

*Kokomo Pastorate*  
*St. Joan of Arc & St. Patrick*

**St. Joan of Arc**  
3155 S—200 W  
Kokomo, IN 46902  
765-865-9964

**St. Patrick**  
1204 N. Armstrong  
Kokomo, IN 46901  
765-452-6021



*Kokomo Pastorate*  
*St. Joan of Arc & St. Patrick*  
*Wedding Guidelines Booklet*



Dear Newly Engaged Couple,

On behalf of the Kokomo Pastorate including St Patrick and St. Joan of Arc Catholic Churches, the clergy and staff wish to congratulate you on your upcoming wedding and marriage and express our joy and excitement as we begin accompanying you in the months leading up to your wedding. While there are many practical preparations that must be made for your wedding day, our goal is to help prepare you to be faithful to the sacrament you will receive on that day; which you will be asked to live for the rest of your lives. By being faithful in your love for one another, not only will you help each other on your journey to heaven, but you will also be a sign for the Church of the very love that Christ has for each one of us. This booklet is presented to you in order to help guide you through the process of marriage preparation. Please know you will be in our prayers as you continue your faith journey, and begin this new phase in your life. May God continue to increase your love and bless you with a meaningful wedding and a joyous married life.

**3 Months Prior to the Wedding:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ We have completed our required Pre-Cana Program.
- \_\_\_\_\_ We have contacted the music director in order to secure musicians for our wedding.
- \_\_\_\_\_ We have met with the Priest and completed our marriage preparation/formation.
- \_\_\_\_\_ We have reviewed all guidelines with our photographer, wedding party, and all individuals involved with the wedding.

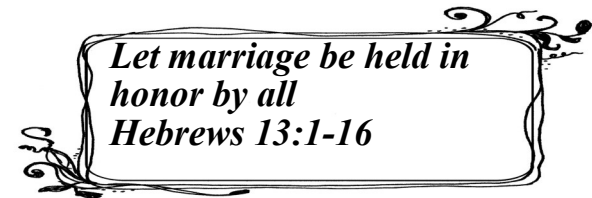
**1 Month Prior to the Wedding:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ We have obtained our wedding license from the Clerk’s Office of the City/County Building and will bring it to the church office 1 week prior to the wedding.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **We understand that the wedding cannot take place without the marriage license.**
- \_\_\_\_\_ We have turned in the readings and prayers to the priest or wedding facilitator one month prior to the wedding date.
- \_\_\_\_\_ We have provided the celebrant/wedding facilitator with the names of the Reader(s) one month prior to wedding date.
- \_\_\_\_\_ We have confirmed the rehearsal date and time.
- \_\_\_\_\_ We have an adult responsible for removing all decorations after the ceremony.



**Are you registered at St. Patrick or St. Joan of Arc?**

As a general principle and rule, according to Church Law, members of the Faith are to be married in the church of the parish to which one of the parties has official registration. All Catholics 18 years of age or older are to have their own parish affiliation separate from their parents. Correspondingly, only registered members of St. Patrick or St. Joan of Arc Parish are to celebrate their wedding in our pastorate churches. **An individual and/or couple need to be fully registered member(s) at least three (3) months** before marriage preparation can begin.



# Marriage Preparation Checklist

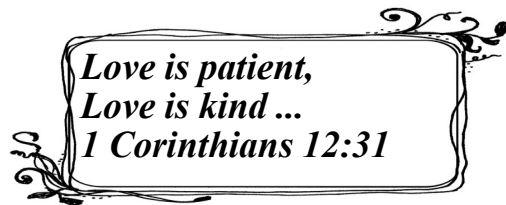
## These items have been completed...

### 9 Months - 1 Year Prior to the Wedding:

- \_\_\_\_\_ We have read and understand the contents of this marriage preparation booklet.
- \_\_\_\_\_ We have read and understand the Common Policy for Marriage Preparation for the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana included in this brochure.
- \_\_\_\_\_ We have completed our initial meeting with the priest, taken our FOCCUS inventory and secured permission for the date to be set.
- \_\_\_\_\_ We have met with the Wedding Facilitator and made preparations for the wedding day.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Our wedding date and time have officially been entered on the parish calendar.
- \_\_\_\_\_ If able, the parish donation has been paid through the Parish Office.

