

Frequently Asked Questions

For a complete explanation of specific policies of the Catholic Church, the Diocese of Charleston, and St. Joseph Church, please consult our Wedding Guidelines, available at the following link: *(insert website link for Wedding Guidelines)*.

When should we contact the church to schedule our wedding?

Couples should contact St. Joseph Church **6–12 months before their desired wedding date**. Your first meeting with a priest or deacon must take place **before making any other wedding arrangements**.

When are weddings scheduled?

Weddings at St. Joseph Church are typically scheduled at the following times:

- **Fridays:** No later than **6:30 PM**
- **Saturdays:** No Later than **1:00pm** for a Nuptial Mass **and 2:00pm** for a ceremony outside Mass.

Weddings are **not scheduled on Sundays** and during **certain Liturgical Seasons**.

When is the Wedding Rehearsal held?

Rehearsals are usually held **the evening before the wedding at 5:00 PM** and last about **one hour**. All members of the wedding party should attend and arrive on time. Please note that time cannot be extended because of late arrivals.

Do we have to be parishioners to get married at St. Joseph?

Priority is given to **registered and active parishioners**.

Active parishioners' status is defined below:

- Are registered members of the parish
- Regularly attend Mass

- Support the parish and participate in parish life
- Couples who are not parishioners may still request a wedding at St. Joseph but must meet additional requirements.

What is the wedding fee?

- **Active Parishioners:** \$2,000
- **Non-Members / Non-Active Parishioners:** \$2,500

This fee includes the officiant, wedding coordinators, altar servers, organist, cantor, altar flowers, and use of the bride's room before the ceremony.

A *non-refundable* deposit of \$250 is required with the **Wedding Agreement Form** to secure your wedding date at St. Joseph Church.

How many people can be in the wedding party?

The wedding party is limited to **seven attendants on each side**, including the maid/matron of honor and best man.

Can we bring our own musicians?

All musicians must be arranged through the **St. Joseph Music Ministry**. Only **sacred music** is permitted during the ceremony. Recorded music and privately hired musicians are not allowed.

Are there guidelines for decoration?

Yes. To protect the church:

- **Flower petals, confetti, rice, bubbles, and birdseed are not allowed.**
- Decorations may not damage the pews or church furnishings.
- Altar flowers are provided by the parish's designated vendor.

Are there photography guidelines?

Yes. Photographers and videographers must respect the sacred nature of the ceremony.

- Flash photography is not allowed during the ceremony.
- Photographers must remain in designated areas.
- Formal photos after the ceremony are limited to **30 minutes**.
- **Please see our Wedding Guidelines for complete photography explanation.**

How many guests can the church accommodate?

The church can seat approximately **350 guests**.

Does the church provide dressing rooms?

A **bride's room** is available for 2 hours before the ceremony.

There are **no dressing rooms for the groom or groomsmen**.