

Parish Policies

Your wedding coordinator will reach out to you at the start of the calendar year of your wedding date to make an introduction and answer any initial questions you may have. They will then continue to follow up with you as your wedding date approaches. If you questions earlier than that, please call the parish office.

Photography & Videography is welcome in our church during the ceremony. Picture taking without a flash or video without lights is permitted during the ceremony. Naturally, photographers are not permitted to enter the sanctuary space, or disrupt the ceremony. Please advise them of these policies. We recognize that photos are important, but should not distract from the ceremony.

Decorating: Flowers are more than welcome in the church. Flowers are not to be placed on any wood top or the altar. Flowers for the Blessed Mother will be placed on or near the kneeler. We would greatly appreciate if you remove flowers and vases from the church before leaving the building after the ceremony. The wedding party or florist is to consult with the parish wedding coordinator regarding the use and placement of flowers.

General policies:

- * Aisle runners are not permitted due to safety concerns.
- * Flower girls are not permitted to drop real flower petals when they are walking down the aisle. Fake petals can be used.
- * We do not permit the throwing of any substances (rice, bird seed, rose petals, confetti, etc.) at the church due to safety reasons. Bubbles and hand bells are allowed outside the church.
- * Clean-Up: Please leave the parish facilities as you found them. This is the responsibility of the wedding party. All items brought into the church, dressing area, kitchen, and parking lot need to be removed promptly at the end of the ceremony.
- * Alcohol and Tobacco are strictly forbidden in any parish facility (interior or exterior). Violation of this policy will result in the forfeiture of your deposit. Please make all in your wedding party aware of this policy.
- * Dressing area: A bridal room is available for the bride and her attendants.

- ***What are the offerings for the church?***

Church facility:

Parishioners\$200.00

Non-parishioners\$500.00

We kindly ask all couples to be responsible for insuring that the church facilities are left in the same condition as they were found. Please consider designating a family member or someone in the wedding party to walk through the facility to assure proper maintenance and that no items are left behind. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

The priest performing the ceremony generally receives a donation.

Altar Servers: The parish may obtain servers upon request. Stipends for servers are determined by the couple but something should be given.

Wedding Coordinators: The parish provides and requires wedding coordinators to assist couples in planning and be in attendance for the wedding rehearsal and ceremony. A fee of \$50 per hostess is requested.

Music:

Music and preparation includes conference with couple and organist. It is important to reserve your musicians as soon as possible. To arrange music at the wedding, please contact **Larry Harris** (Music Director), 630-841-0756 or music@skdmail.org.

Organist/Pianist: \$150.00

Soloist: \$150.00

Other Musicians: \$50.00—\$75.00

Available upon request

We request that all fees (facility and music), marriage license, and wedding program be delivered to the parish office one week prior to your wedding date.



UPDATED 8-18-2022

St. Katharine Drexel Guide for Your Wedding Preparation



ST. KATHARINE DREXEL CHURCH
85055 DUGAN ROAD
PO Box 1189
SUGAR GROVE, IL 60554
630-466-0303

COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Congratulations! You are engaged and considering marriage in the Catholic Church. The months preceding your wedding may be filled with hectic planning, financial concerns, and stressful decision-making. The faith community of St. Katharine Drexel will assist you as you prepare not only for the wedding celebration but for a lifelong commitment.

In choosing a church wedding you are expressing your Catholic faith. God's love for all people is faithful and everlasting. The sacrament of Christian Marriage reflects this love. Together, you will serve as reminders to the world of God's concern for and attention to humanity.

Commonly Asked Questions

What are our first steps?

You should answer these important questions:

- * Am I a Parishioner? A parishioner is someone who is a registered member of the parish.
- * Am I a practicing Catholic? A practicing Catholic joins his or her fellow parishioners for Sunday Eucharist on a weekly basis, has a mature understanding of the Catholic faith and participates in the life of the community.
- * Am I free to enter the Sacrament of Marriage? In order to be married in the Catholic Church, each party, whether Catholic or not, must be free to marry. If either of you have been married, whether civilly or in a church ceremony, you will need to have your marriage annulled by the Catholic Church. This needs to be discussed with the priest who is preparing you for marriage BEFORE any dates can be reserved.

What initiates the marriage preparation process?

You will need to call the parish office and schedule an appointment to meet with the Pastor at least eight months prior to your desired date. Nothing can be confirmed until this meeting has occurred.

How do we establish a time for our wedding?

Generally, weddings are held on Saturday afternoons (1:00 p.m. or 1:30 p.m.). Friday evenings are also an option after 3:00 p.m. For a Saturday wedding, all weddings and photographs must be completed prior to 3:30 p.m. Exceptions to this general policy can only be made by the Pastor. No weddings are celebrated on Sundays or during the season of Lent.

What happens at the initial interview with the Pastor?

The interview provides the priest and the couple an opportunity to get to know one another and to discuss any questions regarding the marriage preparation program. At that time you will also be given information about the parish pre-marriage program. You will also be required, by the Diocese of Rockford, to attend the Gift of Self Seminar. Dates and times, as well as online registration, for this seminar can be found on the diocesan website; <http://www.rockforddiocese.org/life/>

Visiting Clergy

When initially arranging a wedding, the names, addresses and phone numbers of any clergy who will assist with the wedding must be provided to the parish. All clergy must be approved by the diocese, as well as submit a letter of good standing from his own diocese, and be given specific permission/delegation by the pastor in order to witness the wedding.

Planning the Ceremony

You will plan the ceremony, together with the priest who will witness your marriage. We recommend a Nuptial Mass for couples who have been practicing their faith regularly. Otherwise, we recommend a simple wedding ceremony, especially for interfaith marriages. We will assist you with all the liturgical details of your wedding. The Church encourages all couples to take their wedding planning seriously. The active involvement of the couple in the planning as well as the celebration of the wedding itself is important. Please schedule an appointment to finalize your ceremony with the priest witnessing your marriage before printing your programs.

What documents do we need to provide?

1. A newly issued baptismal certificate from the parish of baptism issued no earlier than six months prior to the wedding. All other sacramental information should be notated on the certificate. If the parish of baptism does not have record of confirmation, please contact the parish of confirmation for a current certificate.
2. If one party is non-Catholic, it will be required of the Catholic party to sign a document promising that the children will be raised Catholic as prescribed by the Code of Canon Law 1136.
3. Witness affidavits will be required as requested by the Pastor.
4. A civil marriage license must be obtained from the county where the church is located (*St. Katharine Drexel is located in Kane County*) and is only valid for 60 days. Please provide this document one week before your wedding date.
5. Other documents may be needed.

How do we select music for our ceremony?

When you meet with the Pastor or priest celebrating your marriage liturgy, you will receive a white folder of information. Enclosed in this folder will be a list of music that is more commonly selected for Catholic wedding Masses/ceremonies. If you need to hear any of these selections, visit the parish website under the sacraments tab for a .pdf attachment with links to YouTube© video recordings. <https://www.stkatharinedrexel.org/sacraments/marriage/>

The Wedding Rehearsal

Rehearsals are generally held the evening before the wedding. Punctuality is very important; please arrive 15 minutes early. The rehearsal will begin promptly at the agreed time with members of the wedding party that are present and dressed in appropriate attire. Conduct during rehearsal should be reverent with a respectful attitude by all. Please designate someone to attend to children.