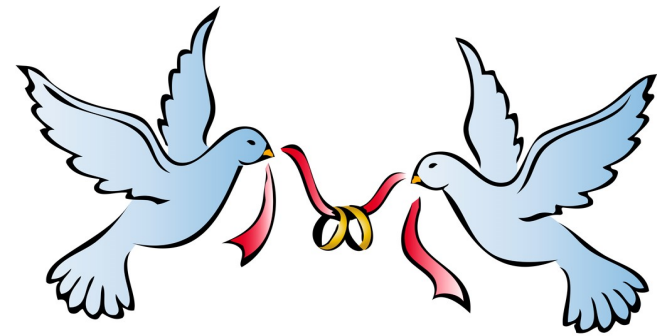
### 5-6 Months Prior to the Wedding:

- \_\_\_\_\_ We have begun the process of regular meetings with the priest.
- \_\_\_\_\_ We have registered for Pre-Cana.
- \_\_\_\_\_ We have obtained the necessary documents (Baptismal, Confirmation, affidavits, etc.).



## Prayer for engaged couples

*Heavenly Father,  
In your great love, you have established marriage as a blessing and grace for your people. Bless and assist those who are preparing to enter into Holy Matrimony. Increase their love for You, our God, with each other and with their family and friends. May they rejoice in that love. Give them your wisdom and patience during good times and bad, in sickness and in health. Give them reassurance in times of doubt. And give them your joy as the time of their wedding draws near and throughout their marriage. May the prayerful intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the bridal guest at Cana, and all the other saints of heaven be theirs all the days of their lives.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, Our Lord.  
Amen.*



## *Where to begin*



Preparing for the joy of married life is a process that takes time. The process here at our parish will include the following:

- \* An initial meeting with one of our priests. It is important to set up this meeting to discuss your intention to get married in the Catholic Church as soon as possible to get the process started.
- A date can be set after the first meeting with the priest.
- \* We highly recommend that you meet with our Priest at least 9 months before your desired wedding date, and if at all possible, contact us at least a year in advance. **The wedding date will be tentative until this meeting takes place. Keep in mind that there may be various reasons why the church may not be available.**
- \* A meeting with our Wedding Facilitator to help you prepare for your wedding. She will contact you shortly after setting the wedding date.
- \* Participation in our Marriage Preparation process takes at least 6 months.
- \* There will be a wedding rehearsal the day before the wedding. The wedding rehearsal typically begins at 5:00, 5:30 or 6:00 pm.

## *Special Guidelines for Weddings Taking Place During Advent or Lent*

While the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana does allow weddings during the liturgical seasons of Advent (4 weeks leading to Christmas) and Lent (6 weeks leading to Easter), there are special guidelines that must be followed regarding the physical environment and sacred music during these seasons, per the General Instructions of the Roman Missal. The priest who is preparing you for marriage will give you more instruction if you choose to be married during these seasons.



*Wedding is a day,  
Marriage is a lifetime*

## Guidelines for the Environment

Only very simple decorations are needed since a church wedding is a prayerful and reverent ceremony; it is not a social affair. Liturgical season decorations provide the environment for weddings that occur during those liturgical seasons and are not removed for a wedding.

- Unity Candles are not part of the Catholic Rite of Marriage.
- No wire, glue, tape or tacks may be used to attach flowers or ribbons to pews. We suggest using ribbon or tulle.
- At St. Patrick there are 23 pews on each side of the church and at St. Joan of Arc there are 25 total pews off of the center aisle.
- A podium is available for the guest book.
- Due to safety precautions, aisle runners are not permitted.
- Only bubbles are allowed for the send off of the couple.
- Silk flower petals are permitted for the aisle.
- Men should arrive at the church already dressed in their wedding attire. At St. Patrick dressing facilities for the bride and her attendants are available in the Parish Hall. At St. Joan of Arc dressing facilities are in a room off the cafeteria.
- Due to the time constraints, neither dismissal by individual pew by bride and groom nor receiving lines are permitted. Ushers will dismiss guests by pew.
- It is the responsibility of the bride and groom to have all decorations removed after the wedding. Please assign this responsibility to adults.

### The Rehearsal:

- The rehearsal lasts approximately one hour and is normally scheduled at 5:00, 5:30 or 6:00 pm the evening before the wedding.
- There should not be any eating or drinking at the rehearsal or wedding.

