ST. ISAAC JOGUES PARISH

Marriage Guidelines

Preparing for the Sacrament of Matrimony



"From a valid marriage arises a bond between the spouses which by its very nature is perpetual and exclusive; furthermore, in a Christian marriage the spouses are strengthened and, as it were, consecrated for the duties and the dignity of their state by a special sacrament."

CCC 1638

9215 OLD HARFORD ROAD · BALTIMORE, MD 21234 · 410-661-4888

Welcome & Congratulations

We are delighted that your love for one another and the Lord has led you to include St. Isaac Jogues as part of your wedding preparation and planning. Wedding arrangements are certainly necessary and important, but we hope that you never lose sight of the fact that marriage is a Sacrament – a sacred sign of your love for each other in Christ.

Realizing that every bride and groom joyfully anticipates a happy wedding ceremony as well as a happy wedded life, the following items are listed to help in preparation for marriage at St. Isaac Jogues Church.

GETTING STARTED

Place and Presider of Your Marriage

Those wishing to be married in the Church should be registered in a parish and actively involved in the life of that parish.

- Although, traditionally, Roman Catholics are married in the parish of the bride, the wedding may take place in the parish of either Catholic party.
- In cases where neither the bride nor the groom is a parishioner of St. Isaac Jogues, a **Letter of Permission** must be obtained from the pastor of the parish where the bride or groom is registered.
- Non-parishioners must contact a priest or deacon outside of St. Isaac Jogues to be responsible for their wedding. You may ask any priest or deacon at the parish you regularly attend to officiate at your wedding. A friend or relative who is a priest or deacon in the Roman Catholic Church is always welcome to officiate at your marriage.
- No reservation for a wedding will be considered final until the officiating priest or deacon has confirmed, preferably in writing, that he will officiate at your wedding. If a visiting priest is presiding at your wedding, please supply his name, address and phone number.
- The wedding rehearsal and all necessary paperwork are the responsibility of the priest or deacon who will witness the marriage, unless other arrangements have been made.
- The marriage of a Roman Catholic to a non-Catholic usually takes place in the parish of the Catholic party.

GETTING STARTED

Parish Membership

The Roman Catholic Church teaches that marriage is a sacrament. Therefore, we would hope that those who wish to receive this sacrament at St. Isaac Jogues would be registered, active members of this parish community.

Who is a parishioner? For purposes here, a person is considered to be a parishioner if he/she has been a registered, contributing member of St. Isaac Jogues for at least **six (6) months** prior to the initial inquiry about a wedding or marriage preparation.

SCHEDULING

Available Times for Weddings

Weddings are scheduled on **Saturdays** at:

12:00	12:30	1:00
NOON	PM	PM

A Nuptial Mass should not be celebrated on Sunday due to the primacy of the Sunday Eucharistic celebration. Weddings are not scheduled on holy days or national holidays.

SCHEDULING

Meeting with Clergy

You should make an appointment with the priest or deacon who will perform your ceremony at least **six months to one year before the wedding**, due to the Archdiocesan requirements concerning any dispensations that may be needed and the Marriage Preparation Program (Pre-Cana Classes, Sponsor Couple Program or Engaged Encounter).

The date for the wedding will be confirmed following this interview. Materials to assist in planning the ceremony in keeping with the guidelines of the Church will be provided.

PREPARATION

Marriage Preparation Programs

The general regulations of the Archdiocese of Baltimore and common sense lead us to remind all couples who wish to marry that they should carefully prepare themselves for this major life decision. Some form of marriage preparation is required. Both the bride and groom must participate in one of the following:

OPTION 1
Pre-Cana Conferences

OPTION 2
Sponsor Couple Program

OPTION 3
Engaged Encounter Weekend

These programs are serious efforts of the Church to work with couples prior to marriage. The clergy cannot participate in a wedding unless the couple undertakes serious preparation themselves.

Information on the three marriage preparation options can be obtained by calling the Parish Office (**410-661-4888**), or the priest or deacon with whom you are working. Information is also available on the Archdiocesan website at **www.archbalt.org**.

PAPERWORK

Required Documents

Baptismal Certificates

Required for the bride and groom. This requirement is, of course, waived if the non-Catholic party is not baptized. The Baptism form must be of recent issue; that is, issued **within six months** prior to the date of the wedding.

You can obtain a baptism certificate by contacting the church of your Baptism. Explain to them that you are getting married and need a recent issue of your baptism certificate. Have them mail it directly to you so that you can give it to your celebrant (priest or deacon) at one of your meetings.

Marriage License

If your wedding will be at St. Isaac Jogues Church in Baltimore County, then the Marriage License must be obtained at the **Baltimore County License Bureau** at the Courthouse in Towson, 401 Bosley Avenue.

The license is to be presented to the priest before the wedding. There is a **48-hour waiting period** for a marriage license, which is valid for six months from the date of issue.

FEES

Offerings

At St. Isaac Jogues the suggested church offering is:

$225
PARISHIONERS

$325
NON-PARISHIONERS

There is a deposit required at the time of scheduling your wedding. This fee reserves your wedding & rehearsal date and time on the church calendar. The check should be made payable to **St. Isaac Jogues Church**. The balance is due **one month prior** to the wedding. There is a separate charge for music. Please refer to the Music section of this booklet.

YOUR CEREMONY

The Liturgy

Many options exist within the Rite of Marriage, which enable the bride and groom to make their wedding as personal as possible (various entrance rites, choices of prayers, blessings, readings, different formats for the exchange of vows, unity candle ceremony, etc.). If both the bride and groom are practicing Catholics the celebration of the Sacrament of Matrimony normally takes place in the context of a Nuptial Mass. In some circumstances only the Rite of Matrimony itself is used. The priest or deacon will discuss these options with the couple as part of their preparation.

