

WEDDING INFORMATION

Saint Dennis Church – 815-838-2592 – www.Saint-Dennis.org
1214 South Hamilton Street, Lockport, Illinois 60441

Arrangements for Weddings

Congratulations to you on your engagement! Here is some information about celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony at Saint Dennis Catholic Church.

- Catholics may be married in the parish church of either the bride or the groom. Please start by introducing yourself to our priest at Sunday Mass.
- Our priest will make an appointment with the bride and the groom to discuss the date, the time, and the parish wedding preparation process.
- Weddings are celebrated on most Saturdays at 1:30 p.m., and on most Fridays in the afternoon, but not on any Sundays here at our church.
- We recommend that you meet with our priest to set the church date for the wedding liturgy before you reserve or confirm your banquet hall date.
- It is the duty of our priest to celebrate weddings in our church. It is the responsibility of our parish music director to provide the wedding music.
- A donation to the church is sincerely appreciated, and modest fees are requested for our parish musicians and our parish wedding coordinators.
- We faithfully observe all the liturgical instructions for celebrating this sacrament, and we provide sacred music that is both prayerful and liturgical.
- For more information about our parish wedding arrangements, please read the next page of this special wedding information document.

Sacramental Preparation Process

- **Spiritual Preparation:** Faithfully attend Sunday Mass together each week as an engaged couple, and worthily receive Holy Communion together as part of a genuine Catholic Christian lifestyle.
- **Marriage Preparation:** Participate in a marriage preparation survey and receive the results from our priest. Then attend a Pre-Cana workshop for engaged couples, as scheduled by the diocese.
- **Liturgy Preparation:** After attending Pre-Cana, meet first with our priest to prepare the liturgy. Then meet with our parish music director to select appropriate sacred music for the wedding liturgy.
- **Sacramental Preparation:** Just like all the other special sacraments, we should go to Confession in order to worthily prepare for our celebration of the sacrament of Holy Matrimony in the Church.



May God bless you with his lovingkindness today, at your wedding liturgy, at your wedding reception, and on each and every day of your married life together!

*A wedding is only for a day, but a marriage is for a lifetime!
Invite Christ not only to your wedding, but also into your marriage.
The sacrament of Matrimony is your best wedding gift to each other!*

PRAYERFUL, SIMPLE, TRADITIONAL WEDDINGS

Holy Matrimony. At Saint Dennis Church, our wedding liturgies are prayerful, simple, and traditional. As a special sacrament of our Catholic Christian Faith, our weddings are religious celebrations for people who share our faith values, and who are committed to living a Christian family life according to the teachings of the Catholic Church.

- First, we celebrate *theme* weddings, and that theme is *sacrament*. We are here to celebrate Holy Matrimony as a sacrament of the Catholic Church. Because Christian marriage is a sacrament which continues the saving work of Christ, we celebrate wedding liturgies as a holy service of divine worship.
- Second, we celebrate *destination* weddings, and that destination is *heaven*. We believe that marriage is a vocation in which a man and a woman walk hand in hand with each other throughout life, assisting each other on their way to heaven. Our Christian lives are then fulfilled in the wedding feast of heaven.
- Third, we celebrate *spiritual* weddings, and that spirituality is our Catholic *faith*. We celebrate weddings as sacramental liturgies focused on the wedding vows, the exchange of rings, and the nuptial blessing. These religious rites express our traditional faith values about the sacred covenant of Holy Matrimony.

By reflecting on these core values, we hope you will be able to understand and appreciate the way that we celebrate sacramental wedding liturgies at Saint Dennis Church. Faith-based wedding liturgies are designed to help people express their religious beliefs and their spiritual values, as they are “Married in the Lord” and start their new family.

Sacred Rites Reverently Celebrated

- Our priest goes through the entire wedding ritual with the bride and groom in preparation for the wedding liturgy.
- Our parish wedding hostesses will conduct the wedding rehearsal and coordinate the wedding liturgy as well.
- We faithfully follow the instructions in the liturgical books for the celebration of all the sacraments at our church.
- As faithful guardians of sacred tradition, we do not add anything to the liturgy or leave anything out of the liturgy.
- At the wedding reception, you can always observe other customs that are not part of the official church liturgy.
- The sacred music used at weddings in our church is liturgical and fitting for the worship and praise of our God.
- Brides and grooms who faithfully attend Mass together each Sunday may celebrate their weddings at a Mass.
- May the celebration of this holy sacrament inspire all who attend to renew their marriage covenant in the Lord!

Church Decorations and Decorum

- Please speak with our parish wedding hostesses before ordering any flowers and decorations for our church.
- Please arrive at church on time and fully attired, as we do not have any private changing rooms at our church.
- Please do not throw rice, etc., after the wedding, and do not bring any alcohol or food onto our church property.
- There is a time and place for everything. The church is the place for prayer. Your reception is the place to party.
- Please remember that a wedding, even during a Mass, does not satisfy your Sunday obligation to attend Mass.

Photography and Video Recordings

- Procession: Pictures may be taken during the entrance procession, but without disrupting the procession itself.
- During the Liturgy: Pictures and videos are taken from designated places in church and from the choir loft area.
- Church Pictures: Limited time is allotted for some dignified pictures, mostly of the bride and groom at the altar.
- Other Pictures: Find other locations for additional pictures, to preserve the prayerful atmosphere of our church.
- Propriety: Only take those pictures in church that you will be proud to show your grandchildren in years to come.
- Memories: May the joyful memories of your wedding celebration continue to inspire you all the days of your life!

As you spiritually prepare to begin your happy new life together in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony, please check out ForYourMarriage.org for more information about Catholic marriage and family life.