

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.

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 **400 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**.