



**St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church**  
**3140 Meramec St.**  
**St. Louis, MO 63118**

## **SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE**

*The love between the two of you in a Christian marriage reflects Christ's love for all of us! It is a covenant of the intimate bond God has with His people here on earth. That is why Christian marriage is a Sacrament.*

When you plan a Catholic wedding, there are many guidelines to follow. There are requirements mandated by the Catholic Church, the State of Missouri, and St. Anthony's Parish, which will help ensure that you have a beautiful and dignified celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage.

### **❖ RESERVING ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA CHURCH**

Wedding times:

- Friday - 6:00 p.m. (reserves the church from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.)
- Saturday - 10:00 a.m. (reserves the church from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.)
- Saturday - 1:00 p.m. (reserves the church from 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.)

Reserving our church for your wedding includes a one-hour rehearsal and three hours for preparation, the ceremony, and photographs. There are no exceptions to these time frames.

Please contact St. Anthony's Wedding Coordinator, Jean Tiemann (314-795-7227 or [staweddings@hotmail.com](mailto:staweddings@hotmail.com)) to secure an available date and time. We will hold that date and time for one month, and during that time you must:

- 1) Complete the Couple Information Sheet, enclosed in this packet.
- 2) Obtain the signature of the priest or deacon taking care of the preparations for the wedding and officiating at the ceremony.
- 3) Return the signed contract and Agreement of the Officiating Priest along with a deposit of \$750.00, half of the full stipend of \$1,500.00. The remaining amount must be received no later than eight weeks prior to the wedding date. If within six months of receiving your deposit your plans change, the deposit will be returned to you.

### **❖ CHOOSING A PRIEST**

Please invite a priest of your choice to prepare you and to officiate at your wedding. St. Anthony's Parish priests are available for parishioners only.

## ❖ PREPARATION PROGRAMS

The St. Louis Archdiocese requires that all couples attend a marriage preparation program, as well as preparation exercises with your Officiating Priest. He will provide you with information, and work with you to coordinate these activities and plan your ceremony. You can also find valuable information on the St. Louis Archdiocese web site ([archstl.org](http://archstl.org)).

## ❖ REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Please submit the following documents to your priest/deacon. He will see that these documents are in the St. Anthony of Padua Parish Office not less than one month prior to the wedding date.

- Pre-Nuptial Investigation form completed by the Priest/Deacon and signed by the couple
- Premarital inventory results (Fully Engaged or FOCUS Inventory)
- Marriage Preparation Seminar attendance form (visit <https://www.archstl.org/marriage-family-life/for-marriage/marriage-prep> for further information)
- Natural Family Planning Class attendance form (visit <https://www.archstl.org/marriage-family-life/for-marriage/marriage-prep> for further information)
- Permission letters from your home parish priest, if neither party is a member of St. Anthony of Padua Parish
- Proper Dispensation and/or permission, if needed (dispensation from disparity of worship, for marriage to an unbaptized person; permission for mixed religion, for marriage to a non-Catholic Christian)
- Baptismal Certificates with proper notations, dated within six months prior to your marriage

In addition to the above:

- If your priest or deacon is from outside the St. Louis Archdiocese, please ask him to have his Diocese provide a Letter of Suitability/Good Standing.
- A Civil Marriage License from the State of Missouri must be provided to your priest/deacon prior to or at the wedding rehearsal.

## ❖ ST. ANTHONY'S REGULATIONS AND GENERAL INFORMATION

**WEDDING COORDINATORS** – Jean Tiemann or Maureen Wokurka will manage the rehearsal along with your priest or deacon and will be present for the full three hours on your wedding day to prepare the Altar, direct the procession, and generally make sure your wedding runs smoothly. It is their responsibility to ensure that St. Anthony's protocols regarding times and usage of the church are observed during the rehearsal and the wedding; please respect their guidance. There is no extra fee for this service.

