

Saint John the Beloved Church



*There was a wedding in Cana...
and Jesus had also been invited... John 2:1-2*

Cover image: [Marriage at Cana](#), c. 1500, Gerard David, Musée du Louvre, Paris
Pamphlet revised August 15, 2017

Wedding Booklet

**Saint John the Beloved Church
907 Milltown Road
Wilmington, Delaware 19808**

Phone 302 999-0211
Fax 302 -999-9184
Web www.sjbde.org

Very Rev. Joseph Piekarski, V.F., Pastor	pastor@sjbde.org
Rev. Christopher Coffiey, Associate Pastor	frcoffiey@sjbde.org
Rev. Lance Martin, Associate Pastor	frmartin@sjbde.org
Deacon Thomas A. Bailey	bailey@sjbde.org
Deacon Dennis Wuebbels	dwuebbels@sjbde.org
Deacon Mark Fontana	mfontana@sjbde.org
Dr. Lisa Papili Carlsen, D.M.A., Director	lpapili@sjbde.org
Wedding Coordinators: Pauline Berlingieri & Cathy DeFlaviis Jacqueline Dougherty Barbara Radziewicz	paulineberlingieri@hotmail.com jcd66@yahoo.com bradziew135@gmail.com

Congratulations on your upcoming marriage!

The faith community of Saint John the Beloved Parish is happy to help you with the necessary preparations for your wedding. This booklet is designed to help you plan a beautiful and meaningful wedding liturgy in conjunction with your parish priests, deacons and parish staff.

Marriage is an important step in your life. For the bride and groom, it is a time of mature discernment, commitment and responsibility. It is a decision that declares your call in life...your vocation. It not only affects your own two lives but definitely affects the family, friends, community, Church, world.... In other words, your wedding has far reaching lasting effects.

For the Catholic, marriage is a sacrament; the outward sign instituted by Christ to give grace. More than a contract, marriage is a covenant that reflects the unconditional love that Christ has for His Church.

Your participation in a "Church" Wedding is more than tradition or custom. It says to everyone that it is a holy state of life and that you invite Christ into this marriage. And how blessed you are! Today's complicated world cannot depend alone on natural resources to truly survive. For better or for worse takes divine grace.

The front cover depicts an image from our patron saint's gospel. Saint John tells us in Chapter 2 that "*there was a wedding in Cana...and Jesus had also been invited.*" At that reception, the host ran out of wine for his guests. Embarrassed for the couple, at His Mother's pleading, Jesus takes six jugs and miraculously turns their contents of ordinary water into the best of wine.

May your invitation to Christ for your wedding truly bless your marriage.

Church

Engaged couples should contact the parish priest or deacon at least one year prior to the anticipated wedding date. A meeting will be set up; only after the first session with the priest or deacon can a date be confirmed for the wedding. Saint John the Beloved Church is available at the following time:

Fridays	Evenings (except Lent)
Saturdays	10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Note: No weddings will be scheduled during the weekends of Carnival, Palm Sunday and Easter, nor the weekend before Christmas.

Clergy

If you wish a relative or friend, who is a priest or deacon to officiate, we are happy to give permission. We ask that he provides the marriage instructions and does the paperwork if he lives in the area. Likewise, in an ecumenical marriage, an outside minister may be invited to participate in the marriage.

Marriage Preparation Process

A considerable amount of time, effort, energy and money is spent preparing to celebrate appropriately your wedding. The Diocese of Wilmington has designed a three-part, year-long process to assist couples in this preparation:

1. Sessions with the priest/deacon
2. Pre-Cana or Engaged Encounter
3. Parish-Based small group session.

4.

Wedding Offerings

For the use and upkeep of parish churches and in respect for professional services, the following schedule reflects current practice in Roman Catholic parishes throughout the Diocese of Wilmington:

1. Use of the church
Registered Parishioners: \$250
Non-registered Parishioners: \$450
2. Wedding Liturgy Coordinator \$125
3. Music fees are set by the musicians. All music must be approved by the Parish Director of Music in accord with diocesan guidelines.

Separate checks for each offering are due two weeks before the wedding and are forwarded to the Wedding Liturgy Coordinator.

You may wish to make a personal gift to the officiating priest or deacon. The amount of the gift is at your discretion.



9.

