

**St Jane de Chantal  
Catholic Church  
St Michael the Archangel  
Mission**

*Wedding Guidelines*



*Fr. Kenneth Allen  
Pastor*

*Wedding Coordinator Wendy Talbot  
504-914-6724*

The engaged couple will participate in one or more of the following programs:

Engaged Encounter weekend  
Special (validation) or Remarriage  
Days for the Engaged

The marriage vows of two Catholic parties are usually performed in the context of a Mass. The vows between a Catholic and non-Catholic are usually performed at a service officiated by a Deacon or a Priest. Permission can be granted for a Mass but must come from the Archdiocese.

No Double Weddings.

**Times:**

Saturdays – 11 am til 4pm  
Weekdays - no later than 7:00 pm

**Lent: (try to avoid, if possible)**

Simple styling in keeping with the season

**Fees:**

Parishioners	\$450.00
Non-Parishioners	\$850.00

**Payment Requirements:**

Deposit of \$250 and a completed "The First Step to the Altar" when booking the wedding date. Your date is not confirmed until both items are submitted to the wedding coordinator. This deposit is non-refundable.

The balance of the fee is due 30 days prior to wedding date. A late fee of \$50 will be assessed if payment is not made by due date.

**Stipends:**

The stipend for the officiating Priest and/or Deacon, organist, vocalist, and altar servers is not a fixed amount but depends upon the generosity of the couple.

**Bridal Gowns:**

Christian modesty is the norm. No low-cut gowns are allowed.

**Musicians:**

The Parish has contact information on organists and vocalists that are available to play for weddings. Fees are paid directly to the organist and vocalist. Contact the wedding coordinator for information.

**Non-Parishioners:**

You must retain your own priest or deacon to preside at the ceremony and compile all required documentation unless otherwise agreed by the Parish Priest.

All paperwork is due 30 days prior to the wedding date. It is your responsibility to ensure that your file is forwarded to the wedding coordinator in a timely manner.

**Marriage License:**

The marriage license must be brought to the Parish office at least three (3) working days prior to the rehearsal. A Louisiana marriage license must be purchased no earlier than 30 days prior to wedding and no later than 72 hours prior to the wedding.

**Rehearsal Dates:**

For Saturday weddings, the rehearsal will be the Friday before except on First Friday of the month. In those cases rehearsal will be Thursday before/after our mass at 6:30. For Friday weddings rehearsal will be on Thursday as outlined above. NO weddings on the first Friday of the month.

**Photographers:**

Pictures may be taken from the altar, but photographer **must not** become a distraction.

Video cameras are allowed but must be inconspicuous and without additional lighting.

**Florist:**

Ribbons, bows and flowers are allowed on the pews; however, they cannot be attached with tape of any sort.

Flowers should be arranged tastefully with only one bouquet on each side of the altar. They must be left for the weekend Masses. However, any additional ribbons or decorations must be removed immediately following the wedding.

No rosebuds (flowers of any kind) may be thrown by flower girl.

**Candles:**

No candlelight weddings are allowed, due to safety reasons.

No candles are permitted in the aisle; they create a hazard and liability. No unity candle.

**Aisle Runners:**

None are allowed due to safety reasons.

**Junior Attendants:**

Special permission must be obtained for ring bearers, flower girls or attendants under the age of six (6).

**Rehearsal Dates:**

For Saturday weddings, the rehearsal will be the Friday before except on First Friday of the month. In those cases rehearsal will be Thursday. For Friday weddings rehearsal will be on Thursday as outlined above. **NO** weddings on the first Friday of the month.

**Photographers:**

Pictures may be taken from the altar, but photographer **must not** become a distraction. Video cameras are allowed but must be inconspicuous and without additional lighting.

**Florist:**

Ribbons, bows and flowers are allowed on the pews; however, they cannot be attached with tape of any sort. Flowers should be arranged tastefully with only one bouquet on each side of the altar. They must be left for the weekend Masses. However, any additional ribbons or decorations must be removed immediately following the wedding. No rosebuds (flowers of any kind) may be thrown by flower girl.

**Candles:**

No candlelight weddings are allowed, due to safety reasons. No candles are permitted in the aisle; they create a hazard and liability. No unity candle.

**Aisle Runners:**

None are allowed due to safety reasons.

**Junior Attendants:**

Special permission must be obtained for ring bearers, flower girls or attendants under the age of six (6).

**Archdiocesan Policy:**

**At least six months prior** to the wedding date, the engaged couple must consult with a Priest or Deacon to begin marriage preparation

A " Pre-Nuptial Inquiry" and FOCCUS questionnaire must be completed.

Baptismal certificates from the Church of Baptism, must be dated within six months of the wedding. Proof of baptism is required for non-Catholics who have been baptized.

Pre-marital seminar must be attended.

**Church Law or Policy:**

Church law requires that weddings ordinarily take place in the parish of the bride or groom.

Weddings may be celebrated only in churches or chapels.

**St Jane de Chantal Policy:**

Priests or Deacons from outside the Parish are welcome to officiate at weddings. They must handle all preparation of the pre-nuptial paperwork. A complete file must be turned into the wedding coordinator at least 30 days prior to the wedding. All bookings and paperwork must be submitted to the wedding coordinator

**Covid**

We follow the guidelines of the CDC and the state that are in place at the time of the wedding.