

Congratulations on your engagement. This is an exciting and busy time as you prepare to celebrate your wedding ceremony.

Before you set your hearts (and your reception hall deposit) on a date for your ceremony, you must call the parish office and schedule an appointment with a parish priest. If you are living outside of the Toledo area, you need to make this appointment with your local parish priest and then contact Gesu after your initial meeting.

Your first meeting must be six months (at least) prior to the date you have in mind. The earlier you make your appointment, the better.

Both engaged parties must both schedule and attend this meeting and all meetings following. Your parents or other relatives or friends may not schedule a meeting or attend a meeting for you.

You cannot set a date for a wedding ceremony at Gesu before meeting with a priest or parish representative or having your local parish priest contact Gesu to inquire about a date after your first meeting. Dates are not “held” in anticipation.

A date will be set after your initial meeting if both parties are free to marry in the Catholic Church (no prior marriages, dispensations obtained, etc.). Subsequent meetings with the priest will take place as needed.

ENGAGED RETREAT

All engaged couples must attend an Engaged Couples’ retreat prior to their wedding ceremony. Dates for these retreats are given to the couple by the priest. Couples may also contact the Diocese of Toledo for information: www.toledodiocese.org

PRE-MARRIAGE ASSESSMENT

Prior to your wedding ceremony the priest (or another he delegates) will administer a pre-marriage assessment survey and/or interview to help you explore the strengths of your personalities together and challenges you may face living together as a married couple.

PLANNING YOUR CEREMONY

The Catholic Church believes:

Marriage is a covenant by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership of the whole of life, which is by its nature ordered toward the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of offspring; this covenant between baptized persons has been raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a sacrament.

Your wedding ceremony typically follows the following basic criteria:

- One of you is a member of Gesu Parish
- Take place in Gesu Church
- Take place within the celebration of the Eucharist (Mass) or within a celebration of the Word of God (Scripture Service w/o Communion).
- Be witnessed by a Roman Catholic Priest or Deacon in good standing either from Gesu or by one who is acquainted with you and has the permission of Gesu's pastor to witness the ceremony.
- Be witnessed additionally by two people of your choosing (best man/maid(matron) of honor)
- Follow the laws of the State and County regarding obtaining a marriage license

- If on a Saturday, begin before 1pm.

Contact Information

If you have questions or wish to request further information, we can be reached at:

Fr. Marty Lukas, OSFS

Pastor

419-531-1421 x1100

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