



Basilica of Saint Louis, King

The Old Cathedral

209 Walnut Street, Saint Louis, Missouri 63102

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WEBSITE: www.oldcathedralstl.org

Wedding Coordinator: 314-308-0091 / tracymarklein@archstl.org

Guidelines and Regulations for Weddings

Married couples are among God's most cherished gifts to the Church. We believe in what Saint John says in one of his letters, "Where love is, there is God."

To witness the love of a man and woman in the sacrament of marriage is to glimpse God. That is why marriage fills us with wonder and gratitude. For this reason, too, we as Catholics take preparation for the sacrament of marriage seriously.

As you consider the possibility of celebrating your marriage in the Basilica of St. Louis, King of France, these guidelines will detail some of the specifics surrounding the planning of a wedding here. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact us at 314-231-3250.

CONFIRMING THE OLD CATHEDRAL FOR YOUR WEDDING

- All dates and times must be requested at least six (6) months prior to the desired-for wedding day.
- One or both parties must be Roman Catholics
- IF YOU ARE NOT A REGISTERED ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE OLD CATHEDRAL PARISH AND YOU LIVE OUTSIDE OF THE PARISH BOUNDARIES, you must:
 - Obtain written permission of the Pastor of the parish in which either the bride or the groom resides - if both are Catholic. If only one member of the engaged couple is of the Catholic faith, then the written permission is obtained from the Pastor of the Catholic party. This permission is granted by completion of the "Form for Pastor's Permission" included in the initial marriage preparation packet. This form not only grants permission for the couple to marry outside of their own parish boundaries, but also confirms the person/couple's status as Catholic(s) in good-standing.
 - Contact the priest/deacon who will be officiating at your wedding. This may be a priest/deacon from one of your parishes or another priest/deacon with whom you are acquainted. He will need to agree to the following:
 - Accept responsibility for sharing in your marriage preparation with you
 - Complete all the necessary paperwork and file it with us TWO MONTHS PRIOR to the day of your wedding rehearsal
 - Be present for your wedding rehearsal
- Witness your marriage

The two accompanying forms must be completed and returned to Basilica of Saint Louis, King (The Old Cathedral) before the requested date and time can be confirmed.

- **Form #1** To be completed by the pastor of one of the Catholic parties.
- **Form #2** Weddings at The Old Cathedral are conducted by a priest/deacon selected and confirmed by the couple who is in good standing with his diocese. Therefore, Form #2 is to be completed by the priest or deacon you have asked to witness your wedding vows at Basilica of Saint Louis, King (The Old Cathedral).
- A \$1,750.00 minimum donation ***MUST BE RECEIVED*** prior to the wedding date. This is suggested as the minimum offering for use of the Church and is not intended to limit your generosity. This fee also includes a wedding coordinator and secured parking on the grounds.

It is also acceptable that the minimum contribution be paid in two installments:

- Down payment of \$500 (non-refundable), is required at the time of the reservation, and must be paid to secure the date.
- The balance, or \$1,250.00, no later than six (6) weeks prior to the wedding date.
- Please make your check payable to **Basilica of Saint Louis, King**. You may drop it off at the rectory or mail payment to 209 Walnut Street, Saint Louis, Missouri 63102.
- Sign and submit the contract, all forms, and full payment within 6 weeks of receiving the wedding packet.

Note: No date is considered final until all of the above is received by the Old Cathedral.

PREPARING FOR YOUR MARRIAGE

In accord with the marriage preparation policy established by the Archdiocese of Saint Louis, you will need to complete the following:

- Preliminary assessment of readiness for marriage (FOCCUS Survey)
- Participation in at least one Archdiocesan recommended marriage preparation program
- Completion of the necessary forms for our Church records, including copies of baptismal certificates
- Plan the ceremony with the assistance of priest/deacon and Director of Music Ministries for the Old Cathedral; and
- If the priest/deacon who is to witness your marriage serves outside of the Archdiocese of Saint Louis, please discuss this with a member of the Old Cathedral Pastoral Staff as soon as possible.
- Complete the Pre-Nuptial Investigation Form and required permissions and/or dispensations, if necessary. The completion of these forms is the responsibility of the couple and the priest they have asked to witness their wedding vows. The completed documents are to be submitted to the Basilica of Saint Louis at least six (6) weeks prior to the wedding date.
- Both parties, of course, must be free to enter into marriage. Therefore, if one or both parties have been previously married, no date can be set until or unless the said previous marriage(s) has been formally declared invalid as a result of a Tribunal process.

PLANNING YOUR CEREMONY

Your wedding celebration must follow the directives of the Church; however, you will have some options within those directives from which you can personalize your wedding celebration. In approaching the planning sessions, please be mindful of the following:

- If both bride and groom are practicing Catholics, you are encouraged to celebrate your wedding within the context of the Eucharist. If one of you is not Catholic, it may be more appropriate to celebrate the wedding ceremony within a service of Scripture readings and prayers which would enable all of your guests to fully participate. If either the bride or the groom has never been baptized in any Church, the wedding ceremony outside of the Eucharist is the only option.
- The Cathedral can accommodate wedding parties of up to 14 people (i.e., bride, groom, and up to 6 attendants each, including maid of honor and best man). Additional attendants are not encouraged but are allowed. Any wedding party that exceeds the 14-person capacity must be approved prior to booking.

