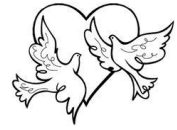




## Planning Your Wedding at St. Theresa or St. Christopher Parishes



Welcome to the Catholic Faith Communities of St. Theresa and St. Christopher Parishes! Our beautiful churches are a wonderful place for couples to receive the Sacrament of Marriage and begin their new life together. Please contact our parish office at (40) 624-8746 for more information.

### Requirements

At least one member of the bridal couple (bride or groom) must be Catholic.

Couples who wish to be married at our parishes do not need to be registered parishioners provided they are registered at another parish. They will complete all pre-wedding paperwork with their parish priest and have the wedding packet sent to the Diocese of Providence for approval. If the couple is not registered at a parish, they must register to be parishioners at the church in which they will be married at least six months prior to the proposed wedding date.

Weddings must have a minimum of six-months' notice to comply with the required six months of marriage preparation in the State of Rhode Island.

Both bride and groom must be able to be married in the Catholic Church.

### Ceremony Times

Weddings are typically celebrated on Saturday afternoons at 12 noon, 1pm or 2pm. Weddings can also be celebrated on other days with some exceptions.

Weddings consist of a two-hour time block, to include arrival, any necessary vendor setup, couple and guest arrival, ceremony, and all photos inside the church. At St. Theresa, all wedding festivities must be concluded by 3:30pm to prepare for our 4pm Mass.

Weddings are permitted during the seasons of Lent and Advent.

### Sample Saturday Timeline:

Wedding Set up/decorations: 11:15am

Wedding Party arrives: 11:30am – 12 noon

Wedding Ceremony: 12:00 noon -12:45pm

Wedding Party photos and clean-up: 12:45pm – 1:15pm

The couple and guest are expected to be prompt. *(To respect parish events the timeline must be respected)*

### Cost

The wedding fee for St. Theresa and St. Christopher churches is \$650. This includes the following:

The use of the church on the wedding date for a two-hour block.

A wedding rehearsal the day or two before the ceremony.

A wedding hostess who will walk you through both the rehearsal and the wedding.

An organist and vocalist for the sacred music for your wedding. *(A guest musician maybe allowed, with permission from our pastor and music director. Guest musician fees are not included)*

The use of the facilities for you and your guests.

Cleaning and Sanitizing, adhering to all current COVID19 CDC regulations.

Please note, the Priest/Deacon receives no stipend as part of the fee. Any gratuity or offering is at the couples' discretion. Typical donation is \$100.00

All fees must be paid at least two weeks prior to the wedding date.

A \$50.00 nonrefundable deposit holds the date of the wedding once the couple has met with our parish priest and submitted their formal request.

Please note that there is an additional charge of \$100 for weddings that create unnecessary debris/damage in the church and/or grounds. You are ultimately responsible for the conduct of your wedding party and guests.

### **Celebrant**

We have a priest and a deacon who can perform your ceremony. Family members or friends who are priests or deacons are welcome to conduct the ceremony with our Pastor's prior approval, provided they are in good standing and can provide the necessary paperwork to be filed beforehand. Celebrants must follow the guidelines of the Archdiocese of Rhode Island and be ordained for Catholic ministry.

### **Hostess**

Your hostess will be present at both the rehearsal and the wedding ceremony, assisting the family and answering questions. A rehearsal is required. Please note that everyone involved with the wedding should be present at the rehearsal.

### **Musicians**

Arrangements must be made with our Music Director at least three months prior to the wedding date. All music for the ceremony must be sacred and appropriate for the Catholic Church. Any guest musicians must meet with our Music Director at least three months prior to the wedding to request approval. There are no exceptions to this policy. If you would like to have a guest organist, violinist, flautist, vocalist, etc, our Music Director must be notified, informed of selections, and all must be approved by the Director and our Pastor. A bench fee may be required.

### **Marriage Preparation**

Marriage preparations may take place at St. Theresa/St. Christopher parishes or at another parish.

Before the wedding takes place, the following is required:

Completed diocesan questionnaire (Bride & Groom). To be completed with the Pastor

All Sacramental records dated within the past 6 months (Baptism, First Eucharist, Confirmation)

For non-Catholics, a copy of birth certificate and, if baptized, a copy of certificate of baptism is required.

Marriage Preparation and Enrichment Program Completed and certificate presented (*AKA Pre-Cana*)

Adequate marriage preparation:

**For couples from a visiting parish** that wish to be married at our parishes, your marriage preparations will take place at your parish with your parish priest. You are asked to follow the requirements of the church where you are being prepared. The pastor of where you are doing marriage prep is required to complete all necessary paperwork with the couple and send the marriage file to the Diocese of Providence no later than three months prior to the wedding so that appropriate permission and dispensation can be obtained. Documents must then be received by our parish for the wedding to take place. All paperwork must be received by no later than 1 month prior to the wedding date so information can be accurately entered into our sacramental records.

Additional documentation is required for any dispensations.

## **Marriage License**

A marriage license must be obtained by the couple no later than two weeks prior to the wedding. We ask that you bring the original marriage license to the parish office once they are obtained so that the marriage certificate can be properly prepared.

## **Wedding Day**

Please arrive a half hour before your ceremony to ensure the prompt start of the service.

St. Theresa and St. Christopher Churches are a place of sacred worship. Proper dress is required.

## **Decorations**

Flowers and adornments are allowed, but nothing that leaves a mark. Tape, tacks, pins, nails, staples, wire, and glue are not permitted. Decorations may be free-standing or attached with pew clips or ribbons in a way that respects the sacred space. Church furnishings must not be moved.

For safety concerns, aisle runners are NOT permitted. The throwing of rice, confetti, or any other material in or around the church is prohibited.

Be respectful of the space keeping in mind other liturgical celebrations may occur on the same day.

## **Photography**

Photographers are expected to be as unobtrusive as possible. Photography in the sanctuary area and flash photography during the ceremony are not permitted. Photographers must be respectful of the space; appropriate attire is expected.

Post-ceremony photographs may be taken in most circumstances (for example: a 1 p.m. wedding will have the church use until 2:15 pm).

Respect for the historic nature of the church is required. You may not alter, damage, or misuse any part of the church space to take pictures.

## **Contact**

Contact the parish office at 401-624-8746 with questions or to begin the process of arranging a wedding at St. Theresa or St. Christopher Church.

We welcome any additional questions you may have and wish you God's blessing as you prepare for this special day!