



MARRIAGE

Sacrament & Celebration

Saint Peter's Catholic Church

COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

St. Paul, in his Letter to the Ephesians, instructs a Christian husband and wife to love and respect each other in such a way that all may see in their marriage the love of Christ for His Church. Guided by this instruction, Saint Peter's Parish wishes to assist you in building a marriage characterized by love, faith, maturity, and social responsibility. We offer the following procedures and guidelines, required by the Diocese of Charleston and according to the rich traditions of our parish, to prepare you for this most holy sacrament.

**Monsignor Leigh Lehocky, Pastor
Saint Peter's Catholic Church
Established 1821
Diocese of Charleston
City of Columbia, South Carolina**

**26 July 2010
LL/mh**

Who is eligible to be married at Saint Peter's?

Single persons (and divorced persons whose annulment is final) may be married at Saint Peter's if either one of the couple is:

- a registered, contributing parishioner of Saint Peter's Church
- a Roman Catholic currently registered with another Catholic parish with written permission from his or her pastor
- a catechumen or a candidate who will be confirmed Catholic before the wedding date

If you would like to learn more about becoming a Catholic, contact the **Director of RCIA** through our parish website at <http://www.visitstpeters.org/Christian%20Formation/rcia.htm>

If you have any questions not addressed here, call the **Parish Office** at 803.779.0036.

When do you start?

A couple desiring to be married at Saint Peter's Church should begin marriage preparation at least six months prior to a desired wedding date.

Who are the personnel involved in wedding planning?

First, contact the **Parish Office** at 803.779.0036 to determine your eligibility for marriage at Saint Peter's. After eligibility has been verified, you will be directed to the **Marriage Preparation Coordinator**, who will answer your initial questions and schedule a meeting to begin your marriage preparation at Saint Peter's. Other church staff that will be part of your marriage preparation are the **Church's Witness** (Priest or Deacon), the **Wedding Coordinator**, and the **Music Director**.

What if one of the couple has been married before?

Contact the **Parish Office** at 803.779.0036 for information on how to begin the annulment process. Saint Peter's will work with you to see what is possible.

What is the marriage preparation process?

At your first meeting with the **Marriage Preparation Coordinator** you will discuss marriage as a sacrament and the importance of prayer in married life, as well as a review of paperwork and program attendance requirements. Other steps include:

- Attendance at a workshop or retreat for engaged couples (or a similar Catholic program elsewhere)
- Counseling with the **Church's Witness** (priest or deacon)
- Consultation with the parish **Music Director**
- Planning and rehearsal arrangements with the **Wedding Coordinator**

Both the bride and the groom are expected to fully and equally participate in the entire preparation process.

What documents are required for a wedding at Saint Peter's?

If you are a Catholic, you will need a RECENT copy of a **baptismal certificate** [one issued within six months of your wedding], obtained from the parish where your baptism took place. If you are a non-Catholic, baptized Christian, you may provide us with a copy of a baptismal certificate or a letter on church stationery from your church of Baptism verifying your baptism including the date. Other required documentation will be discussed during the first meeting of marriage preparation.

You will also need a **marriage license**, obtained at any South Carolina court house. To apply for a marriage license you will need a photo ID and proof of a Social Security number. There is a 24 hour waiting period before obtaining the marriage license. Your marriage license is required to be given to the **Wedding Coordinator** at the wedding rehearsal.

Is the Wedding celebrated within or outside a Mass?

Traditionally, when two Catholics marry, the wedding takes place during a Nuptial Mass. When either the bride or the groom is not Catholic, the marriage is normally celebrated outside of Mass. Your wedding ceremony will be celebrated with the greatest dignity, beauty, and holiness, whether within or outside the context of Mass.

How is the date set for a wedding at Saint Peter's?

The **Marriage Preparation Coordinator** is responsible for setting the date and time of the wedding. **Weddings at Saint Peter's are celebrated Saturdays at 11 AM or 2:30 PM**, except near the following holidays: New Year's Day, Holy Week, Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. The rehearsal takes place the afternoon or evening before the Wedding under the direction of the **Wedding Coordinator**.

Is the Church Hall available for receptions?

The Cardinal Bernardin Center has a gourmet, industrial kitchen located between an elegant social hall (Neglia Hall), and an informal dining refectory (Gibson Hall). Details on facility rental may be found at www.visitstpeters.org or directly at <http://visitstpeters.org/CBCRULES1.pdf>

Who provides music for the wedding ceremony?

