

# St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church

8014 State Road 52 ♦ Hudson, Florida 34667-6763 ♦ 727-868-5276 Phone ♦ 727-862-9187 Fax



## *Wedding Preparation Guidelines*

The Church recognizes that each of you is a unique individual and, together, form a unique couple. Consequently, it hopes you will actively plan and participate in a nuptial ceremony that will be distinctly your own, while still following a pattern standard for all Catholic Weddings.

*Joseph M. Champlin*  
*Together for Life, 1997*

### **General Information**

Both parties must be free to marry in the eyes of the Church and the State of Florida. The couple must be prepared to demonstrate their freedom with the necessary documentation.

No weddings are performed on Sundays at St. Michael Church.

At least six months notice must be given before weddings. Remember, the more notice given, the better the chance of having your preferred day on the calendar.

The latest time for Saturday weddings is 2:00 p.m.

The marriage license must be presented to the wedding coordinator at the start of the rehearsal. In the State of Florida, it is absolutely forbidden for anyone to perform a wedding ceremony unless a marriage license is presented to the officiant.

If you have a wedding consultant, they must speak with our coordinator at least one week prior to ensure they understand the proper etiquette of a Catholic Wedding and the guidelines of St. Michael Church.

**Promptness is required both for the rehearsal and for the ceremony itself. The bride, groom and bridal party must be present at the church one-half hour prior to the start of the ceremony fully dressed. There are no dressing rooms available.**

Rice, birdseed, flower petals, confetti and balloons are strictly forbidden both on the inside and outside of the church building due to insurance and safety concerns.

## Required Paperwork

1. A baptismal certificate issued within the last six months.
2. In the case of widowed people, a death certificate must be presented.
3. In the case of people with former marriages, an annulment certificate must be presented.
4. In the case of those who are divorced with no annulment, a full annulment procedure must be initiated. In this case a wedding date may not be set until such time as an annulment has been granted.
5. The “*A Form*” must be completed by each party.
6. Two “*B Forms /Affidavit of Freedom to Marry*” must be completed for each the bride and the groom.
7. The couple must attend one of the prescribed marriage preparation courses and present a certificate of completion.
8. The couple must complete the “*Mass/Ceremony*” Preparation Form and submit it to the priest 2 weeks prior to the wedding. This may be found on the parish website at [www.saintmichaelchurch.org](http://www.saintmichaelchurch.org).
9. The couple must complete the Marriage Profile.
10. A valid marriage license must be obtained by the couple and presented to the wedding coordinator at the start of the rehearsal.

## Stipend Fees

Officiant (priest or deacon):	\$125.00
Organist:	\$125.00
Church:	\$100.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$350.00</b>

*All fees must be paid prior to or at the rehearsal.*

**Music:** Only St. Michael’s Church organist may be used for weddings. The requirement of his attendance at rehearsals and working with soloists may increase his fee. All music played at the service must meet the standards for weddings as outlined by the Catholic Church and thus needs the approval of the Music Director.

**Floral Arrangements & Photography:** The relevant fees for these will, of course, be handled by the couple. However, we do reserve the right to instruct florists or photographers as to the professional etiquette to be observed while working in our church.

**Pre-Cana Conference** (Marriage Preparation Program): The fee for this depends upon which course the couple elects to attend and is set by the Diocese.

## Checklist for Marriage Preparation

These items are required prior to your wedding:

- Current copy of Baptism Certificate for bride (dated within the past 6 months).
- Current copy of Baptism Certificate for groom (dated within the past 6 months).
- Complete Marriage Profile.
- Review Marriage Profile results.
- Complete Marriage Preparation Program.
- Two “*B Forms*” for bride. (Preferably completed by parents.)

- Two “*B Forms*” for groom. (Preferably completed by parents.)
- Complete the “*Mass/Ceremony*” Preparation Form. This gives you the opportunity to select the readings and additional options for your wedding and inform the celebrant of your choices.
- Marriage License (There is usually a reduction in the cost of the license if you present a Certificate of Completion from a Marriage Preparation Event).
- All Fees Paid in Full (\$350.00)
- Contact Alex Groppe, Director of Music, at 819-5133 one month prior to the wedding to arrange the music.
- Contact Frank Whiffen, Sacristan, at 819-5142 four weeks prior to the wedding to arrange the rehearsal.

***Remember, your scheduled wedding date is contingent upon completion of all required preparation steps and documents.***

### **IMPORTANT REMINDERS TO ALL COUPLES**

For liability reasons, the following practices are strictly forbidden at all weddings at St. Michael’s Church:

1. The throwing of rice, birdseed, flower petals, confetti or any other material both on the inside or outside of the church building.
2. The use of candles or candelabra other than those provided by the church.
3. The use of thumb tacks to attach decorations to the pews. The church sacristan MUST be consulted before any items are affixed or attached to the pews or any part of the church.
4. No balloons may be used inside or outside the church at any time. It is a breach of Florida law to release gas filled balloons.

Both parties are urged to take notice that they assume full responsibility on their own part and the part of their guests for the observance of these regulations.