to contact the parish at least six months prior to the proposed marriage date. It is advisable to contact the parish prior to finalizing arrangements for the wedding reception. Upon contacting the parish, an appointment will be made for a personal meeting during which both parties meet with the parish priest in order to discuss the date and time of their wedding. Accuracy with regard to setting wedding dates and times is extremely important, and for that reason should be done in person.

Adjustment of Fee and Offerings: The fees and offerings suggested here are nominal and usually the smallest fraction of the costs of a wedding. Since the sacrament of marriage is the right of all baptized parties who are free to marry and are otherwise prepared, most of the fees and offerings suggested here can be adjusted accordingly in order to remain relatively nominal as compared to all other wedding costs.

The Officiant of Marriage: Ordinarily the pastor is the presider for all weddings at St. Victor Church. Exceptions will be made for priests or deacons who are close family members or friends, or when the pastor is unavailable. If the presider for the wedding is someone other than the parish priest, the visiting priest or deacon will be responsible for the premarital pastoral counseling, application for permissions and dispensations, completing all necessary paperwork and personally conducting the wedding rehearsal. The honorarium for the visiting priest is the responsibility of the wedding couple.

Preparation for Marriage: The procedure for marriage preparation will be determined in consultation with the parish priest, or visiting priest or deacon. At Saint Victor, marriage preparation is tailored to the specific needs and requests of the couple. Ordinarily the Prepare-Enrich inventory will be utilized (www.prepare-enrich.com, see below). Also, a pre-Cana day, which is a one-day retreat or workshop for engaged couples, is strongly recommended. There is a nominal fee for the pre-Cana day for which the engaged couple is responsible.

Prepare-Enrich: This inventory provides a couple profile that helps to identify growth areas, possible growth areas, possible strengths and strengths for the couple. It helps the couple identify areas in which their relationship may be very strong and on track, and other areas where special attention might prove beneficial. As a team, the pastor and couple work through all these areas taking as much time as is necessary to thoroughly discuss the implications of the couple profile. Most couples find this investment of time very worthwhile. The pastor is very pleased to take as much time as is necessary in order to review all of the profile results. There is a nominal online fee for the cloud-based Prepare-Enrich inventory for which the engaged couple is responsible.

Documents Needed: Minimally, a baptismal certificate for all baptized parties is required, and the baptismal certificate for the Catholic party must be a recent, original document (no more than six months old). Further, documentary evidence of First Communion and Confirmation should be included. Catholic parties should be confirmed prior to marriage. If a Catholic party is not yet confirmed, the parish can assist with that.

Previous Marriages: If there has been a previous marriage, either a Decree of Nullity of the previous marriage or a Certified Death Certificate of the previous spouse must be presented. All such documents must be original, i.e., not photocopied, documents.

Marriage License: Usually, the couple can obtain a Marriage License from any county in the State of Ohio. But, if both parties reside outside of the State of Ohio the marriage license must be acquired in Summit County. There must be a license in order for the marriage to occur. It is required that the Marriage License be presented at the wedding rehearsal.

The Wedding Rehearsal: The wedding rehearsal is usually at 4 PM on Friday afternoon before the wedding. Wedding rehearsals begin at the appointed time, and last about an hour. It is necessary to be on time for the wedding rehearsal. Persons arriving late for a rehearsal are to enter quietly and not interrupt the rehearsal that is already in process.

As previously indicated, a visiting presider for marriage is responsible for conducting the wedding rehearsal.

Please bring the following items to the rehearsal:

- (a) The Wedding License
- (b) A list of the wedding party, including the names and order of procession.
- (c) A list of the names of the cross bearer and three readers.
- (d) A list of the gift bearers in the event that the wedding takes place at mass.
- (e) A copy of the selected readings for the readers.

Planning the Service (The “Liturgy”): The priest or deacon who is presiding at the wedding will assist in the preparation of the wedding liturgy, with the Director of Liturgical Music assisting in the selection of music that is appropriate to the Catholic Rite of Marriage. There is a very simple “Wedding Planning Form” that has been created for Saint Victor Parish. If you wish to go beyond the readings suggested on that form, you can find more choices on the website <http://www.foryourmarriage.org/dating-engaged/planning-a-catholic-wedding/>. Do not, however, select a gospel reading, since that choice is reserved to the preacher.

