

## **CHURCH OF ST. GENEVIEVE**

### **Preparation for a Christian Marriage**

**Congratulations on the announcement of your marriage! We welcome you as you prepare to be married at the Church of St. Genevieve. Several people in our parish community will be working with you during your pre-marriage preparation and liturgy planning. The enclosed materials explain our process of preparation, as well as fees and other information you will need to know.**

**You are undertaking a special vocation in the Christian Community, and your wedding is a public celebration of worship in the Church. The parish Sunday Liturgy is the model of all worship in this Community, and so we encourage you to become familiar with the liturgies at St. Genevieve's.**

**As bride and groom, you are the ministers and recipients of the sacrament, which is celebrated with an invited assembly who have gathered to pray with and for you. This celebration includes elements of word, music, gesture and ritual. A spirit of Christian prayer is essential in all elements of the liturgy.**

**The primary symbol in the marriage rite is the exchange of promises. Thus, other symbols are to be of secondary significance. There are many wedding traditions both sacred and secular. We will offer you more insight into these traditions as you plan your wedding liturgy. The wedding liturgy is to express your Christian faith and your commitment to God and to each other.**

**You are in our prayers as you journey together in Christ.**

# CHURCH OF ST. GENEVIEVE

## Preparation for a Christian Marriage

**Wedding Coordinators:** Anne Sievers 651-269-5789  
Melissa Montgomery 763-438-1664

**Wedding Music Coordinator:** Betsy Sandstrom, Accompanist 651-433-3955

### REQUIREMENTS FOR MARRIAGE PREPARATION

- \_\_\_\_\_ Registered member of Church of St. Genevieve (either bride or groom)
- \_\_\_\_\_ You should contact the Parish Office (651-429-7937) at least six months prior to your wedding and make an appointment to meet with the pastor or deacon, who will set the date for the wedding, and go over any necessary paperwork. A second meeting with the pastor or deacon, a month before the wedding is also required.
- \_\_\_\_\_ After you have met with the pastor or deacon to set the date for your wedding, you will receive a call from a Prepare coordinator to set up arrangements to participate in the PREPARE pre-marriage inventory program, and an email from Prepare to complete the pre-marriage assessment.
- \_\_\_\_\_ You are also required to participate in an Engaged Couples Course or weekend experience. Please visit [www.stgens.org](http://www.stgens.org) for more information about this requirement
- \_\_\_\_\_ Bring certificate of completion of the Engaged Couples Course to the parish office for a Reduce Fee Marriage License statement.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Make application for your marriage license at least one month prior to the wedding date, **and** bring marriage license to the wedding rehearsal.
- \_\_\_\_\_ A copy of your Certificate of Baptism must be obtained from the church where you were baptized, within six months prior to your wedding date, and delivered to the St. Genevieve Parish Office.

### REQUIREMENTS FOR THE WEDDING CEREMONY

- \_\_\_\_\_ Contact the Wedding Music Coordinator, Betsy Sandstrom, accompanist at the Church of St. Genevieve, at 651-433-3955, after your date is secured, but **before** you begin your liturgy planning, so that expectations can be handled clearly and cooperatively from the beginning of your planning.
- \_\_\_\_\_ St. Genevieve's Wedding Coordinator will contact you once your wedding date has been scheduled, to set up a meeting to review the details for the wedding liturgy, the rehearsal, and the wedding itself. You will be given printed materials for use in planning your wedding liturgy. **Your rehearsal date and time must be scheduled with the Wedding Coordinator as soon as possible.**
- \_\_\_\_\_ Weddings at St. Genevieve's are scheduled at the following times:  
Fridays time negotiable  
Saturdays 2:00 pm
- \_\_\_\_\_ The fee for a wedding at St. Genevieve's is \$500. Please make check payable to St. Genevieve's as follows:
  - \$300.00 Due when wedding date is set to secure the date
  - \$200.00 Due 2 weeks prior to wedding

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### Music Guidelines For Liturgies of Christian Marriage

To begin the wedding music planning process, you must call the Wedding Music Coordinator, Betsy Sandstrom, accompanist at the Church of St. Genevieve, at 651-433-3955.

We recommend our parish hymnal, **Gather**, serve as the music resource for hymns and psalms selected for use at weddings. Our accompanist will help you choose a cantor/soloist from our list of cantors.

The Wedding Music Coordinator will help you make selections based on the above criteria. Any song you choose that the Music Coordinator approves but does not know will require extra preparation time. You may incur any fees associated with that extra time.

Because of the importance of music in the wedding liturgy, all music to be used must be approved by the Wedding Music Coordinator.

NOTE: The use of musicians outside our Parish must be approved by the Wedding Music Coordinator.

#### Selecting Musicians

At a minimum, you will need an organist/pianist and a cantor for your wedding liturgy. Because strong musical leadership, as well as familiarity with our parish liturgical ritual, is essential to lead the assembly in hymns, songs, and psalms, we require the use of our accompanist at all wedding liturgies.

Other singers and instrumentalists with liturgical music experience may be invited to assist with the wedding music, after consultation with the Wedding Music Coordinator.

The fees for other musicians, if any, will be incurred by the couple.

CHURCH OF ST. GENEVIEVE  
INSTRUCTIONS FOR USHERS AT WEDDINGS

1. Ushers should arrive at the Church at least an hour before the wedding ceremony.  
If pictures are to be taken beforehand, be sure everyone in the wedding party is aware of the photography schedule.
2. Unless otherwise instructed, ushers should use the center aisle.
3. The Wedding Coordinator will indicate when general seating should cease, prior to the Procession, so the following duties can occur:
  - Usher in the groom's grandparents and/or immediate family, seating them in the designated pew(s) on the right. Please consult with groom's family on this matter.
  - Usher in the bride's grandparents and/or immediate family, seating them in the designated pew(s) on the left. Please consult with bride's family on this matter.

**UNLESS THE PARENTS ARE ESCORTING THE BRIDEGROOM**, the following applies:

The groom escorts his mother, seating her in the second pew on the right, just behind the groomsmen's pew.

Next, an usher escorts the bride's mother, seating her in the second pew on the left, just behind the bridesmaids' pew.

During the seating of family, one usher should be leading latecomers to the appropriate side aisle and asking them to seat themselves.

After all seating is completed, if ushers are to go forward, they should line up at designated places. If ushers are not going forward, they should stand near the rear of the church to help guests during the ceremony if needed.

After the Recessional, the bride's mother and father depart down the center aisle, followed by the groom's mother and father.

After the immediate families have left their pews, ushers should assist the guests as they leave their pews. If there is to be a receiving line at the church, the ushers should allow time for the line to form.

#### ST. GENEVIEVE WEDDING GUIDELINES:

Aisle runners and flower petals are not allowed

Alcohol is not allowed on church property

Smoking is not permitted on church property

Rice, confetti, or birdseed cannot be thrown on inside or outside church

Bubbles may be used outside

Please advise guests with cameras to not take pictures using flash during ceremony

Ushers may not decorate wedding party cars during wedding ceremony

#### FLOWER AND CANDLE GUIDELINES:

No pew bows, candles, or other pew décor may be used

Unity candle is allowed, provided by couple

#### PHOTOGRAPHY GUIDELINES:

We encourage you to take photos 30 minutes before the ceremony. Photos taken after the ceremony must be completed so the church can be cleaned and vacated by 3:15 pm

#### WEDDING CONSULTANTS:

Many couples hire wedding consultants. Please remember any activities planned within the church must be cleared with the Wedding Coordinator.

**Wedding party is responsible for cleaning parish hall and church before leaving.**