

St. Rose Church

Wedding Policy



48 E. Main Street • Girard, OH 44420
(330) 545-4351
www.strosegirard.com

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Weddings are special and joyful times for brides and grooms, for their families, friends, and for the entire parish community. We are happy that St. Rose Church will play a part in this sacred and blessed event in your lives. Please keep in mind that in all of your preparations, you are not just preparing for a one-time event but you are, ultimately, preparing for marriage, which entails a life-time commitment to each other.

Any parishioner who wishes to have their wedding at St. Rose is most welcome. We will also consider requests from those with some personal or family connection to the parish. Generally speaking, we will not requests from those who approach us simply because we offer a beautiful setting or because we are convenient to the reception hall.

Arranging your Wedding

The Diocese of Youngstown, to which St. Rose Church belongs, requires that couples notify the parish **at least six months** before their planned date. Please call the parish office and ask to speak with the priest to begin making arrangements.

Date and Time of the Celebration

Weddings may take place on almost any day of the year, except on those few days when they are not permitted by Church law. If the wedding is to be celebrated during Advent or Lent, we ask the couple to keep in mind the special character of these liturgical seasons. Usually, weddings are scheduled on Saturdays at 1:00 pm or 6:00 pm. If after having scheduled your wedding you must cancel or change the date and/or time, please contact the priest immediately.

Cost

Inspired by the scriptural principle of tithing the first portion to God, couples may consider a gift of 10% of the cost of their wedding expenses as an offering to the Lord. In this spirit, St. Rose Church requests a minimal offering of:

- \$350.00 (parishioner)
- \$700.00 (non-parishioner)

Please note, no parishioner will be denied a wedding if the full requested offering cannot be met.

Fees for musicians are as follows:

- \$300.00 (Director of Music) *n.b., this fee is required even if a guest musician is permitted*

You should contact the Director of Music, as soon as you have set your wedding date and time with the priest. The Director of Music can be reached at (330) 545-4351. The Director will assist you in planning your music. Please note that popular or secular

music is not appropriate for a wedding ceremony that follows the sacred rituals of the Catholic Church.

The offering to the church and the music fees should be paid in full, in one check, payable to “St. Rose Church,” one month before the wedding takes place. This check should be given or sent to the priest overseeing your wedding preparations.

Small Weddings

There are occasions when a couple would be well-advised to have a simple wedding ceremony – for example, if the couple is elderly; when it is a second marriage for either party; or when the couple is cohabiting. There need be no music at small weddings, though this remains possible to arrange.



Preparations: Instruction & Documentation

The priest helping to prepare you for marriage will discuss the various preparatory steps you must take before the wedding.

Instruction

The purpose of this instruction is to help couples understand the Church’s doctrine of Christian marriage. Of primary importance are the permanence of marriage and the sacred character of human sexuality. This instruction will also promote your readiness to welcome and educate the children born of your union.

- Couples are required to attend a **“Pre-Cana” program** conducted by the Diocese of Youngstown, a neighboring diocese, or by your home diocese if you are not living in northeast Ohio. You can sign up for this program online by going to the diocese’s Pro-Life, Marriage, and Family Life Office at <https://doy.org/ministries/pro-life-marriage-family-life/>. There are several formats from which to choose.
- The priest preparing you for marriage will want to **meet with you as a couple** to make sure both of you are free to marry as well as to discuss other issues related to the nature of marriage and the ceremony.
- The Catholic Church recognizes fertility as a gift to be understood and cooperated with rather than a problem to be solved or, still less, a disease to be controlled. Contraception violates God’s wise and loving design for the total self-gift of husband

and wife in that contraception ignores, marginalizes, or even suppresses the fertility God gives to each spouse as a gift. Because this understanding of fertility is not shared by the wider culture, it is important for couples to comprehend the Church's teaching on sexual love, to appreciate why it is true, and to learn how it can be lived in married life today.

Fertility awareness classes, often called **Natural Family Planning (NFP)**, teach couples to discern and shape their sexual expression of love according to the alternating rhythms of the naturally fertile and non-fertile times of the woman's cycle. Natural Family Planning classes, as well as courses in Natural Procreative Technology (NaPro), which address the morally problematic issue of in vitro fertilization, are offered as a part of "Pre-Cana" instruction. Classes are offered regularly throughout northeast Ohio, and **we strongly urge** all couples to take them. More information can be found online at: <https://www.neo-nfp.com/main/which-nfp-class-is-best-for-you/>.

Documents

- **Baptismal certificate dated within six months of the wedding.** To obtain this, contact the church of your baptism. If you are a Catholic, this certificate should also indicate when you received 1st Holy Communion and Confirmation. If it does not, additional documentation is necessary.
- **Permission to marry outside your parish** is required if you are both Catholic and neither of you are members of St. Rose Church. In such a case, only one letter is required from one of your pastors. If only one of you is Catholic and you are not a member of St. Rose Church, obtain a letter from your pastor. If one of you is a parishioner of St. Rose, no letter is necessary.
- **Certificate of completion of an approved marriage preparation program.**
- If either party, regardless of religious affiliation, has been previously married, he or she will need either a **death certificate** (if the previous spouse died) or an **ecclesiastical decree of nullity** (in the case of divorce). Copies of these documents, including divorce papers, should be given to the priest.
- If you are a Catholic who is marrying a baptized non-Catholic (or a non-Christian), you will have to receive **permission** (or a **dispensation**) to do so. This is easily done through the priest who is preparing you for marriage. This permission (or dispensation) is given on the condition that the Catholic party promises to do all he or she can to remain an active Catholic and to raise as Catholics any children born of your union.
- **Completion of the Pre-Marital Investigation Form.** At some point during the preparation, the priest will ask each party formal questions designed to establish that the couple is free to marry in the Church, that the man and woman have a correct

understanding of Christian marriage, and that they have the intentions and the ability to fulfill their marriage vows. At the conclusion of the investigation, both parties and the priest will sign the form.