YOUR CEREMONY

People in Your Wedding

Official Witnesses

The Best Man and Maid/Matron of Honor serve as witnesses to the marriage as a sacramental union. They do not have to be Catholic; however, it is recommended that they be in good standing in their faith community.

Readers

Both the Nuptial Mass and the Wedding Ceremony include several readings from scripture. We invite you to ask some of your family members or acquaintances to proclaim God's Word during your wedding liturgy. A layperson may proclaim the first and second readings as well as read the Universal Prayer (Prayer of the Faithful).

Gift Bearers

If the marriage is being celebrated in the context of Mass, family members or friends may be invited to present the gifts of bread and wine as the altar is being prepared for the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Altar Servers

Altar servers are not needed but can be provided if requested. If you wish a friend or relative to serve, they must be a recognized altar server in their home parish. If the altar servers you select are not altar servers of this parish, they are required to be present at the wedding rehearsal.

Sacristan

A Sacristan will be assigned to your wedding. The Sacristan sets up for the wedding, is available during the ceremony for whatever needs arise, and cleans up the church after the wedding and photos are complete. The compensation for our Sacristan and his/her time and travel will be taken care of by the Parish; however, it is a kind gesture to offer the Sacristan an amount of cash in an envelope for their service at your wedding.

The Wedding Rehearsal

The time and date of the wedding rehearsal is scheduled with the priest or deacon who will officiate at your wedding. Punctuality is expected of all who are in the wedding party as the priest/deacon may have other commitments following the rehearsal.

YOUR CEREMONY

Music

Both traditional and contemporary music are appropriate for liturgical services. Please contact the parish office as early as possible to make arrangements for the services of one of our parish organists. Select the music with the organist at least one month prior to the ceremony.

Our organists and soloist are under contract for all weddings at St. Isaac Jogues Church. If you wish to engage another organist or soloist, please call the parish office. Exceptions are possible under certain circumstances. Our own contemporary music group generally is not available for weddings, and we suggest the couple make their own arrangements if that style is their preference.

Liturgical standards are to be followed in choice of music. This is best expressed with the phrase — ***sacred music for the church; secular music for the reception.*** It is advisable to talk over the choice of music with the celebrant if in doubt.

Organist / Director of Music

Paul Binko
ORGANIST / DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
410-661-4888

Mr. Binko should be contacted as soon as possible, **no less than six months prior** to the wedding, to be entered into his schedule and to arrange for an appointment for planning your wedding in detail. Arrangement for a soloist or instrumentalist should not be made before speaking with Mr. Binko. The fees for a church organist and other music ministers should be discussed with Mr. Binko.

THE CHURCH

Flowers & Sanctuary

Two arrangements of reasonable size are considered sufficient and appropriate for use within the sanctuary. We ask that **no flowers be placed directly on the altar table**. The florist also supplies the white runner (length of our aisle is approximately **75 feet**).

The sanctuary in the church is a “sacred space” and is given our respect and reverence. The placement of furniture and sacred vessels should not be relocated for a wedding ceremony or Mass.

Church seasons are important to our worship and certain symbolic color schemes in the sanctuary accompany them. Altar cloths, pulpit and other area hangings should not be changed or covered over for a wedding ceremony or Mass.

THE CHURCH

Unity Candle

Lighting the unity candle may be part of the liturgy. If you choose to use our candleholder:

3"	7⁄8"
CENTER UNITY CANDLE DIAMETER	SIDE CANDLE / TAPER DIAMETER

To use candles other than ours, the couple will need to provide the holder and the pedestal.

THE CHURCH

Photography & Videography

The photographer should be made aware of the sacred nature of the marriage ceremony and avoid being a distraction during the service. Pictures may be taken during the ceremony, but **the photographer may not enter the sanctuary area**. It is suggested that they consult with the celebrant no later than 30 minutes prior to the wedding. Following the ceremony, the group may return for posed pictures for a period lasting **no longer than 30 minutes**.

ON THE DAY

Punctuality and Demeanor

It is very important that the rehearsal and wedding begin promptly as scheduled. There are often other services scheduled back-to-back. We try to schedule services far enough apart to allow for the conclusion of one and set-up for the other; however, if the ceremony begins too late, it may be necessary for the celebrant to not allow photographs afterwards, so please be considerate of this necessity.

Demeanor at rehearsals and weddings should be sober, reverent, considerate and prayerful as well as joyful.

ON THE DAY

Celebrant's Attendance at Reception

A printed invitation should be sent if you wish your priest or deacon to attend a reception. If a married deacon is invited to your reception, it is customary that the invitation be extended to his wife as well. Due to the number of commitments in their schedules, our clergy cannot promise attendance at receptions or rehearsal dinners.

PLEASE NOTE

Rose Petals, Rice, Bird Seed, Bubbles, Confetti, Balloons, etc.

Insurance regulations, maintenance requirements, and concern prohibit us from allowing the throwing of rose petals, rice, birdseed, confetti, balloons, or having bubbles, etc. **inside or outside the church** before, during or after your wedding ceremony. The bride and groom are responsible for seeing that this regulation is observed and that your guests are informed.

Again, congratulations on your upcoming marriage.

May you enjoy the blessings of the Lord in your married life.

ST. ISAAC JOGUES CHURCH · 9215 OLD HARFORD RD, BALTIMORE, MD 21234 · PARISH OFFICE 410-661-4888