

## MUSIC

Liturgical Music is an important component of your wedding. It enriches prayer, reverence, and the beauty of the wedding mass/ceremony. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Diocese of Palm Beach mandates that only sacred liturgical music be used. No secular or pre-recorded (CD/iPod) music of any kind is permitted. Our parish Director of Music will assist you in selecting appropriate music and the coordinating of musicians if desired. Couples wishing to have music at their wedding are required to use the services of our parish organist/pianist. Under extraordinary circumstances (such as having a family member who is an organist play at your wedding) you will need to discuss this with the priest during your initial meeting and with the Director of Music here at St. Peter. If permission is given, you are still obligated to pay the "bench fee" to the Director of Music. The Director of Music, cantors and any musicians will be paid by separate checks separate from the fee to the church. Those fees will be determined at the meeting with the Director of Music. Couples wishing to use friends or family members as vocalists may do so, but only after consultation/permission from the Director of Music.

## REHEARSAL

Rehearsals are scheduled for the Friday evening before the wedding on Saturday, typically at 4:00pm. All members of the bridal party, parents, participants (readers, gift bearers, etc) should attend. Please be prompt. We try to complete the rehearsal in one hour. The marriage license must be submitted to the parish at the rehearsal or prior.

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION / PENANCE

Catholics are encouraged to participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession / penance) in the weeks prior to their wedding. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available at St. Peter on Saturdays at 3:15pm in the Chapel or by appointment.

## SCRIPTURAL READINGS AND PRAYERS

When you have your initial meeting with the priest, he will give you a copy of the wedding book "Together For Life". In it are a variety of Scriptural Reading choices and Liturgical Prayers for you to choose for your ceremony. The book provides a very helpful outline for the wedding ceremony and is a valuable tool for you to use in choosing meaningful readings and prayers. In the back of the book is a pull-out guideline sheet, which you will need to give to the priest or parish office the week prior to your wedding day.

## CONFETTI, RICE, ETC

The parish does not permit the throwing of confetti, rice, birdseed, flowers or the releasing of butterflies, blowing bubbles or any other item. While we regret having to forbid this practice, it has become necessary due to safety hazards, maintenance problems, and liability insurance. Accordingly, we ask that you inform your family and guests ahead of time of this restriction in order to prevent problems or cause any embarrassment to them or us. We do not wish to have anything happen which could dampen the atmosphere of celebration and welcome which we hope to convey to your family and guests on your wedding day.

## PARISH WEDDING COORDINATOR

Depending on the circumstances, the parish may provide a wedding coordinator who will assist you with any questions you may have as you prepare for your wedding. She is available by calling the Parish Office during regular business hours. Our wedding coordinator, if provided, will be present at your rehearsal and on your wedding day to assist and coordinate all aspects of the ceremony and to assure that everything runs smoothly and easily for you.

## WEDDING STIPEND AND FEES

The stipend/fee for Weddings is determined by your Stewardship (Time, Talent, & Treasure) commitment history to the Parish. This fee can be as much as \$1,000.00. Your Talent commitment is measured by your involvement in parish ministry. Your Treasure is measured by your offertory giving documented through Online Giving, Electronic Giving, or your envelopes. If you are having your wedding at a different Parish, but will be doing your marriage preparation paperwork through St. Peter, there is a \$225.00 fee assessed.

ALL FEES (Parish and Musicians) MUST BE PAID AT THE PARISH OFFICE NO LATER THAN TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO YOUR WEDDING REHEARSAL.

Your Wedding offering/stipend is \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

# A PLANNING GUIDE FOR YOUR WEDDING



**ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**1701 Indian Creek Parkway**

**Jupiter, Florida 33458**

**561-575-0837**

**Reverend Donald T. Finney, Pastor**

## INTRODUCTION

Congratulations on your upcoming wedding! On behalf of the Pastor, Parish priests, Deacons, Staff, and the entire parish family of St. Peter Catholic Church, please know that you are in our prayers as you prepare for your wedding day. May these days of preparation be filled with many blessings and graces from Our Blessed Lord as you ready yourselves to receive the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony here at St. Peter.

A Parish priest or Deacon will assist you with the plans for your wedding, and will be able to outline specific preparation requirements and documentation which are required by the Roman Catholic Church & the Diocese of Palm Beach. We have put together this basic information brochure, in order to answer some of your immediate questions, and relay specific requirements and restrictions.

## PREPARATION

There are some Church, Diocesan, Parish, and State of Florida mandated preparations which are necessary. The first step at St. Peter would be to complete the Marriage Preparation Form and submit it to the Parish Office along with a \$50.00 cash deposit. This deposit will hold your date and is refundable. The Diocese requires a six month period of time between your initial interview with the priest and your wedding day. During this time you will be able to accomplish the required steps in the marriage preparation process. St. Peter and the Diocese requires that all paperwork and documentation be completed and submitted one month prior to the wedding.