## Pre-Cana and Natural Family Planning

*Pre-Cana workshops are required for completion of marriage preparation. Information regarding Diocesan Pre-Cana dates can be found on the Family Life page of the diocesan website: <https://www.dol-in.org/marriage-preparation>.*

### Pre-Cana

The Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana has a schedule of Pre-Cana workshops throughout the year and registration materials are also provided through the website.

### Natural Family Planning

Natural Family Planning (NFP) classes are highly recommended and are held at various times throughout the year. Please see the Diocesan website listed above for more information.

## Stipends/Fees

Suggested Parish Donation	\$350*
Monetary gift to the priest	Amount set by the couple (typically \$100—\$200)
Altar Servers	\$20.00 each

**\* If you are a St. Joan of Arc parishioner getting married at St. Patrick the suggested donation to St. Patrick is \$550**

## Music

A qualified organist / pianist and cantor are required for all weddings. The Wedding Facilitator will provide the Music Director's name and phone number for you to contact regarding their availability and their fees as well as names and phone numbers for cantors. Fees are to be paid directly from you to the musicians.

### Please note:

It is preferred that the Organist/Pianist and Cantor be active members in our Music Ministry. Our pastorate musicians and cantors are all highly qualified. Should you choose to have musicians not associated with the pastorate to provide music for your wedding, you must contact the Music Director for approval. When no St. Patrick musicians are involved in providing music, a \$75.00 fee for technical setup (live-stream, microphones, stands, sound system, etc.) is required and be made payable to the Director of Music.

## *Guidelines for Planning the Marriage Ceremony*

### **Setting the Date:**

- A wedding date may be set only after the initial meeting.
- Weddings are usually scheduled for Saturday at 1:00 pm at St. Joan of Arc and at 2:00 at St. Patrick or Friday evenings at 6:00 or 7:00 pm at both parishes. The colors, symbols and decorations of a major liturgical season may not be obscured (see page 9) for special rules regarding weddings during Lent or Advent). Access time to the church is 2 hours prior to the ceremony. Other activities at the church begin soon after your wedding and need to be considered when wrapping things up.

### **Music:**

- **Contact Tory Horner (St. Patrick) at 765-452-6021 and Dave Morrow (St. Joan of Arc) at 765-631-9216 three (3) months prior to the wedding date** to get a list of St. Patrick musicians and cantors who may be available. Included in this booklet is a sheet with approved music for your wedding. No recorded music is allowed. The individual musicians establish fees.

### **Wedding Liturgy:**

- All plans for the wedding liturgy/ceremony are made with the consultation of the St. Patrick priest assisting the couple. The readers for a Mass need to be Catholic. If the wedding is outside the context of Mass the readers need to be Baptized.
- Altar servers are available upon request. Please consult with a wedding coordinator. A donation for servers through the Parish Office is appropriate.
- If the wedding includes a Mass, the church will provide EMHC's. The couple can suggest EMHC's, if they choose.

### **Wedding Facilitators:**

- St. Patrick—Mariah Horner
- St. Joan of Arc—Molly McDermott
- The appropriate one will contact you **as soon as your wedding date is scheduled**. She will meet with you before the wedding and will assist you by answering most of the questions you will have regarding use of the church. She will be present at the rehearsal and will take care of many of the details regarding the church on the day of the wedding.

### **Wedding Attire:**

- Since the wedding rehearsal and ceremony are a very reverent and holy event, it is expected that appropriate attire be chosen for both the wedding rehearsal and wedding. Clothing should be modest and respectful and reflects the setting of the church.

### **Modesty Considerations:**

Rather than telling you what to not wear for the wedding rehearsal and wedding we have decided to let you make the decision but to ask yourself these questions as well as the others in your wedding party:

- If I move or bend to bow will “everything” stay in place? This is why a strapless and low cut dress should be avoided. The priest really does not want to see things that he nor other guests shouldn't see.
- Could I comfortably walk down the aisle?
- Could I comfortably sit down?
- Will my thighs be covered?
- Could I dance in this dress?
- Is my back exposed (even though a veil may be “covering” it)?
- Does the dress have enough support that I don't need to keep pulling it up? If so, could straps be added to keep it up?
- Could I easily make this dress more modest by adding straps, a jacket or having fabric inserted at exposed areas?
- Do you want to look back in 20 years and be happy about how you looked on your wedding day?

**Please consult the wedding facilitator before purchasing the dress.**