

## *Wedding Day Policies*

On the day of the wedding, the church will be available to the couple one hour before and one hour after the wedding.

### **Bridal Room**

A bridal room is available for the bride and her attendants. The bridal room will be locked during the ceremony. Men should arrive dressed for the wedding and can gather in the lounge.

All items (florist boxes, hangers, shoe boxes, etc.) are to be removed from the bridal room and restrooms after wedding.

### **Alcohol & Smoking**

Smoking is not allowed in the bridal room or any other area of the church. Absolutely no alcohol is permitted on church property. The priest reserves the right to cancel the wedding in the event alcohol is found on the premises, or if any member of the wedding party has been drinking prior to the wedding. Use of alcohol prior to a wedding may invalidate the marriage.

### **Music**

St. Mary Student Parish has many musicians available. The fees are worked out individually with the musicians. Call Lanette Mele for contact information.

### **Flowers/Decorations**

Flower deliveries may be made within two hours of the wedding. All flowers and decorations must be removed from the church after the wedding. If you are the last wedding of the weekend and want to leave your flowers for Sunday Mass, please arrange this with Lanette Mele.

Rice, flower petals and birdseed are not allowed to be thrown in or around the church building due to safety concerns.

Any chairs that are moved must be replaced after the wedding.

### **Photography and Video**

Videos and photos are allowed during the wedding as long as they do not interfere with the ceremony. Photographers are not allowed in the altar area.



### **St. Mary Student Parish**

331 Thompson Street  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
(734) 663-0557  
[www.stmarystudentparish.org](http://www.stmarystudentparish.org)

## **THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE**

PREPARING FOR YOUR MARRIAGE  
AT ST. MARY STUDENT PARISH

### **Congratulations on your engagement!**

We look forward to helping you prepare for the very special sacrament of marriage. Please review the following guidelines and policies for weddings at St. Mary Student Parish. Should you have any questions, we are here to help—please contact Lanette Mele at the parish office at (734) 663-0557, ext. 232 or [lmele@umich.edu](mailto:lmele@umich.edu).

### **Requirements for Marriage at St. Mary's**

Registered members of St. Mary's, University of Michigan students or Catholic Alumni may schedule weddings in our parish.

### **Marriage Preparation Guidelines**

The first step in your marriage preparation is to contact Lanette Mele to schedule an appointment with a St. Mary's priest. This meeting must occur at least nine months prior to your wedding. *Once you have met with the priest or deacon and completed the initial paperwork, your wedding date can be scheduled.*

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## **FOCCUS Questionnaire**

After the initial meeting, you will be asked to complete the Facilitating Open Couple Communication, Understanding and Study (FOCCUS) questionnaire. You do not need to schedule a time. This can be completed any time we are open. Plan at least one hour to complete the questionnaire. Once completed, a second meeting will be scheduled.

## **Pre-Marriage Seminar**

St. Mary's Pre-Marriage Seminar is held in February on a Friday evening and all day Saturday. (The 2010 seminar will be February 12 & 13.) Registration materials will be mailed in December. The seminar includes group and one-on-one discussions, as well as presentations by St. Mary's priests. If you are unable to attend this seminar, you must attend an Engaged Encounter weekend in its place. Brochures are available in the parish office with dates and locations.

## **We C.A.R.E.**

Pre-marriage couples are also required to attend the We C.A.R.E. Conflict Resolution Seminar. Contact the parish office for brochures and registration forms. The Engaged Encounter and We C.A.R.E. seminars are sponsored by the Diocese of Lansing.  
[www.dioceseoflansing.org/familylife](http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/familylife)

## **Ongoing Conversations**

Couples are encouraged to continue conversations on their own on the many issues that go into building a strong marriage. Many useful tools and articles that can assist in these conversations are

available at [www.foryourmarriage.org](http://www.foryourmarriage.org). We strongly encourage you to make use of this free resource.

## **Additional Meetings**

In the months prior to your wedding, your priest or deacon will schedule additional meetings with you to guide you in preparation for the sacrament of marriage.

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## **Required Documentation**

The following documents must be provided at least three months before your wedding.

### **1. Baptism Certificate ~**

Contact your church of baptism to obtain your baptism certificate. The certificate must be issued within the past six months. Please note - a baptism certificate is required for non-Catholic Christians as well.

### **2. Marriage License ~**

You may apply for your marriage license at the county office in the county where either party resides. The wedding must occur within thirty days of the date the marriage license is issued. You must bring the marriage license to the parish office at least three days before the wedding.

### **3. Annulment Certificate ~**

If either party has been married before, an annulment certificate must be provided. Any previous marriage must be annulled before a new marriage can take place.

## **Information for Those Planning to Marry at St. Mary's**

### **Wedding Dates/Times**

If there is a Mass on Saturday (September – April), weddings cannot be scheduled after 1:00 pm. If there is no Saturday Mass the 1<sup>st</sup> wedding of the day must be scheduled at 1:00 or earlier or 5:00 or later. The 2<sup>nd</sup> wedding of the day must be scheduled at least 4 hours before or after the 1<sup>st</sup> wedding

### **Fees**

The fee for the use of the church is \$400 for registered parish members and University of Michigan students, and \$550 for University of Michigan Catholic alumni. There is a 50% deposit due when wedding date is set. The balance is due three months before the wedding. Fees will be returned should the wedding date be cancelled. If you would like to give a stipend to the priest celebrating the marriage, you should do so separately since voluntary stipends are not included in the fee for the use of the church.

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