Seating capacity: 450 - 500 people

Length of Main Aisle: 75 feet

Pews on the Main Aisle: 19 rows of pews on each side

Possible wedding times: Friday late afternoon
Saturdays at 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM

MUSIC

Music associated with your wedding must be approved through the organist of The Old Cathedral, **Mr. Daniel Vizer**. Mr. Vizer is the only organist permitted to play weddings at The Old Cathedral. Arrangements for singers and other musical instruments must also be discussed with Mr. Vizer. You can contact him at ocorganist@aol.com to discuss musical arrangements and selections. In your brief message, please include your full name, wedding date, return contact number, and the best time to reach you. The organist fee is \$250, which is separate from the \$1,750.00 fee for the use of The Old Cathedral. The \$250 fee must be paid one month before the wedding date or at the time of the wedding consultation

FLOWERS and OTHER DECORATIONS

- Only appropriate floral arrangements and/or plants are to be used.
- Flowers on the altar are only allowed on either side of the Tabernacle
- Pew decorations may be attached only with rubber bands and/or ribbon.
- No clips, wires, hooks or tape of any kind may be used on the pews, banisters, communion rail, exterior or interior doors.
- The use of aisle runners of any kind is not permitted.
- The use of "Unity" sand, flowers, candles and/or candelabra is not permitted.
- PLEASE NOTE: During Lent, Easter, Advent, Christmas and other special times, the church will have appropriate flowers and décor. THESE ARE NOT TO BE REMOVED OR REARRANGED. Please inquire about any flowers/décor that may already be in for your wedding date before signing the contract. It is also the responsibility of the couple to inform the florist or hired coordinators about this policy prior to the wedding.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND VIDEOS

- Flash photography and camera lights are not permitted during the ceremony.
- Photographers and video consultants are to report to The Old Cathedral Wedding Coordinator prior to the wedding ceremony to review our policy.
- Photographers, videographers, or camera stands are never permitted in the sanctuary (inside the Altar rail).
- Videographers are requested to remain stationary during the ceremony.
- Pictures are allowed immediately following the wedding ceremony. The maximum time allowed is 30 minutes. With permission, pictures may be taken on the altar steps.

DECORUM

- No bottled water, gum, food, or drink of any type is allowed in the Old Cathedral or on its grounds.
- Appropriate dress for rehearsal and wedding is required. No strapless gowns are allowed unless a jacket, shawl, or other covering is worn over the shoulders during the ceremony. If the attire of any member of the wedding party is deemed inappropriate, the Old Cathedral is within its right to immediately cancel the wedding with no refund of the wedding stipend provided. No exceptions.
 - There is no facility in the Old Cathedral available as a dressing area.
 - There is a restricted area at the back of The Old Cathedral for last minute preparations for the Bride and Bridesmaids.
- Prior to the start of the ceremony, the groom and groomsmen may have pictures taken in our museum area.
- The wedding sacristan and the wedding coordinator, on the behalf of the Old Cathedral and the officiating priest/deacon, assumes the responsibility for maintaining the sacred nature of the church, directing the entrance procession, and ensuring that the ceremony begins on time. Wedding parties who do not respect the space or are not prepared to begin on time run the risk of having their wedding cancelled, with no refund of the wedding stipend provided.
- For insurance reasons, we cannot allow rice, birdseed, flower petals, or any other item to be thrown in or on the grounds of the Cathedral.

WEDDING REHEARSAL

Rehearsals are scheduled on the Thursday evening prior to your wedding date. Given the number of ceremonies scheduled for the weekend, the first rehearsal begins at 5:00 PM and each rehearsal is limited about (45) minutes. Rehearsals need to start promptly at the appointed hours. Be sure to inform all members of the wedding party.

Arrangements for the time of your rehearsal are to be made by calling The Old Cathedral wedding coordinator at 314.308.0091.

ON YOUR WEDDING DAY

- Due to the popularity and number of weddings at The Old Cathedral all weddings are to begin promptly at the time for which they are scheduled.
- Prior to the start of the ceremony, the groom and groomsmen may have pictures taken in our museum area.
- The throwing or use of rice, birdseed, flower pedals, bubbles, butterflies, et cetera is not permitted either inside or outside of The Old Cathedral.
- No bottled water, gum, food, or drink of any type is allowed in the Old Cathedral or on its grounds.
- The drinking of alcoholic beverages is not permitted on the premises of the Old Cathedral. This includes the parking lot.
- The parking lot in front of The Old Cathedral will have an attendant to assist guests, vendors, and the wedding party.
- The church will be open one hour prior to the wedding start time. All vendors, guests, bridal party, etc. will not be permitted in the church before this time.

Wedding parties who do not respect the space or are not prepared to begin on time run the risk of having their wedding cancelled, with no refund of the wedding stipend provided.

You are encouraged to retain these guidelines for future reference and to communicate pertinent sections to the appropriate individuals or businesses you engage or employ for your wedding.