



St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church
3140 Meramec St.
St. Louis, MO 63118

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

The love between the two of you in a Christian marriage reflects Christ's love for all of us! It is a covenant of the intimate bond God has with His people here on earth. That is why Christian marriage is a Sacrament.

When you plan a Catholic wedding, there are many guidelines to follow. There are requirements mandated by the Catholic Church, the State of Missouri, and St. Anthony's Parish, which will help ensure that you have a beautiful and dignified celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage.

❖ **RESERVING ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA CHURCH**

Wedding times:

- Friday - 6:00 p.m. (reserves the church from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.)
- Saturday - 10:00 a.m. (reserves the church from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.)
- Saturday - 1:00 p.m. (reserves the church from 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.)

Reserving our church for your wedding includes a one-hour rehearsal and three hours for preparation, the ceremony, and photographs. There are no exceptions to these time frames.

Please contact St. Anthony's Wedding Coordinator, Jean Tiemann (314-795-7227 or staweddings@hotmail.com) to secure an available date and time. We will hold that date and time for one month, and during that time you must:

- 1) Complete the Couple Information Sheet, enclosed in this packet.
- 2) Obtain the signature of the priest or deacon taking care of the preparations for the wedding and officiating at the ceremony.
- 3) Return the signed contract and Agreement of the Officiating Priest along with a deposit of \$750.00, half of the full stipend of \$1,500.00. The remaining amount must be received no later than eight weeks prior to the wedding date. If within six months of receiving your deposit your plans change, the deposit will be returned to you.

❖ **CHOOSING A PRIEST**

Please invite a priest of your choice to prepare you and to officiate at your wedding. St. Anthony's Parish priests are available for parishioners only.

❖ PREPARATION PROGRAMS

The St. Louis Archdiocese requires that all couples attend a marriage preparation program, as well as preparation exercises with your Officiating Priest. He will provide you with information, and work with you to coordinate these activities and plan your ceremony. You can also find valuable information on the St. Louis Archdiocese web site (archstl.org).

❖ REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Please obtain the following items for the priest preparing you for your wedding:

- 1) A certified copy of Baptismal Certificates from the parishes where you were baptized. Contact the parish or church and they will mail you a certified copy. These Baptismal certifications must be dated within six months prior to your wedding date.
- 2) All completed paperwork regarding the preparation program you attended.
- 3) A letter of permission to be married at St. Anthony's from the bride and/or groom's Catholic Parish Pastor.
- 4) If there has been a previous civil or religious marriage, all related documents for that marriage must be given to your priest.
- 5) Marriage License - You may obtain your marriage license at any Missouri County Recorder of Deeds Office (including the City of St. Louis and St. Louis County Government Offices). The license must be used within 30 days of issue. Please ask your Priest to take care of mailing the signed License to the appropriate Recorder of Deeds office.

❖ ST. ANTHONY'S REGULATIONS AND GENERAL INFORMATION

WEDDING COORDINATOR - Our Wedding Coordinator, Jean Tiemann, will work with you to schedule your wedding, manage the rehearsal along with your priest or deacon, and be present for the full three hours on your wedding day to prepare the Altar, direct the procession, and generally make sure your wedding runs smoothly. It is her responsibility to ensure that all regulations regarding times and usage of the church are observed during the rehearsal and the wedding. There is no extra fee for this service. **If you have hired a professional wedding coordinator, please advise them that the Officiating Priest and St. Anthony's Wedding Coordinator are responsible for managing all aspects of the wedding celebration at the church.**

- ❖ **MUSIC PLANNING** - Because your wedding is a religious ceremony, the Catholic Church has specific guidelines related to appropriate music that can be used in your celebration. Please coordinate with the parish Music Director, Mr. Tim Jansen (314-807-0843 or jansenondine@yahoo.com). He will help you prepare your music program, authorize the pieces you have chosen, and lead the music at your wedding. Your priest will want to approve your choices, as well. Tim may suggest the use of cantors and instrumentalists for your consideration. Fees for the Director and any cantors or musicians are not included in the church stipend and should be discussed with Tim when you meet.