Witnesses

There are no restrictions to the religious faith of the best man, maid/matron of honor or attendants. However, in the State of Delaware, the witnesses must be at least 18 years of age.

Rehearsal

The rehearsal date and time is set with the priest/deacon and marriage coordinator. The Thursday or Friday prior to the wedding is the usual time for rehearsal. The rehearsal is a serious time for preparation. We ask that the entire wedding party be present, including readers and parents. The following is to be brought to the rehearsal:

1. Marriage License
2. Programs/Worship Aids
3. Guest Book

A Final Word

All wedding party members, guests, friends and relatives should be reminded that this is a church---a sacred place of worship. Alcoholic beverages or controlled substances are NOT PERMITTED in, around, or near the church premises. There is also no smoking in the church vestibule, sacristy or worship space. The parish reserves the right to dismiss anyone who displays a lack of respect and mars the occasion by such behavior. In addition, civil and church laws forbid the exchange of wedding vows should the bride or groom-or official witnesses-be under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance.

Documentation

In preparing for your marriage, certain documents must be presented to the priest or deacon:

1. Baptismal Certificate (requested from the parish where baptism took place and issued in the last six months) for both Catholic parties. If one is non-Catholic, a copy of the original is sufficient.
2. Anyone under 18 years of age must have prior permission from the Bishop before setting a marriage date. In addition, the consent of parent(s) or guardian(s) must be obtained.

Choice of Ritual

The Catholic Marriage Rite provides a rich selection of Scripture readings and prayers. The priest or deacon will provide you with a book which contains the selection from which you may choose. It is recommended that if both parties are Catholic, the celebration of marriage normally takes place within a Mass. However, if one of the parties is not a Catholic, the Rite Outside of Mass is suggested. Please take the time to consider prayerfully your choices so that your wedding may have a deeper meaning for you and for all present.

Liturgical Music

The Marriage Rite is a Sacrament of the Church. All of the music before, during and after the liturgy reflects the Christian meaning of the vocation. Three guidelines are offered to help in selecting music for the liturgy:

1. Connect to the sacred to reflect the praise of God.
2. Include sacred music that is familiar and welcoming to all.
3. Invite your guests to sing in this prayerful setting.

Our parish is blessed with highly skilled music ministers, any of which you may request. Dr. Lisa Papili-Carlsen is the Director of Music for our Parish and will assist you in preparing the music for your wedding liturgy. Her contact information is:

302-999-0211

lpapili@sjbde.org

Wedding Liturgy Coordinator

At St. John the Beloved Church, a Wedding Liturgy Coordinator is required. This individual will assure that all aspects of the sacramental celebration flow properly. The coordinator will prepare the church as well as organize procedures and help conduct the rehearsal. A Wedding Coordinator hired by the couple does not take the place of the liturgy coordinator. The responsibilities of each are mutually exclusive.

Flowers & Decorations

All church decorations for the Liturgical Year (e.g. Easter, Christmas, etc.) cannot be moved and remain in the church for the wedding ceremony. If you marry during Lent, flowers are to be kept at a minimum due to the nature of the penitential season.

Flower arrangements may be placed in the sanctuary, although placement of these arrangements is contingent on the ceremony. If there is another wedding on your date, you may wish to share floral expenses. Only plastic clips are permitted to be attached to the pews for decorations.

It is customary to leave the flowers after the wedding for the weekend Masses.

Photographs & Video Taping

The taking of photographs is permitted provided that the photographers are discreet. No pictures may be taken in the middle aisle or in the sanctuary. Pictures may be taken after the ceremony for one half hour. Professional videotaping is permitted. A permanent station is preferred.

Not Allowed

- Unity Candle (more appropriate at the reception)
- Aisle Runners
- Scattered Flower pedals
- Rice, Bird Seed, Confetti, Balloons, Sparkles
- Food or Drink
- NO alcohol is permitted on the property

Marriage License

The State of Delaware requires a Marriage License and it may be obtained from:

Office of the Clerk of the Peace

City County Building -- 8th & French Street
Wilmington, Delaware

302-571-7590 (call or visit the web in advance for hours and holidays)

The license must be obtained at least 24 hours prior to the hour of the ceremony. The license is good for 30 days in which the couple is to marry. Please bring it to the rehearsal.