

Marriage Policy for St. Luke University Parish

10144 42nd Avenue + Georgetown Twp., MI 49428



Fee Policy

The fee for weddings at Saint Luke is \$500 for registered parishioners and includes use of the church wedding spaces and marriage preparation related costs and paperwork. Non-parishioner fee is \$600.

An initial deposit of one half the total fee is required to reserve church for wedding and rehearsal dates. It is to be paid after the first meeting and no later than the second meeting with St. Luke Parish staff member preparing the couple.

The balance of the fee is due 4 weeks before the wedding.

Balances not paid will cause the wedding date and time to be reopened.

Fees for the musician are not included in the parish fee. All music for the wedding is coordinated through the parish Music Director.

Couples may wish to offer an additional stipend to the officiant.

Scheduling Weddings

Initial inquiries are made through one of the parish staff priests, who will schedule the first meeting with the couple.

The staff priest will check the date and time in the official Mass book and the parish master calendar (computer database).

Dates and times of wedding and rehearsal are penciled into the parish master liturgical calendar and the parish Google calendar with question marks until an initial deposit is made – after the first meeting. Use of other church spaces will be set no later than one (1) month prior to the wedding through the parish staff.

Weddings and rehearsals will be confirmed when the \$250 deposit is paid. A receipt is issued when payment is received.

Weddings must be booked a minimum 6 months in advance, preferably 9 months (see priest for special circumstances).

Weddings will be booked for a maximum of 12 months in advance.

We will accept requests for weddings up to 24 months in advance, but details (like priest celebrant) are subject to change.

Traditionally, weddings are scheduled for Saturdays at 10:00a.m., 1:00p.m., 4:00p.m., or 7:00p.m. Other times are available with the consent of parish staff priest. All available times are subject to parish schedule and liturgical requirements of the Catholic Church. Rehearsal times will usually be scheduled the day prior to the wedding at a convenient time.

Guest Officiants All weddings officiated by non-staff clergy must request and receive delegation by the pastor of St. Luke University Parish. They must observe all diocesan guidelines regarding clergy, especially if they are from outside the Diocese of Grand Rapids. Contact information for the guest celebrating clergy is due at the time of the deposit.

Guest Couples All couples being prepared for marriage outside of St. Luke University Parish must have paperwork for the marriage turned into St. Luke's no less than 6 weeks prior to the wedding.

Liturgical Environment The expectation is that the couple will use the environment of liturgical seasons. Questions concerning modifications of environment are directed to the pastor. Other flowers and décor will be at the discretion of the parish and its liturgical environment personnel.

Substance Abuse Use of alcohol and illegal substances is prohibited on site. Violation of this policy will forfeit deposits and fees paid and terminate the wedding celebration. Groups found under the influence of controlled substances will be asked to leave the premises, wedding couples under the influence risk invalidation of marriage.

Liturgical Ritual & Music All weddings through St. Luke University Parish will follow the guidelines set forth in The Order of Celebrating Matrimony, and as set by the competent Church authority.

Couples must contact the parish Music Director no less than two (2) months prior to their wedding.