## MARRIAGE PREPARATION PROGRAM

The Marriage Preparation Program is a day-long required course provided by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Palm Beach. The day is offered at various parishes throughout the Diocese. You must register and submit the nominal fee ahead of time. Information may be found on the diocesan website [www.diocesepb.org](http://www.diocesepb.org). Click on Ministries and then Marriage and Family Life and follow through to Marriage Preparation. There is also a name and telephone number for the Diocesan Director of the Program if you have additional questions. The program helps you to facilitate the life-long commitment and Sacramental relationship you are about to enter into. Even the State of Florida recognizes the importance and success of this program by giving you a discount on the cost of your Marriage License if you present your Certificate of Completion, which will be given to you at the completion of the program.

## FULLY ENGAGED

Fully Engaged is a Catholic catechetical premarital inventory designed to help engaged couples solidify the foundation upon which they, together with Christ, will build their Sacrament of Marriage. Grounded in Church teaching and loaded with catechetical content, this dynamic premarital inventory is a trustworthy guide that meets the real challenges today's couples face. The Fully Engaged session will be facilitated by one of the parishes' married couples who have received special training in marriage preparation. During your meeting with them you will make use of this tool in order to target topics of understanding and communication between the two of you. It is not a test; there are no "right or wrong" answers, nor does it in anyway "predict" the future. One of the facilitating couples will contact you after your meeting with the deacon / priest to set-up a mutually convenient appointment.

## DOCUMENTS

For Catholics, you must contact the church of your Baptism and ask that they send an "updated" Baptismal Certificate to the priest who is preparing you here at St. Peter. It must have been issued by the church of your Baptism within the last six months. Non-Catholic Christians also need to submit a copy of their Baptismal Certificate, but it does not need to be issued within 6 months of the wedding date.

During your initial meeting with the Parish priest, he will assist you both with the Diocesan Pre-Nuptial Questionnaire, and will discuss with you any other documentation (such as Annulment Decrees, Dispensations, etc.,) which may be specific to your particular circumstance.

## THE MARRIAGE LICENSE

A legal Marriage License, issued by the State of Florida, is an absolute requirement. The priest or Deacon may not officiate at any wedding in the State of Florida unless he has this document in his possession. Further information concerning the marriage license is available from the Office of the County Clerk.

## WEDDING DATES AND TIMES

Weddings here are scheduled for Saturdays at either 11:00am or 2:00pm. A tentative date may be scheduled with the Parish Secretary when you come in to the Office and fill out the brief Information Form, but please be advised that **no dates are finalized until your meeting with the parish priest.**

## NUPTIAL MASS OR WEDDING CEREMONY?

The Sacrament of Holy Matrimony between two Catholics enjoys the privilege of the full Wedding (Nuptial) Mass. A Wedding Ceremony, without Holy Mass, is reserved for Weddings between a Catholic and a Non-Catholic Christian. Details for Weddings between a Catholic and a Non-Christian, or an un-Baptized person, will be discussed at the time of your meeting with the parish priest.

## FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS

It is the responsibility of the couple to choose their own florist. Floral pieces are limited to two, either on stands (must be provided) or at floor level. Plants, trees, and trellises are not permitted. Bows and ribbons, or flowers for the aisle pews, may not be taped, glued, wired, or tacked on in any way. Rubber-bands, clips or cloth ties must be used; the florist will be able to assist you with this matter. Please keep in mind that "simple is elegant"! It is a custom in that newly married couples leave the flowers used at their wedding in the church as a sign of their gratitude to Almighty God for the Sacrament they have just received, and as a petition for the prayers of the entire parish who will enjoy seeing the flowers during Masses on the weekend. Please let us know if you will not be leaving your flowers at the Church. If you do not wish to purchase an altar arrangement, we have a floral arrangement delivered every Saturday morning which is placed in front of the Main Altar. The parish does not provide any flowers during Advent or Lent. During this time (the four weeks prior to Christmas) and Lent (from Ash Wednesday until Easter) any floral arrangements provided for the wedding will need to be removed by the florist or the wedding party at the end of the ceremony.

## RUNNERS

Aisle runners are not permitted at St. Peter Catholic Church.

## CANDLES

No additional candles or candelabras may be used. If you wish to use "Unity Candles", it is your responsibility to provide them. The parish does provide a candle-holder and table for their use. Please discuss this with the Parish Wedding Coordinator prior to the date of your wedding rehearsal if your plan to use "Unity Candles".

## APPAREL

When choosing your Wedding gown and dresses for your Bridesmaids, please keep in mind that our Parish church is the House of God. Modesty and respectfulness are appreciated.

## PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY

It is your responsibility to select your own photographer and/or videographer. He or she must speak with the officiating priest, deacon or parish wedding coordinator prior to the wedding in order to make sure that proper decorum and reverence are maintained, and to prevent distractions during your wedding. Additional lighting of any kind is not allowed. Flash photography is not permitted once the ceremony has begun. Once the ceremony has ended, photos are permitted until 12:45pm for 11:00am weddings and until 3:45pm for 2:00pm weddings. Keep this in mind if the ceremony does not start on time due to the late arrival of the bridal party. For this reason, the very time-consuming "Receiving Line" at the end of the Wedding Mass/Ceremony is not permitted.