❖ **WEDDING REHEARSAL** - One-hour rehearsals are scheduled Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday evenings prior to the wedding day. Holy Days or previously scheduled ceremonies will take preference. Arrange the date and time with your Priest and the Wedding Coordinator as soon as possible. 6:00 p.m. is the preferred time. Please stress arriving promptly to those participating in the rehearsal, as there may be another church function immediately following yours. Music is not practiced during your rehearsal; you will schedule a separate meeting with Mr. Jansen to arrange the music.

❖ **CHURCH ENVIRONMENT** –

- The church environment reflects the liturgical seasons. If your wedding date falls during a time that we have placed floral arrangements or other items of reverence on the altar or in other areas of the church, these items must remain undisturbed.
- A bride's room is available for your use. Please assign someone to make sure the room is left in clean condition and perform a last-minute check to be sure nothing is left behind.
- Ribbon or floral decorations are permitted on the aisle ends of the pews but may be attached with ribbon or rubber bands only. No tacks or sticky substances are allowed. Neither flowers nor decorations are permitted on the entrance doors of the church. Please ask your florist or assign someone to remove these items after the ceremony.
- Unity candles or other related practices are not a part of the Catholic Rite of Marriage ritual, and therefore not allowed.
- Photographs and videos of the ceremony are permitted. Photographers/Videographers must conduct themselves in a discreet manner, so that they do not distract the congregation or detract from the reverence appropriate to the wedding liturgy. Please advise your photographer/videographer(s) of the following: 1) the entrance procession must not be delayed or interrupted, nor the procession area impeded; 2) discretion must be maintained during the entire Mass/Service, and photos are not allowed during the Homily or the period following the Presentation of Gifts until after the distribution of Communion begins; 3) one unmanned, stationary video camera is allowed in a pre-approved area on the Altar. Have the video staff ask the Wedding Coordinator to identify the area.

We look forward to your blessed event! Please contact Jean Tiemann if you have any questions or require additional information regarding this Policy.



St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church
3140 Meramec Street
St. Louis, MO 63118

Wedding Contract

Marriage Between: Bride's Name: _____
(please print)

Groom's Name: _____

Wedding Date: _____ Time: _____

1) The following party will be responsible working with us to complete the required Archdiocese marriage preparation process:

Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

2) The following Priest or Deacon has agreed to preside at our wedding, at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church:

Name: _____

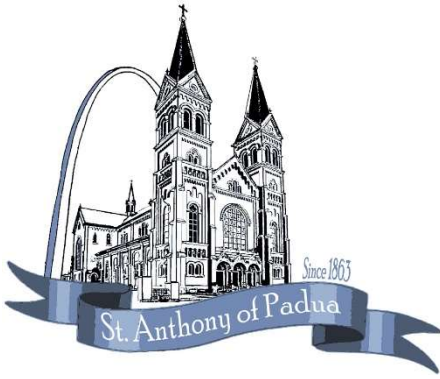
Address: _____ Phone: _____

3) Please read carefully the guidelines, sign, date, and mail this document along with the deposit. Ask your Priest to complete the Agreement of the Officiating Priest form and send to the same address when completed.

WE HAVE READ THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE GUIDELINES FROM ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA CATHOLIC CHURCH AND AGREE TO ALL STIPULATIONS PROVIDED. Our deposit of \$_____ is enclosed. (Please make check payable to "St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church.")

Bride: _____ Date: _____
(Signature)

Groom: _____ Date: _____
(Signature)



St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church
3140 Meramec Street
St. Louis, MO 63118

Agreement of Officiating Priest/Deacon

_____ and _____ have asked me,

_____ (please print), to witness their marriage at St. Anthony of
Padua Catholic Church on _____ at ____ a.m./p.m. I agree to be responsible for:

1. The assessment of their readiness for marriage in the Church.
2. Testimony to their practice of the Catholic faith.
3. Providing information about options of Marriage Preparation Programs available according to the Archdiocese of St. Louis, Missouri.
4. Discussing with them the spirituality and sacramentality of marriage, prayer and the requirements of intention and consent for the sacrament of marriage.
5. Completing the necessary paperwork and documentation for delivery to St. Anthony of Padua on or prior to the night of the rehearsal.
6. Directing the rehearsal on: _____.
7. Witnessing the marriage and celebrating the Wedding Liturgy. Delegation will be given to the visiting Priest/Deacon by St. Anthony's Pastor to witness the marriage at St. Anthony of Padua Church, St. Louis, Mo.

Signed: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Date: _____