**If you have hired a professional wedding coordinator, please keep in mind that they are not aware of St. Anthony's protocols. We ask that they work together with Jean or Maureen for guidance on how they may assist.**

- ❖ **MUSIC PLANNING** - The Catholic Church has specific guidelines related to appropriate music that can be used in your sacramental celebration. Therefore, all music is to be liturgical, sacred, or appropriate classical music. Secular music is not suitable for the wedding ceremony itself. Please coordinate with the parish Music Director, Mr. Gary Scott (314-489-8937 or crimsonsoar@yahoo.com). He will help you prepare your music program, authorize the pieces you have chosen, and lead the music at your wedding. Your priest will want to approve your choices, as well. Gary may suggest the use of cantors and/or instrumentalists for your consideration. Gary's fee is \$300, and cantor is \$150.00. Payment is due four weeks before the wedding date.
- ❖ **WEDDING REHEARSAL** - One-hour rehearsals are scheduled at 5:30 pm on Thursday or Friday evenings prior to the wedding day. Holy Days or previously scheduled ceremonies will take preference. Arrange the date and time with your priest and Jean Tiemann as soon as possible. Please stress arriving promptly to those participating in the rehearsal, as there may be another church function or rehearsal immediately following yours. Music is not practiced during your rehearsal; you will schedule a separate meeting with Mr. Scott to arrange the music.
- ❖ **CHURCH ENVIRONMENT** -

The church environment reflects the liturgical seasons. If your wedding date falls during a time that we have placed floral arrangements or other items of reverence on the altar or in other areas of the church, these items must remain undisturbed.

A bride's room is available for your use. Please assign someone to make sure the room is left in clean condition and perform a last-minute check to be sure nothing is left behind.

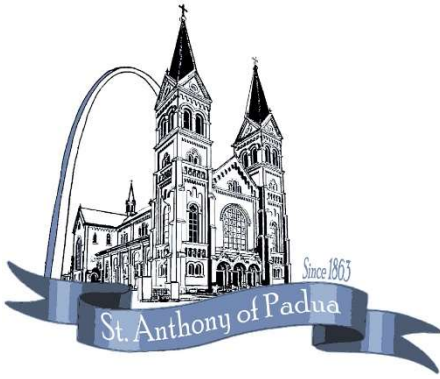
Ribbon or floral decorations are permitted on the aisle ends of the pews, attached with ribbon or rubber bands only; tacks or sticky substances are not allowed. Please assign someone to remove any items after the ceremony. There are eight pews in the front section of the church, a small break in between, followed by 29 pews. Neither flowers nor decorations are permitted on the entrance doors of the church.

Please ask your florist (or assign someone of your choice) to pin the corsages on the wedding party.

Unity candles or other related practices are not a part of the Catholic Rite of Marriage ritual, and therefore not allowed.

Photographs and videos of the ceremony are permitted. Photographers/Videographers must conduct themselves in a discreet manner, so that they do not distract the congregation or detract from the reverence appropriate to the wedding liturgy. Please advise them of the following: 1) the entrance procession must not be interrupted, nor the procession area impeded; 2) discretion must be maintained during the entire ceremony, and photos are not allowed during the Homily or the period following the Presentation of Gifts until after the distribution of Communion; 3) one unmanned, stationary video camera is allowed in a pre-approved area on the Altar. Coordinate with Jean or Maureen.

We look forward to your blessed event! Please contact Jean Tiemann if you have any questions or require additional information regarding this Policy.



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**Wedding Contract**

Marriage Between: Bride's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print)

Groom's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Wedding Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) The following party will be responsible working with us to complete the required Archdiocese marriage preparation process:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

- 2) The following Priest or Deacon has agreed to preside at our wedding, at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

- 3) Please read carefully the guidelines, sign, date, and mail this document along with the deposit. Ask your Priest to complete the Agreement of the Officiating Priest form and send to the same address when completed.

WE HAVE READ THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE GUIDELINES FROM ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA CATHOLIC CHURCH AND AGREE TO ALL STIPULATIONS PROVIDED. Our deposit of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed. (Please make check payable to "St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church.")

Bride: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

Groom: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)



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**Agreement of Officiating Priest/Deacon**

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ have asked me,  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (please print), to witness their marriage at St. Anthony of Padua  
Catholic Church on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_ a.m./p.m. I agree to be responsible for:

1. The assessment of their readiness for marriage in the Church.
2. Testimony to their practice of the Catholic faith.
3. Providing information about options of Marriage Preparation Programs available according to the Archdiocese of St. Louis, Missouri.
4. Discussing with them the spirituality and sacramentality of marriage, prayer and the requirements of intention and consent for the sacrament of marriage.
5. Completing the necessary paperwork and documentation for delivery to St. Anthony of Padua on or prior to the night of the rehearsal.
6. Directing the rehearsal on: \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Witnessing the marriage and celebrating the Wedding Liturgy. Delegation will be given to the visiting Priest/Deacon by St. Anthony's Pastor to witness the marriage at St. Anthony of Padua Church, St. Louis, Mo.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_