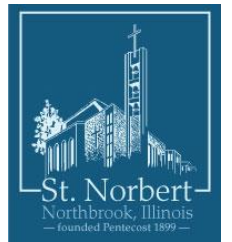


Wedding Guide

**St. Norbert Parish
Northbrook, IL 60062**



St. Norbert Parish - Wedding Guide

Congratulations on your engagement! The faith community of St. Norbert Parish shares your joy and happiness as you begin the preparation for your wedding and your married life together! It is an honor to be part of this sacred event in your lives, and we look forward to all that your marriage will bring forth to the life of the Church and the world. Our hope is to assist you both in preparing for a married life, which is rooted in God's love, and for a joyful liturgical celebration on your wedding day!

From the Catechism:

"The Sacrament of Matrimony signifies the union of Christ and the Church. It gives spouses the grace to love each other with the love with which Christ has loved his Church; the grace of the sacrament thus perfects the human love of the spouses strengthens their indissoluble unity and sanctifies them on the way to eternal life."

Scheduling the Date and Time / Meeting with a Priest

A couple should call the parish office at least six months prior to the proposed wedding date. You will be assigned a priest who will work with you throughout the marriage preparation and the wedding. He will then contact you to set up an initial appointment. No dates should be considered "booked" before the conclusion of that first meeting with a priest.

If you are asking a priest or deacon from outside the Archdiocese of Chicago to officiate or concelebrate at the wedding, Archdiocesan policy requires that he provide a letter of current standing from his bishop or religious superior. Your priest at St. Norbert will explain what needs to be done.

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Marriage Preparation Program

All new things in life require some level of training and preparation. Marriage is certainly no exception! Both St. Norbert and the Archdiocese of Chicago want to help you put your first married steps forward on solid ground. Your priest will discuss a schedule of marriage preparation programs with you and make a recommendation. You will also be asked to complete a premarital inventory that will help you identify areas of strength and possible areas for growth. Finally, St. Norbert will pair you with an already married couple in the parish, who will serve as mentors and a resource for you as you make this exciting transition into married life.

Please visit www.familyministries.org for more information on available marriage preparation programs and on getting married in the Archdiocese of Chicago.



Participants

At a minimum, two witnesses - a best man and a maid (or matron) of honor - are required. In an inter-faith marriage, one witness may be a non-Catholic. Aside from the wedding party, you are encouraged to invite friends or family members to read scripture or the general intercessions during the service. In inter-denominational weddings, ministers from other churches are welcome to take part in the ceremony.

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Liturgy

The wedding planning booklet, "Together for Life," provides a range of options for readings, prayers, and vows. These selections should be made in consultation with the priest or the Director of Music. Non-biblical readings are not permitted during the liturgy.

When two Catholics marry, the marriage usually takes place within the celebration of Mass. However, if one of you is not Catholic, then a wedding ceremony without Mass may be more advisable. This should be decided in consultation with the priest.

Music

The music chosen for the wedding should be an expression of your faith as a couple beginning new life together. It should reflect the religious nature of marriage and fit the spirit and festivity of the liturgy.

Quite frequently, certain popular songs are requested for use during the wedding. Often times, however, these songs are more appropriate for the wedding reception than in worship.

Each couple should contact our Director of Music to go over appropriate music selections, to arrange for any cantors or musicians, and to discuss musician fees. Outside musicians will not be allowed without approval by the Director of Music.

Michael Ward
Director of Music
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Rehearsal

The wedding rehearsal will be arranged with your priest, and should take place one or two days before the wedding. Out of courtesy, please ensure that everyone in your party arrives 10 minutes before the scheduled time of the rehearsal. The rehearsal is conducted for members of the bridal party and their families. It is not intended for musicians or vocalists. Music rehearsals should be scheduled with the Director of Music.

At the rehearsal, you will be asked to give the following to the parish wedding coordinator:

- the marriage license
- music fees
- church donation and server stipends
- program booklets

Decorations

The church is decorated according to the liturgical season. These decorations are not to be removed or rearranged in any way. Tape or wire may not be used to affix decorations to the pews. Aisle runners made of plastic or Pellon are not allowed. Nothing may be placed on top of the altar.

Your florist is asked to remove any wedding decorations you would like to save, immediately following the ceremony. Program booklets should also be removed if you would like them saved. St. Norbert Parish will remove and dispose of any remaining decorations.

Confetti, rice, birdseed, raised petals, and other objects may not be thrown either inside or outside of the church; no balloons, doves, or butterflies be released. Bubbles or bells are allowed. No alcoholic beverages, including champagne, are to be brought onto the parish property.

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Photography and Videography

Please convey to your photographer the sacred nature of the ceremony, and the need for proper reverence, attire, and decorum in church. Photographers should check with the presider before the liturgy begins. Photographs or video may be taken anywhere in the vestibule, the church proper, or on the church grounds prior to the liturgy. We ask that all photographers and videographers remain outside the sanctuary area. No part of the procession or the liturgy should be interrupted by pictures or video. Please remember that St. Norbert Parish cannot be responsible for equipment left behind after the ceremony.

You are welcome to take post-ceremony photos in the church, but in consideration of the church schedule, all activities are requested to be completed 90 minutes after the scheduled start of the wedding.

Donation

At the celebration of marriage, the couple is asked to make a donation to the parish in support of its ministries. We understand that wedding budgets are not all the same, but we do ask that you be as generous as possible. Considering the costs of a wedding, an offering to the Church should be proportioned to other expenses. We have received donations for weddings in the range of \$500 to \$1500, and a few that have exceeded those numbers.

Musician fees should be discussed with the Director of Music. Two servers are provided by the parish: a gift of \$20 (cash) per server is suggested.

Thank you for what you are able to do.

Required Documents

1. A baptismal certificate issued within six months of the wedding is to be submitted by each Catholic. In an interfaith marriage, a baptized non-Catholic is asked to present a record of baptism, if that is possible.
2. Recently issued confirmation certificates must also be submitted by each Catholic.
3. A pre-marital questionnaire for both the bride and the groom will be completed by the priest.
4. Two affidavits affirming each person's freedom to marry may be required in some cases. Your priest will advise you on this.
5. Satisfactory completion of a marriage preparation program.
6. Documented completion of a pre-marital inventory.
7. A marriage license from Cook County, Illinois, is required and should be presented to the priest at the time of the rehearsal. To obtain a license, both the bride and groom must appear together at a County Clerk facility and present two forms of identification. The license is effective one day after you obtain it and is valid for sixty (60) days thereafter. For information on obtaining a marriage license, including locations and hours, go to www.cookcountyclerk.com or contact the Cook County Clerk's Office at 312.603.7790.

Prayer of Blessing for an Engaged Couple

*May God, who in His gentle plan draws you
together in love for one another; strengthen your
hearts*

*so that you will keep faith with each other.
May you grow in your respect for one another and
cherish each other with a sincere love and come to
the happiness of celebrating
the Sacrament of Marriage.*

*May Almighty God bless you, ·
the Father; and the Son,
and the Holy Spirit.*