

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.

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 one and a half 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
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www.stmarystudentparish.org

THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

**FOR COUPLES RECEIVING PREPARATION
ELSEWHERE AND GETTING MARRIED
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.

Marriage Preparation Requirements

The first step is to begin your marriage preparation by contacting your local parish and enrolling in the marriage preparation program that they provide according to their diocesan policies. *St. Mary Student Parish cannot discuss possible dates for your wedding here until you have begun the formal process of marriage preparation.* Usually the first meeting with the person doing the marriage preparation involves a determination of your freedom to marry. You should request a letter from that person indicating both parties are free to marry and have permission to be married at St. Mary Student Parish. Once we receive that letter we can schedule your wedding.

Required Documentation

The wedding can take place at St. Mary's only if we receive the completed wedding file from the parish at which you did your preparation. The normal procedure is for the parish to send your file to their diocesan chancery which reviews the file. It is then sent on to the chancery of the diocese of Lansing which reviews it as well, before the file is then sent to St. Mary's. The file should contain:

- ***Statement that preparation is completed***
- ***Baptismal certificates***
- ***Completed pre-nuptial form***
- ***Certificates from pre-marriage seminars***
- ***Dispensation (if needed for marriage between Catholic and non-Catholic)***
- ***Annulment certificate (if needed)***

Marriage License ~

If one (or both) person(s) is a Michigan resident, you can apply in the Michigan County where either party is a resident. If both persons are out-of-state residents, you must apply in Washtenaw County at least three days before the wedding. For information on the application process and required documentation please see the county's website at www.ewashtenaw.org or call 734-222-6720. The wedding must occur within thirty days of the date the marriage license is issued and you must bring the marriage license to the parish office at least three days before the wedding.

Final Details ~

You should contact Lanette Mele two months before your wedding to discuss where you are in your preparation and final details. At that time a meeting should be scheduled with the priest officiating at your wedding to plan the ceremony.

Wedding Dates/Times

The 1st wedding on a Saturday must be scheduled at 1:00 or earlier or 5:00 or later. The 2nd wedding of the day must be scheduled 4 hours before or after the 1st wedding. Friday weddings can be scheduled after 2:00.

Fees

The fee for the use of the church is \$550. There is a 50% deposit due when the wedding date is set. The balance will be 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.

