

Guidelines for Weddings at St. Leo' the Great Catholic Church

Wedding Times: There are no "set" wedding times. However, the wedding should not interfere with the usual schedule of Masses at the church. The time will be worked out with the couple and the pastor. ***No weddings are allowed on Sundays, Holy Days of Obligation or during the seasons of Advent or Lent.***

Visiting Ministers: Visiting ministers are welcome to participate in the ceremony. The priest should be told at the first meeting with the couple if there is to be a visiting minister.

The church is the "House of God," a place of worship. Please conduct yourselves accordingly and ask the members of the wedding party to do the same.

(The following guidelines concern the use of the church itself)

Food and Drink: ***No food or drinks are allowed within the church at any time!***
This includes chewing gum.

Attendants: Because of the limited space in the front of the church, attendants are limited to four each. That is four bridesmaids and four groomsmen. This includes the best man and the maid/matron of honor.

Flowers: It is expected that the flowers will remain in the church for the weekend Masses. The sanctuary is small therefore no flowers should block the free flow of the minister(s) and the couple in the sanctuary.

Candles: Candelabra may be used, but "drip-less" candles should be in them to avoid the wax falling on the carpet.

Pictures: The church will be opened two (2) hours prior to the wedding and will remain open for one-half-hour after the wedding. All pictures should be completed during his time. During the ceremony, the photographer should not impede the flow of the ceremony (i.e. stopping the couple from walking down the aisle so a picture may be taken). "Staged" pictures may be taken before or after the ceremony.

Church Furniture: Nothing may be moved without the permission of the pastor. No church property may be removed from the grounds, i.e. altar server robes, candelabra, etc.

Music: You are asked to contact the Organist immediately. He will discuss appropriate music for your wedding with you. **If you wish to have someone else play at the wedding, they must contact the priest in order to discuss the appropriate music.** Certain music is not appropriate at a wedding ceremony. The wedding is a sacramental event and should be treated as such by those involved. Pre-recorded music is not allowed.

Use of the Parish Hall: You are welcome to use the parish hall for your reception. Please see the St. Leo Facility Rental policy for costs.

Throwing Rice: Please do not throw rice anywhere on the church property. You may use birdseed or bubbles instead.

Clean-up: In the event of a Saturday wedding, the wedding party or family of is responsible for blowing out all candles, removing extra chairs, getting the church ready for Saturday evening Mass. **Be sure to appoint someone for this responsibility.** Lock the sacristy and church doors when leaving.

Wedding Fees:

Organist: Basic fee of \$250. If extra music is requested or accompaniment for soloists required, then it will be adjusted accordingly.

Altar servers: If the church provides altar servers for the ceremony, it is appropriate to give them \$25 each.

Priest: It is appropriate to give the priest a gift in thanks for the time he has invested in the ceremony and the wedding preparation. It should be in proportion to the time spent with the couple and the size of the wedding party.

Church Facility: A facility fee is required to reserve the church. Please see the St. Leo Facility Rental policy for costs.