



# Weddings at St. Patrick Church

Congratulations and God's blessings upon your engagement! As you consider St. Patrick Church as the location for your wedding, our guidelines and procedures ensure that the celebration of your wedding be of the best theological, liturgical and artistic quality; and that it be a memorable moment as you begin your married life together. The following information is provided to help you with your decision to celebrate your Congratulations wedding at St. Patrick Church.

## Prerequisites for Scheduling

- One person must be a believing and practicing Catholic.
- Both the bride and groom must be "free" to marry. "Freedom" means that neither party was previously married to someone still living. If either has been married before in a civil ceremony, religious ceremony or common law relationship, consultation with a priest is required before scheduling. If an annulment is needed, a wedding cannot be scheduled until, and if, the annulment is granted.
- There is no "parishioner" requirement to schedule a wedding.
- If the bride and/or groom is not a registered member of St. Patrick's Church, a Letter of Permission from the pastor of her/his parish is required to be married at St. Patrick's. The letter must be obtained before scheduling. You may have a priest from another parish/diocese celebrate your wedding if you choose to do so.
- A minimum of 6 months is needed for the completion of the marriage preparation process. Ideally, there are 9-12 months available to complete the process.

## Scheduling

- Weddings are usually celebrated in the upper church. The lower chapel is available upon request. Virtual tour of the Upper Church and Lower Chapel are available on our parish website.
- Secure the day and time via email ([office@stpatrickphilly.org](mailto:office@stpatrickphilly.org)) or telephone (215-735- 9900) through the parish secretary. We recommend securing the date and time before making commitments with reception venues, caterers, musicians, etc.
- The deposit secures the date and time. In fairness to other couples interested in a wedding at St. Patrick's, we cannot "tentatively hold" a date or time.
- The deposit and subsequent payments can be made with a check or through Venmo ([@saintpats](https://venmo.com/@saintpats)).
- Times:
  - Friday: 4pm (flexible)
  - Saturday: 11am; 1pm and 3pm (firm)
  - Sunday: 2pm (flexible); or within a regularly scheduled parish Mass.
  - Other days of the week by special arrangement.
- Rehearsal: Generally, the day before in coordination with the priest and any other scheduled rehearsals or weddings.
- Weddings during the Lenten season are discouraged (because of its penitential nature), but not prohibited.

## Offering and Fees

- Total offering to St. Patrick Church: \$2,500
  - Deposit: \$1,000 non-refundable deposit to reserve the date and time (changes allowed). Balance is due at least one (1) month before the wedding.
- Musician Fees (not included in the wedding offering)
  - Organist: \$300
  - Cantor: \$200
- Marriage Prep Only Offering: \$500
- There are other fees associated with the required marriage preparation programs; and obtaining the marriage license. These fees are paid directly by the couple to those organizations. \$200 - \$300

## Wedding Mass or Wedding Ceremony?

- A marriage of Catholic parties is celebrated within Mass since it highlights the union of Christ the Bridegroom with his Bride, the Church.
- A marriage between a Catholic and a baptized non-Catholic is celebrated without Mass.
- A marriage between a Catholic and a non-Christian is celebrated without Mass.

## What if I/we live in another city or state?

- Marriage preparation may be completed in another city or state with the assistance of the parish priest in that location. All the requirements for the (Arch)diocese where that parish is located must be fulfilled and will satisfy the requirements for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.
- The marriage file must be processed by that local bishop's office; and then forwarded to the Archdiocese of Philadelphia for approval. It is then forwarded to St. Patrick's.

## Important details you should know for your decision-making process:

- **Access:** There are no ramps or elevator for access to the upper church or lower chapel. There are 15 steps at the front entrance of the upper church. There are 16 steps for access to the lower chapel.
- **Climate:** The upper church has no heat or air conditioning. In the warmer months, doors are propped open and fans are utilized to provide ventilation. The lower chapel has both heat and air conditioning.
- **Parking:** There is no parking lot at St. Patrick Church. Curbside parking in front of the church is usually available for a limousine, trolley, etc. Public garages and lots are located nearby. On street parking in the neighborhood can be difficult, but not impossible.
- **Restrooms:** There are no restrooms in the church building itself. Restrooms are in the parish hall nearby. Navigating steps and going outside will be required.

For additional information or questions, email the parish office ([office@stpatrickphilly.org](mailto:office@stpatrickphilly.org)) or call 215-735-9900.