

General Guidelines



Registration

For a wedding to take place here at Saint Rita's, you or your parents must be registered members of the parish.

Age

For a wedding to be celebrated in the Catholic Diocese of Rockford, both individuals must be 19 years of age at the time of the wedding.

Setting a Date and Time

You must contact the pastor here at St. Rita's at least six months prior to your wedding date. This is required in order to enable sufficient time to complete an effective marriage preparation and collect the necessary paperwork.

Weddings are celebrated at St. Rita's on Saturdays at 1:30 pm. You must be finished in the church by 3:15pm because the Sacrament of Reconciliation will follow shortly thereafter.

Documents Needed

A Catholic must obtain a recently issued (six month) baptismal certificate from the parish in which they were baptized.

A photocopy of a non-Catholic certificate is sufficient.

In addition, a civil marriage license must be obtained from Winnebago County.

The priest will assist you in completing the remainder of the necessary forms required by the Diocese of Rockford.

Marriage between a Catholic and non-Catholic

In a marriage between a Catholic and non-Catholic, the Catholic will be asked to make a promise to raise the children as Catholics.



Formal Preparation Process

1. Initial interview with the parish priest and explanation of the preparation process.
2. Participation in the “Fully Engaged” program.
3. A music preparation meeting with Cheryl Hochstetler, our Coordinator of Liturgical Music, to complete wedding music selections. Please contact her approximately three to four months prior to the wedding. Cheryl can be reached at 815-721-3130 or E-mail at teachflute03@gmail.com.
4. A final meeting with the priest to discuss the ceremony and to complete the remaining paperwork.
5. Gift of Self: One Day Diocesan Marriage Preparation Seminar. Register at www.rockforddiocese.org/life/marriage-family

Wedding Rehearsal

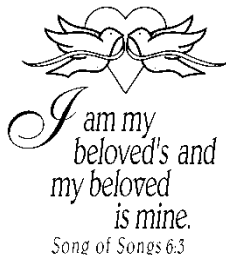
The wedding rehearsal normally takes place the evening before the wedding. Rehearsals are normally scheduled to begin between 5:00 and 6:00 pm. Please schedule your rehearsal time with the office when you have finalized the wedding date.

The entire wedding party, parents of the bride and groom, and all others involved in the liturgy (readers, gift bearers, etc.) should be in attendance. This is an opportunity to “walk through” the ceremony and answer any final questions or address any other concerns.

If any young children, who are not in the wedding party, will be present at the rehearsal, please make child care arrangements for them.

Photography and Video Policy

Please consult the photography and video guideline sheet in the packet for details.



Fees and Donations

\$250.00 payable to Saint Rita Church for main church, \$100.00 for chapel

\$175.00 payable separately to both the wedding accompanist and vocalist

\$ 10.00 cash to each altar server (*there are 3 servers*)

Normally, an amount is also given to the priest as a sign of gratitude (*usually \$100.00*). (*This is optional*)

Your envelope with the individual checks for fees and donations, the cash for the altar servers, and the civil marriage license, **must be turned in to office no later than one week prior to the wedding.**

Odds and Ends

Alcoholic beverages are not permitted on St. Rita Church property.

Nothing may be moved or rearranged in the church without permission.

All pictures, with the exception of those taken by the professional photographer, must be taken from the pews. Please remind your guests that no 'flash' pictures are allowed during the ceremony.

In the interest of safety, cleanliness, and decorum, we ask that nothing be thrown (rice, bird seed, confetti, etc) in the church or on the church grounds.

Also in the interest of safety, lighted candelabras and bridal arches are not allowed. The flower girl is **not** allowed to scatter **real** flower petals. More information regarding flowers is included in the packet.

The bride and groom are asked to please have someone pick up any ribbons, bows, flower boxes, trash, etc. in the church, gathering area, and bride's room after the ceremony. Trash containers will be provided.

Our parish wedding coordinators will be available to assist you as needed at the wedding rehearsal and on the day of your wedding.

Saint Rita Church

6254 Valley Knoll Drive

Rockford, IL 61109

Phone: 815-398-0853 • Fax: 815-397-7499

Parochial Administrator: Rev. Ervin Pio M. Caliente



Congratulations on your engagement!

*We welcome you at this special and exciting time of your lives as you prepare for
The Sacrament of Marriage.*

As a parish, we want to offer you our prayers and support.

*The following guidelines are intended to offer you help in completing your
marriage preparation and planning your wedding ceremony.*

May God bless you as you begin your new life together.