

Wedding Fees

In order to secure the date for your wedding, non-refundable fees (individual checks) are due at the time the Wedding is scheduled.

Use of the Church—\$200

Priest—\$200

Organist—\$200

Cantor—\$150

Checklist for items required for Marriage

Baptismal Certificate

- Bride
- Groom

Witness Forms

- 2 Bride
- 2 Groom

FOCCUS

- Inventory
- Meeting with FOCCUS Couple

Pre-Cana

- Schedule Pre-Cana or Engaged Encounter Weekend
- Submit Certificate of Completion to Church

- Contact James Rossi, Director of Music & Liturgy at (321) 723-3636.
- Reserve Church Date
- Submit Fees (Non-Refundable fees (individual checks) due at time church is reserved)

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church

Wedding Handbook

**1710 S. Hickory Street
Melbourne, FL 32901
321.723.3636**

Photography

The photographer and guests need to note that NO FLASH photography is permitted after the procession. This is a sacred ceremony and we want to maintain that sacredness. Video taping may be taken unobtrusively from the rear of the Church or on either side of the sanctuary. Spotlights and photography from behind the altar are not permitted during the ceremony. Wires and cords used in videotaping are to be placed in a way that no one could be injured by tripping. Extension cords, adapters etc. must be furnished by the videographer. It is the responsibility of the couple preparing for marriage to communicate this information to the photographer.

The wedding party may return to the church for photographs after the ceremony for one half-hour. Photos with the Presider should be taken first. Please respect this time as we have Confessions and Mass following your liturgy. Sometimes with all the excitement, the picture taking gets rather noisy. Please remember that you are still in a house of prayer and there will be people coming into the church.

The Rehearsal

Rehearsals may be scheduled for 4:00, 5:00 or 6:00 p.m. The rehearsal is usually held the evening before the wedding, before the rehearsal dinner. Have all members of your wedding party and those who are reading present at the rehearsal. Please be on time! Also, please assign 2 persons (not in your wedding party) to be ushers. They will be given instructions at the rehearsal. The Director of Music and Liturgy is in full charge of the rehearsal and ceremony and shall direct the process. Any consultant shall be advisory only and shall be responsible to the Director of Music and Liturgy. The bride and groom should assist to insure having a joyous and orderly rehearsal.

The rehearsal usually lasts one hour and all participants should be prompt in coming to the rehearsal. The state marriage license must be presented to the Director of Music and Liturgy at the rehearsal.

Florist

We suggest coordinating your colors with the liturgical seasons. Artificial flowers and artificial greenery are not appropriate. The Florist is allowed to set up no earlier than 1 ½ hours prior to the scheduled start of the wedding. Additionally, any flowers that are not being donated to the parish must be removed from the church *immediately* following the wedding.

At Our Lady of Lourdes, wedding floral decorations may be a compliment to, not a substitute for, decorations already in place for regular parish celebrations. You may not remove or relocate any of the parish's flowers, nor can you move the Advent Wreath, Nativity or Easter Candle.

Bows may be attached to the pews using only elastic bands, string or ribbon (tacks, nails, tape and metal devices are not permitted). Please remove all pew markers from the church immediately following the celebration. Pew candle stands are not permitted.

Unity candles are not permitted, as the use of candles in the liturgy always symbolizes Christ as the Light of the World, the unity candle is not permitted in the church.

We do not permit the use of aisle runners at Our Lady of Lourdes.

The flower girl may not drop petals as she comes up the aisle.

Rice

Bird seed, rice and any other confetti-like substance may not be thrown on the Church's property. It is helpful to advise guests of this policy before the wedding date.

The Ceremony

We are grateful that you desire to have your wedding in the church. By doing this, you have invited your guests, as well as the Church Community, to pray for you and to encourage your shared life in a faith experience. Christian marriage is not only a part of human experience, but of God's loving plan for us. In it the love of a man and a woman for each is warmed and perfected by the love of God uniting them as one.

