

Frequently Asked Questions about Weddings at the Cathedral

1. Who may marry at the Cathedral?

Any Catholic of the Milwaukee Archdiocese may be married at the Cathedral. Please read the following information closely in order that you understand our requirements.

Members: Either the bride or the groom or both may be participating members of the Cathedral parish for a minimum of one year. This means that either the bride or groom or both are registered members of the parish, that they attend Mass regularly, and contribute to the upkeep of the parish by using their stewardship envelopes.

Non-members: Weddings of non-members may take place in the Cathedral. However, those desiring to celebrate at the Cathedral must be practicing Catholics from a parish in the Archdiocese. (Special consideration will be given to couples whose parents are members of the Cathedral.)

A letter must be obtained from the parish where the bride or groom resides. This letter must state that:

1. The bride/groom is a member in good standing.
2. The pastor agrees to do the preparation and to possibly administer the sacrament of marriage at the Cathedral.

The marriage will not be scheduled without membership or receipt of the above mentioned letter. Any exceptions will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Please note: If either of you has been married previously in either a church or civil ceremony, it is important that you inform the priest immediately. In this case you should have the initial meeting with the priest sooner than the standard six to nine months before the wedding.

2. When are weddings celebrated at the Cathedral?

Days: Wedding liturgies are normally scheduled on Saturdays. They may be scheduled on other days of the week, except for Sunday, as the Cathedral calendar permits. Note that it is Cathedral policy that weddings are not scheduled during the seasons of Advent and Lent.

Time: The times Saturday weddings are: 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM and 3:00 PM. You have a time block of two hours for your wedding: 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM or 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM. If your wedding will include the Liturgy of the Eucharist, be especially aware of the time limit. There are no receiving lines; receiving lines takes place at the reception, not the church.

Time of rehearsal: Rehearsals are scheduled with the parish secretary at one hour intervals, usually 3:00 PM, 4:00 PM, 6:00 PM or before/after any scheduled wedding on Friday evenings. Rehearsals may be arranged on other days of the week, depending upon church availability and the schedule.

3. May we have our Wedding Rehearsal Dinner in the Atrium?

Yes, the Atrium is available for wedding rehearsal dinners. The fee for this service is \$250, plus a mandatory Property and Liability insurance policy of \$95. This insurance policy is required by the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and purchased through the Cathedral.

The fee of \$250 covers the event with an hour (1) to set-up, two (2) hours for the dinner and thirty (30) minutes to clean-up following the dinner. Also, tables and chairs for your dinner guests and serving tables; access to the kitchen for water; and a staff member on-site to open and close the Atrium and be available during the event in case of an emergency.

Should you wish more information, contact Helen Gadbois, at 414/276-9814 or helengadgois@stjohncathedral.org.

4. May guests throw rice, confetti or other similar items when we exit the Cathedral?

No rice, confetti, or other matter is to be thrown on the Cathedral's property. This is stipulated by our Insurance Company. The use of "bubbles" is permitted as long as all material is removed prior to your departure.

5. May I have an aisle runner?

The parish does not allow runners. The floors are kept clean on a daily basis and aisle runners have proven to be hazardous to wedding guests. This is also a stipulation of our Insurance Company.

6. What about flowers for my wedding?

Floral arrangements for the church are an unnecessary expense; however, you may choose to bring flowers into the Cathedral. Your church decorations may not conflict with those of the parish and the parish decorations **may not be disturbed**. Decorations and their placement must be approved in advance of your wedding date. No flowers or decorations may be placed on top of the altar or in such a way as to obscure it. If you choose to have flowers, you may wish to contact any other couples being married on the same weekend to share the expense of decorations. Only the Director of Liturgy may approve arrangements that deviate from the currently Liturgical setting. Any promise made by another individual will not be honored.