- **Civil marriage license.** The priest will return the signed license to the civil authorities after the ceremony. Please bring the license to the rehearsal.

Rehearsal

The rehearsal should be scheduled at the same time the wedding date is set. Rehearsals are usually held the evening before the wedding. Everything will go smoothly if the rehearsal starts on time and is attended only by those directly involved in the ceremony. Too large a group often leads to confusion. Since most of the rehearsal is spent organizing the bridal procession, the bride should work out beforehand the order of procession. **At the rehearsal, couples should remit payment of all outstanding fees. They should also bring with them their civil marriage license (with its envelope) and give it to the priest.**

Wedding Ceremony

As the date of your wedding approaches, the priest will discuss with you the specifics of the ceremony.

What Kind of Ceremony

The most significant decision that you will make in this regard is whether to have a **Nuptial Mass or a simple ceremony**. The Mass is recommended when both parties are Catholic, since they can then solemnize their union by receiving Holy Communion together. The priest will discuss with the couple if this is appropriate. At ecumenical or inter-faith weddings, on the other hand, ordinarily a simple ceremony is celebrated. Regardless of the type of ceremony, you will have the opportunity to choose the readings from a selection of scripture readings, as well as the reader(s) who will proclaim the sacred texts intelligently and appropriately.

Various Issues to Consider

The use of **“unity candles”** is not permitted. Experience has consistently demonstrated their clumsiness. For instance, they often do not light properly, or they spread wax, or they can even set other decorations on fire. More importantly, the Catholic marriage rite does not provide for such a lighting ceremony. Therefore, if desired, unity candles belong best at the wedding reception, where they can be incorporated into the first dinner blessing of the newly married couple.

Floral decorations should not be extravagant. The priest will discuss with you the options about where the flowers can be arranged. **Candles** in the body of the church must be enclosed in glass globes so as not to drip wax and attached to the pews in such a

way that no scratch marks are left. Use of **pew decorations** is permissible, but tape or staples may not be used. Due to past experiences, **runners** are not permitted.

Please make every effort **to be on time for both the rehearsal and the wedding**. Excessive delays always create tension, and, if the day's schedule of services is tight, they may even necessitate the shortening of your ceremony.

Your guests should not throw anything inside or outside the Church, whether rice, bird seed, confetti, or flower petals.

For the duration of the ceremony, photographers must stay in the nave of the church. Under no conditions will they be allowed to enter the sanctuary. Moreover, when taking pictures, they should not interfere with the liturgy, such as by blocking the procession or by distracting the wedding party. Lighting equipment should not inhibit anyone's view of the ceremony. As a courtesy, all photographers should check in with the officiating priest before beginning their work.

If the wedding is at 1:00 pm on Saturday, post ceremony photos, if desired, must be completed by 3:00 pm. When photos follow such weddings, a receiving line is not permitted due to the parish liturgical schedule.

Exceptional Circumstances

You may wish to have a priest from outside St. Rose Church officiate your wedding. Please discuss this with the priest from St. Rose with whom you are working. If you wish to have a clergyperson of another denomination to assist at your wedding, ask the priest whom you are consulting to discuss the possibilities.

Under specific conditions, Catholics who are marrying non-Christians may be permitted to have their wedding ceremony somewhere other than in a Catholic church. If you are contemplating such a wedding, you are welcome to speak about it with the priest.

If you are a parishioner who is planning a wedding at another parish or outside the diocese, you should let the priest at St. Rose know and he will be glad to be of assistance. If your marriage preparation will be handled by St. Rose, and your paperwork prepared and sent by us through the Diocese of Youngstown to the diocese where you will be married, we ask for an offering of \$150.00 as compensation for the work involved.

*And I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in
righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love, and in mercy.
Hosea 2:19*

Marriage Preparation Checklist

Instruction

- Contacted the priest at St. Rose Church
- Attended an initial meeting with the priest
- Registered for a diocesan approved marriage preparation program
- Registered for a natural family planning class
- Attended follow-up meetings with the priest Meeting #1 Meeting #2

Documentation

- Certificate of Baptism dated within 6 months of the wedding (*If this certificate does not contain information about Confirmation, a separate certificate for that sacrament must be obtained.*)
- Certificate of completion of a diocesan approved marriage preparation program
- Permission to marry (*given by one pastor if neither party is a member of St. Rose*)
- Civil marriage license from the State of Ohio

Finances

- Made an offering to St. Rose Church for the wedding and paid the musicians' fees

Ceremony

- Planned the ceremony's music with the Director of Music
- Submitted reading selections to the priest (*2 weeks before the wedding*)