The parish's **Music Director** will assist you in planning this important component of your wedding. E-mail him at Liturgy@visitstpeters.org to begin the discussion on the many options for music to be sung and played. Visit <http://www.youtube.com/visitstpeters> and search under "wedding" to see live examples from previous weddings.

What is involved with producing a printed program?

A template for the **Order of Worship** (in Word and PDF formats), containing the liturgical semantics and music listings for your wedding, is provided by the **Music Director**. It is the responsibility of the couple to produce the final edit and copies of the printed Order of Worship for distribution at the wedding.

Etiquette and hospitality to all who gather

Since the wedding is a liturgy of the Church, please keep in mind that all present need to be able to fully participate in the rite. Your choice of readings and liturgical music should help those present to enter into the celebration, even if most of the assembly for your wedding is not Catholic.

The behavior of the wedding party and guests should reflect the beauty and dignity of the Body of Christ. That being said, **the recreational use of alcohol or drugs will not be tolerated while on church property**. Those who abuse them will be escorted from the premises, and the authorities will be contacted.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE LITURGY

The Congregation (*Assembly*)

The entire Church, both in heaven and on earth, gathers with those present to worship God and celebrate the gift of your marriage. The Church desires that all the faithful should be led to full, active, and conscious participation in the liturgy. There are no spectators in Catholic liturgy.

The Couple

In the Roman Catholic Church the bride and the groom are the ministers of the sacrament of marriage since they give themselves to each other in marriage. Since the principal focus is on you, the couple, your participation in the liturgy will influence how others participate. If the assembly sees you actively engaged in the liturgy, they will feel invited to join as well.

The Church's Witness (Priest *or* Deacon)

The pastor of Saint Peter's Catholic Church is responsible for all sacramental celebrations that take place in the parish. He may delegate this authority to other priests or deacons who hold the required faculties. The Church's Witness will lead the assembly through the Rite of Marriage.

The Lay Witnesses

Though the entire assembly witnesses your marriage, three people have a special role in witnessing for civil and Church records. The Priest or Deacon is the Church's official witness.

In addition, the Best Man and the Maid/Matron of Honor fulfill a requirement that two other individuals formally attest that the wedding took place. They do not have to be Catholic or even baptized to fulfill this role in the wedding ceremony.

PLANNING FOR THE WEDDING

Cross Bearer (*Crucifer*)

Since all weddings occur within the liturgy of the Church, it is appropriate that it begin with a procession led by a crucifer. The crucifer is normally a family member or friend. A crucifer provided by Saint Peter's may serve in this capacity instead. At a Nuptial Mass an altar server is required. The Wedding Coordinator will assist you in this endeavor.

Readers (*Lectors*)

The readers help proclaim the Word of God during your wedding. People you choose read the first and second readings. The Readers need to be present at the wedding rehearsal.

Musicians

The **Music Director** is the organist for all weddings at Saint Peter's, and subcontracts all professional vocal and instrumental soloists, our Gallery Choir, or our Contemporary Ensemble using piano and guitar. Visit www.youtube.com/visitstpeters and search for "wedding" to sample appropriate sacred musical repertory. **The Music Director must approve any and all visiting soloists and instrumentalists, beginning with the submission of a current performance vitae and audio file.**

Gift Bearers

At a Nuptial Mass two or three persons are needed to present the bread and wine for the Sacrifice of the Mass.

Eucharistic Ministers

At a Nuptial Mass one or two Eucharistic Ministers are needed to offer the cup at Holy Communion. It is important that you choose Catholics commissioned for this ministry in their Catholic parishes. The number needed will depend upon the expected size of the assembly.

Ring Bearers and Flower Girls

While not required, young children are often invited to serve as ring bearers and flower girls. Please give careful consideration to the maturity of children chosen for these roles.

Furnishings

Saint Peter's Church will provide all necessary liturgical furnishings needed for the Wedding Liturgy. Only candles and candlesticks provided by Saint Peter's are permitted. Unity candles, bridal portraits, guest registries, and saber arches are not permitted within the Sacred Liturgy.

The altar, ambo, and baptismal font are permanently affixed, as is most of the church's seating for approximately 450 people. There are 7 rows of pews in each transept on either side of the altar, and 16 rows of pews in four sections in the nave facing the altar.

For safety reasons aisle runners may not be used.

