

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.

Wedding Coordinators

Outside wedding coordinators are welcome as guests but are not permitted to serve in a professional capacity at our church.

Music

St. Mary Student Parish is a wonderfully musical place to hold your wedding. We have many musicians available to fit a variety of musical tastes as well as budgets. Please contact Kristin Berger (kberger@smspnewman.org) to begin the musical planning aspect of your 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.

Flowers/Decorations

Flower deliveries may be made within an hour and a half 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 Julie Mussio.

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

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.



St. Mary Student Parish

331 Thompson Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
(734) 663-0557
www.stmarystudentparish.org

The Sacrament of Marriage FOR COUPLES GETTING MARRIED AND/OR PREPARING FOR MARRIAGE AT ST. MARY STUDENT PARISH

Congratulations on your engagement!

We look forward to helping you prepare for the special sacrament of marriage. Please review the following guidelines and policies of St. Mary Student Parish. Should you have any questions, we are here to help—please contact Julie Mussio at the parish office at (734) 663-0557, ext. 243 or jmussiosmspnewman.org.

Requirements for Marriage at St. Mary's

Registered members of St. Mary Student Parish or UM Alumni may schedule weddings in our parish.

Marriage Preparation Guidelines

The first step in your marriage preparation is to submit the couple information (see the link below) at least nine months before your desired wedding date. *Once you have submitted the initial paperwork Julie Mussio will follow up with you on how to set up a meeting with a priest or deacon.* Once it is established you are free to marry, the date can be set.

Cont'd.



FOCCUS Questionnaire

As you begin your preparation you will be asked to complete the Facilitating Open Couple Communication, Understanding and Study (FOCCUS) questionnaire. Julie Mussio, our parish wedding coordinator, will set up the file and you will be sent an email from Foccus directly with easy to follow instructions.

Pre-Marriage Seminar

St. Mary's Pre-Marriage Seminar is held between January and March on a Friday evening and all day Saturday. 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.

We C.A.R.E.

Pre-marriage couples are also required to attend the We C.A.R.E. Conflict Resolution Seminar. Register for We CARE through Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County.

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. We strongly encourage you to make use of this free resource.

Additional Meetings

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

~~~~~

### ***Required Documentation***

The following documents must be provided before your wedding.

#### ***1. Recently Issued Baptism Certificate ~***

Contact your church of baptism to obtain a recently issued baptism certificate. The certificate must be newly issued and dated within six months of your ceremony. Please note – a letter of proof of your baptism 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 be scheduled.

### **Wedding Dates/Times**

For Saturday weddings, the 1<sup>st</sup> wedding 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. Friday weddings may be scheduled after 2:00 pm.

### **Fees**

The fee for the use of the church is \$400 for registered parish members, and \$550 for University of Michigan 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 decide to give a stipend to the priest or deacon celebrating the marriage, you should do so separately since voluntary stipends are not included in the fee for the use of the church.

There is a small additional fee for the onsite marriage preparation coordinator who will assist the priest/deacon with the rehearsal and wedding details.

The fee for couples receiving their preparation at St. Mary's but getting married elsewhere is \$150. Note this is in addition to the \$130. fee we ask to cover the cost of the Pre-Marriage Seminar.

*Cont'd.*