A wedding is only the first step into marriage. The vows of love can be given and received in a few minutes, but it takes a lifetime to carry out a marriage "for better or worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health, till death us do part."

A marriage becomes complete only through a process which unites two lives in a deeper sense than laws and ceremonies alone are able. In marriage, two persons can share their joys, comfort each other and love and cherish each other in all the experiences of life. A wedding is a sacred ceremony. God is present with us through this ritual of commitment to each other. It must be reverent and worshipful, even when the ceremony is simple. The sacredness of the wedding vows reminds us that marriage is a three-way union - the two of you and God. As you plan your wedding ceremony, we want to help you transform that ceremony from words spoken into meanings joyously shared. **The marriage may occur in a Nuptial Mass with the reception of Holy Eucharist or in a Marriage Ceremony.**

The Minister

The actual Minister of the Sacrament of Marriage is the couple who exchange vows in the presence of the Church's Minister (Priest or Deacon) and the official witnesses. The Priest or Deacon recognizes and blesses the union in the name of the Church, as well as acting as the civil dignitary, required by law.

While we recognize that in a very special sense, the wedding ceremony is your ceremony, nevertheless, you have chosen to be married in the Catholic Church at Our Lady of Lourdes Church by a Priest or Deacon. As is the case with every service of worship in the church, the directives of the denomination and the prerogative of the Pastor determine the content and order of the wedding ceremony.

Wedding Arrangements

We are here to serve you in preparation for your wedding ceremony, yet we maintain final approval on matters relative to the marriage ceremony, including the date and time of the ceremony. This will bring minimum tension and maximum comfort to you on your wedding day.

No Bride's Room

Our Church does not have a place for the bride or any of the wedding party to get dressed. Our Church has a secluded space where the bride and her attendants can wait; however, it is not equipped for dressing. The groomsmen are to assemble in the sacristy. ***Food and Alcohol are not permitted on the church grounds.***

The Celebration

The decoration of the Church for the celebration of marriage should emphasize the dignity and beauty which speaks of the presence of God. A minimum of decoration is suggested especially during the Lenten Season. The decorations, properties and items not owned by the Church must be removed from the Church immediately following the ceremony. You should designate someone specific whose only task is to clean-up after your ceremony.

Music & Liturgy

Arrangements with our parish Director of Music & Liturgy should be made through the Parish Office. You will be asked to attend a Wedding Planning Session where you will have the opportunity to select readings and prayers and listen to and make music selections for your wedding ceremony. This is the responsibility of the couple preparing for marriage. The celebration always includes music; therefore, an accompanist and a soloist from Our Lady of Lourdes must be hired. James Rossi, our parish Director of Music & Liturgy is the accompanist for weddings. Please contact him at 321-723-3636. Fees for additional musicians can be discussed with the Director of Music & Liturgy. There are many contemporary secular songs which may have particular meaning for couples, but should be reserved for the reception. Musical texts for the celebration should give Christian understanding of love, marriage, and the home and focus our attention on the union of husband and wife in God's love.

Furnishings

The altar, ambo (pulpit), Presider's Chair and other furnishings are ***FIXED*** and cannot be moved. The seasonal decor and other appointments in the Church (Advent wreath, Easter Candle and seasonal flowers), likewise, may not be altered or moved. We will provide kneelers, chairs, altar candles and other elements of the liturgy as needed.

We do not recommend using candelabras; if you choose to use them they may be placed in the sanctuary; however, you need to rent them yourselves. In your rental agreement be sure that the company will come just before the ceremony to assemble them and remove them ***IMMEDIATELY*** after the ceremony. Remember, we cannot be responsible for storing or keeping track of any decor you rent. Absolutely no tacks, nails, screws or tape shall be used on walls, floors, pews or other furnishings. No decorations are to be placed on the altar or an area that would obstruct access or view of the altar.