

Dear Couples,

Congratulations on your engagement and thank you for choosing to be married in a church. The people of God need this witness of the importance of a wedding in connection with the Church. We hope that this is the beginning of a new family that finds strength and support within the family of God. Above all a Catholic wedding Mass or ceremony gives glory to God. We also hope it is the beginning of a family who enriches our St. Michael community with your gifts and talents.

Our promise to you is to make this day as beautiful and holy as we can, but staying within the framework of guidelines from the church. Please read over these expectations, and if you have any questions, please address them with the clergy that you meet with or with the liturgist, Ann Gooley. We are excited to be working with you and getting to hear your story.

Minimum of 6 months out from wedding.

- Set a date with the priest/deacon.
- Take Foccus Inventory which is online and the clergy will set this up for you.
- Set up classes initiated by the clergy after the inventory.
- Class with Liturgist: Preparing the ceremony (minimum of 3 months prior)
- Sign up for Diocese Marriage classes/Engaged Encounter (See pgs. 17-19 in Engaged Couple Guide, which you will receive at your first meeting)
- The Catholic party must obtain their baptismal certificate/proof of confirmation. (This should be a current copy from the parish of their baptism. This gives us proof of confirmation. Call them to obtain a copy.) If you are non-Catholic, proof of baptism is desired.
- Optional: See a Natural Family Planning instructor (See pg. 9-13 in Engaged Couple Guide and brochure)
- Optional: Watch the 'Beloved' series on FORMED (go to formed.org, choose sign up, select I belong to a parish organization, type St. Michaels Parish, Sioux Falls and select, then give name and email. You will be able to log on and watch the above series.

Weekend of the Wedding rules:

- Wedding rehearsal date is set with the priest/deacon. Rehearsals should be no longer than one hour.
- Wedding license must be present at time of rehearsal.
- This is a good time for the couple to go to confession before getting married. (This is optional but strongly encouraged to fully enter into receiving the grace from the sacrament.)
A confession time should be set up with the priest.
- The latest wedding time is 1:30pm on Saturday but times are flexible for other days of the week.
Sunday is not allowed.
- Decorating must be approved by Ann Gooley, the Liturgist.
- Music must be approved by Ann Gooley, the Liturgist.
- **No** Drugs or Alcohol before the ceremony, if anyone in the wedding party is under the influence, they can explain to the bride why they are not allowed in the wedding party. If bride/groom or the 2 witnesses are under the influence, the ceremony **will** be delayed.
- **No** food, beverages, or gum allowed in the Nave before, during, or after the ceremony.
- **No** smoking in the church building or on any of the church's property.

- **No pranks or silly acts during the ceremony.**
- The Sacrament is a holy event, the procession is reverent, so all who process must be able to walk up on their own. Do not have toddlers in wagons, strollers, firetrucks, etc. being pulled up the aisle. If a toddler is unable to walk independently, then he/she may be carried.
- All decorations/wedding party personal objects must be removed from the building after the ceremony.
- **Don't pull a surprise on the clergy, tell him up front ideas you have and see if it is allowed. The pastor has full authority as to what can and can't be done.**

Wedding Fees (an envelope will be given to you at the first meeting)

The following fees help to defray some of the expenses of the parish for all wedding preparations: FOCCUS computer costs, trainings, handouts, books, and utilities for the wedding space. This fee schedule does include reception fees.

1. \$500.00 for non-parishioners, for hosting a wedding from another area or parish.
2. \$300.00 for no- or low- supporting parishioner (less than \$300.00 support/year)
3. \$175.00 for supporting parishioner (modest support of \$300.00 or more/year)
4. \$100.00 for just the marriage preparations when wedding is elsewhere.

Half of the amount which pertains above must be paid at the time of the scheduling the wedding and the remaining half before the day of the wedding rehearsal.

(The envelope states amounts.)

Reception Fees: If you desire to use our facility for the rehearsal dinner or reception, please call Pat Berg at 605-361-1600. She will go over the pricing.

We hope you find all the enclosed information helpful and this period of preparation fruitful in growing in deeper intimacy with each other. God bless you both.

Fr. Tom Hartman
Pastor of St. Michael's Parish

<p>Marriage Checklist for the couple:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mass/Service 2. Best Man & Maid of Honor 3. Music Selections 4. Accompanist 5. Cantor(s) 6. Select Readings 7. Readers 8. Ushers 9. Altar Servers 10. Gift Bearers 11. Wedding program 	<p>Documentation and Fees:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Baptismal Certificates 2. Payment of Parish Fees 3. State Marriage License <p>Preparation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Meetings with Priest. 2. Meeting with Music and Liturgy Director (Ann Gooley) 3. Online Foccus inventory 4. Engaged Encounter Weekend 5. Watch the recommended video series on Formed 6. Visit with Natural Family Planning
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