

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT GETTING MARRIED AT ST. MICHAEL'S.

- ***Do I need to be a parishioner to marry at the Church of St. Michael?***

Not necessarily. If at least one of your parents or grandparents is a registered and active parishioner at St. Michael's (Stillwater) or St. Mary's (Stillwater), then you will be treated as a parishioner.

NOTE: *Couples who are not registered members of the Church of St. Michael and have recently moved to the Stillwater area should join the parish. You will need to be an active, participating member for six months before a wedding request can be completed. After 6 months of active membership, you may proceed with requesting a wedding.* As our resources are limited, we are unable to provide weddings to non-parishioners who have chosen Stillwater as their reception venue.

- ***What is the cost of marrying at the Church of Saint Michael?***

The wedding fee is \$1000 for parishioners or couples whose parents are parishioners. This includes a \$100 (non-refundable) deposit due at the time your wedding date is entered on our parish calendar and *this can be given the priest/deacon at your initial meeting.* You will receive an invoice for this deposit. (Final payment is due at least 60 days before your wedding date) This fee includes the costs associated with the use of the church, PREPARE/FOCCUS marriage preparation materials, the parish cantor and parish organist/pianist, as well as the wedding assistant on site at the rehearsal and day of the wedding. There may be other fees associated with your marriage preparation, such as attendance at an engaged couple weekend, Natural Family Planning courses, etc.

- ***Can we complete our marriage preparation elsewhere?***

Since circumstances vary from couple to couple all questions pertaining to Marriage Preparation taking place at another parish should be discussed directly with one of our priests. Please complete our Wedding Request Form online. Upon receipt you will be contacted to set up an initial meeting.

At that time all questions will be answered regarding your Marriage Preparation.

Military couples, or those living or working a long distance away from each other, may need special pastoral attention and referral to pastoral support in another location. In addition to attention and support that may be received in other dioceses, such couples are to have at least one meeting with the priest or deacon who will witness their marriage, and are to complete a marriage preparation program prior to their wedding.

- ***When should we start planning our wedding at St. Michael's?***

An engaged couple should begin formal preparation for sacramental marriage at least six months before their wedding date, and complete their preparation well in advance of (preferably three months before) their wedding. (Archdiocese Common Marriage Preparation Procedure, October 15, 2006; ¶ 1)

We recommend that you begin one full year before your wedding date as there are many components of marriage preparation to consider. (Attendance at an Engaged Weekend, Natural Family Planning courses, meeting times with your priest/deacon, meeting time with your mentor couple, etc.)

- ***What is the first step?***

Marriage Preparation begins with filling out our Wedding Request Form. Upon receipt of the completed form you will be contacted to set up your initial meeting with a priest. Available wedding dates are not given out over the phone as so much depends on the couple's freedom to marry.