Photography

- Professional photographers are guests of Saint Peter's Church and must conduct themselves in accordance with church policy as administered by the Wedding Coordinator (on the Nave floor) and Music Director (in the Gallery). Lack of cooperation will result in immediate loss of photographic privileges.
- The church is open 90 minutes before the wedding. Pre-ceremony photography must be completed 30 minutes prior to the ceremony, under the supervision of the Wedding Coordinator.
- Photographers need to consult the Music Director before setting up any stationary equipment in the Gallery, as this is the principal workspace for all the musicians. All photographic equipment in the Gallery must be in place 30 minutes before the wedding and not set up during the organ or instrumental prelude.
- Photographers should not interfere with the movement of the processions.
- Photographers in the Gallery must neither physically, visibly, nor audibly interfere with any musicians present.

- Use of flash photography is prohibited during the ceremony, as are any audible camera noises.
- Photographers may take posed pictures after the ceremony as long as it does not interfere with another scheduled church event. These poses must be appropriate to a sacred space.
- Photographers and their cameras and/or video recorders must not interfere with the liturgy.
- Arrangements should not be taller than 36" from the floor. They should be round since they will be seen from all sides. They should be placed so as to not block the visibility or action of the Liturgy. They should not be so wide that they block access to the altar or the aisles.
- It is customary to leave these aforementioned floral arrangements in the church as offerings to the honor and glory of God. You may also wish to leave your flowers in memory or honor of your loved ones. Please notify the church office so that suitable mention of this may be printed in the church bulletin.

- **Rice, birdseed, confetti, petals, or bubbles are not permitted inside or outside the church as the couple leaves.**

Flowers

- **Saint Peter's only provides flowers two weekends after Christmas and the week after Easter and at no other times.** Understated floral offerings are appropriate during the seasons of Advent and Lent. The flowers already provided by the church for Christmas and Easter are likely sufficient without additional arrangements.
- All arrangements are to be live and must be supplied by the wedding party. Flowers are to arrive 90 minutes before the wedding.
- Due to the historic and ornate Gothic architecture of our church, two large floral arrangements may be used in the Narthex (entrance) of the Church, placed on pedestals, or in floor brass containers provided by Saint Peter's Church.
- Pew markers of flowers, ribbons, or greens attached with rubber bands or ribbons may be used. **Neither tape nor wire is permitted on our historic wooden pews.** Flowers, greenery, or netting may be placed on the railing outside the church or on the door.

THE DAY OF THE WEDDING

The church is opened 90 minutes before the time of the wedding in order to accommodate flower delivery, photographers, and other preparations.

Handicapped parking is available on Assembly Street. There are two handicap-accessible ramps: on the south side of the church and at the Assembly Street entrance of the Cardinal Bernardin Center.

Parking is available in the school parking lot off Hampton and Park Streets; street parking is available on Taylor and Assembly Streets.

Smoking and alcoholic beverages are not permitted in any of the buildings. The recreational use of drugs or alcohol will not be tolerated; intoxicated persons will be removed from the premises.

The Bride's Room is offered for your convenience. Please do not bring food or drink of any kind into the room. Hand steamers may be used but no irons.

SCHEDULE OF FEES

Payment should be made at the church office TWO WEEKS (14 days) prior to the night of the rehearsal. Failure to do this will put the wedding “on hold.”

Use of the Church

Registered, contributing parishioner.....\$500

Non-parishioner.....\$1000

\$250 deposit to secure wedding date
balance due two weeks before the wedding

Use of Neglia or Gibson Hall.....*as contracted*

Priest or Deacon

*No fee is required.
A voluntary offering is appreciated.*

Wedding Coordinator\$250

Music Director/Organist\$250

Cantor (Vocalist)\$125 each

Instrumentalists or Choirconsult Music Director

Sacristan\$100

Altar Server/Cross Bearer\$30

There is a \$100 fee to *Saint Peter's Church* for couples meeting with the **Marriage Preparation Coordinator** when their wedding is not celebrated at Saint Peter's Church.

A reminder letter and e-mail will be sent from Saint Peter's Church with a listing of each party to whom each fee is due.

Saint Peter's Catholic Church

Established 1821 in the Diocese of Charleston

1529 Assembly Street

Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Telephone: 803.779.0036 Facsimile: 803.799.2438

www.visitstpeters.org

www.youtube.com/visitstpeters