“Wedding Mass” vs. “Word Service”: Ordinarily the marriage of two Catholics takes place during a “Mass,” which is the celebration of the Eucharist, including the consecration of bread and wine which, having become the Body and Blood of Christ, are consumed by the Faithful during the communion procession. Ordinarily, an interfaith marriage (when a Catholic marries a baptized person of some other Christian denomination) takes place during a “Word Service,” which is a true celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage, although the Eucharistic Prayer, with the consecration of the bread and wine, and communion, do not take place. In all cases weddings which take place between a Catholic and a person who has not been baptized will take place at a “Word Service.”

The Music at the Wedding Liturgy: Herb Dillahunt, the Director of Liturgical Music of Saint Victor Parish, is responsible for all music at all weddings at Saint Victor Church. He is a skilled Catholic liturgical musician who is able to assist couples with the selection of musical choices that are appropriate to the Catholic Rite of Marriage. Please contact him at least six months prior to your proposed wedding date by email (herbdillahunt56@gmail.com). Professionally trained guest vocalists and musicians can be arranged in consultation with Mr. Dillahunt, although there is an additional fee for rehearsals.

Music Fees: The Music Fees must be paid in full before the week of the wedding ceremony. Music Fees paid directly to Mr. Dillahunt and are listed below.

Various Non-Liturgical Matters

Torches, Arches and Trellises: Ostentatious displays such as aisle torches, arches, trellises and the like which are a distraction from the sacred space of the church and are not permitted. Aisle candles are not permitted.

Birdseed, Rice, Flower Petals: Birdseed, rice, flower petals, potpourri, and other similar items are not to be strewn inside or outside the church.

Aisle Runner: The use of an aisle runner is unnecessary and a needless expense. It is not required. If an aisle runner is utilized the wedding party is asked to remove it immediately after the liturgy.

“The Unity Candle”: The so-called “Unity Candle” is not a part of the Rite of Marriage and therefore is not utilized.

“Floral Offering to Mary”: A “floral offering to Mary” is not a part of the Catholic Rite of Marriage, and is not conducted.

The Wedding Photographer: Wedding photographers are professionals who provide their services in ways that are dignified and unobtrusive. The policy of Saint Victor Church is to be hospitable to wedding photographers. The parish priest will wish to speak to the photographer for a few minutes before the ceremony to review the plan for the wedding.

Photographs after the Wedding: The wedding party is permitted to take pictures in the church after the wedding, however the wedding photographs must be finished prior to 4:30. It is expected that the wedding party will vacate the church by 4:30.

Food: There is no provision for food to be brought into the church building on the wedding day.

Alcoholic Beverages: Alcoholic beverages are not to be brought into the church building on the wedding day.

REHEARSAL CHECKLIST: Be sure to bring the following items.

- (a) The Wedding License
- (b) A list of the wedding party, including the names and order of procession.
- (c) A list of the names of the cross bearer and three readers.
- (d) A list of the gift bearers in the event that the wedding takes place at mass.
- (e) A copy of the selected readings for the readers.

Offerings and Payments

NOTE: These fees do not include the Wedding Music, pre-Cana Day, or "Prepare-Enrich."

As previously noted, the fees and offerings suggested here are nominal and usually the smallest fraction of the costs of a wedding. Since the sacrament of marriage is the right of all baptized parties who are free to marry and are otherwise prepared, most of the fees and offerings suggested here can be adjusted accordingly in order to remain relatively nominal as compared to all other wedding costs:

Please bring the following items to the Wedding Rehearsal:

1. St. Victor Church Offering \$ 100.00 (Check made out to Saint Victor Parish)
2. St. Victor Clergy Offering \$ 175.00 (Check made out to Allen F. Corrigan)
3. St. Victor Wedding Facilitator \$ 125.00 (Check made out to Amie D'Arienzo)
4. Servers (Ten Dollars Each) \$ 20.00 (If there are servers.)

Please provide the following to Herb Dillahunt, Liturgical Musician at least one week prior to the wedding:

5. Liturgical Music Fee \$ 250.00 (Check make out to Herbert A. Dillahunt)
6. Additional Music Rehearsals \$ 50.00 (Include in check for Herbet A. Dillahunt)

The couple also pays a nominal fee for the "Prepare-Enrich" profile.

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