

Sacrament of Matrimony

Instructions and Guidelines



ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

CHURCH: 91 NORTH PARK STREET • DAHLONEGA, GEORGIA
OFFICE: 129 HAWKINS STREET • DAHLONEGA, GEORGIA 30533
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GETTING MARRIED AT ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

Congratulations on your engagement! We at St. Luke the Evangelist wish you every blessing as you begin your journey toward marriage. This time of preparation during your engagement is a time of great joy. The following document will hopefully bring answers to questions you may have and help in your planning for the Sacrament of Matrimony.

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. Amen.

SCHEDULING YOUR WEDDING

As with all Sacraments of the Catholic Church, the Sacrament of Matrimony requires human and spiritual preparation. The Archdiocese of Atlanta requires that couples begin this process at least six (6) months prior to the date of their wedding. A full nine (9) months is normally necessary. We ask couples to contact our office at least nine (9) months before they want to be married. To begin the process for getting married at St. Luke's please contact the pastor as soon as possible to 1) briefly discuss your freedom to marry, 2) see who will prepare you and officiate at the ceremony, and 3) reserve the date and time of your wedding and to discuss other relevant details. If you are coming from outside the Archdiocese of Atlanta, please note that usually you will need to bring your own clergy. **(Please note that *no weddings are usually* scheduled at St. Luke's during the Lenten season, nor on the Saturday of the Atlanta priestly ordination, which fluctuates each year.)** Please do not schedule your reception until you have reserved the church for your ceremony. Once the wedding is tentatively scheduled, the formal reservation form (included at the end of this packet) may be completed and returned along with your payment. Reservations are not considered confirmed until this form has been completed in full and returned and fees are fully paid.

Wedding Times:

Friday: 4:30pm or 5:30pm

Saturday: 2:00 pm

With the exception of Sunday, other times may be scheduled by special arrangement.

Rehearsal Times:

Thursday or Friday: 5:00 pm or 6:00 pm (typically lasts one hour)

Some liturgical seasons do require a change in rehearsal times. If you have scheduled a Friday wedding, at the rehearsal with the wedding guild on Thursday the celebrant may or may not be able to be present.

FEES

Basic fees for weddings are determined based on parishioner status. At the end of this document is a worksheet to complete and send in with your check. To qualify for the Active Registered Parishioner rate, you or your parents must be registered at St. Luke's and active in time, talent, and treasure for at least six months prior to the reservation of the wedding date. The determination if one is an active parishioner is made at the point of scheduling the wedding date and is based upon **regular attendance at Mass, participation in parish ministries, and financial contribution** through regular use of parish envelopes, online giving, or check (on record at the parish). The basic fees cover the costs of using of the Church. If there is a real financial hardship, the pastor may waive or discount fees at his discretion. Please let him know if this is the case. Checks may be made payable to St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Freedom to Marry: Church law requires that both parties be free to marry, that is, neither party has been previously validly married. If one or both of you were married before, and your former spouse is still living, you will need to obtain a declaration of nullity from a Catholic marriage tribunal. A priest or deacon of the parish can assist you in starting this process. Under no circumstances may a date be set for the ceremony, not even tentatively, until a declaration of nullity has been granted.

Marriage Preparation: The marriage preparation process in the Catholic Church consists of pre-marital counseling and the completion of certain paperwork. Typically, this process involves four or five meetings with a member of the clergy along with other workshops or retreats recommended by the Archdiocese. Normally the clergyman who will be officiating at the ceremony will complete this process; however, there may be exceptions to this, as outlined below.

Visiting Clergy Officiants: If you wish to have another Catholic priest or deacon outside of St. Luke's officiate at your wedding, you must personally contact him. He will, in turn, contact St. Luke's and request permission to celebrate the wedding confirming in writing that he is willing to officiate, and that he is willing to complete the necessary pre-marital instructions and paperwork. If the visiting clergyman is unable to complete the pre-marital instructions and paperwork, this can be completed by a member of the clergy at St. Luke's. If the visiting clergyman is from outside of the Archdiocese of Atlanta, he must also obtain permission from the Archdiocesan chancellor's office to officiate at the wedding. The chancellor's office can be contacted through the Archdiocesan website (www.archatl.com).

The permission required by Church Law for him to officiate will be granted only after the completed paperwork has been received at St. Luke the Evangelist. The documentation required by Church law must be received in the office at St. Luke's at least **one month prior to the wedding**.

Visiting clergy are expected to follow the policies of St. Luke the Evangelist regarding the conduct of the ceremony and to cooperate with the St. Luke wedding coordinator and parish staff. If visiting clergy cannot conduct the rehearsal, please notify the office at least one month in advance.

Interfaith Marriage: In an interfaith marriage, the Catholic party promises to maintain his or her own faith, and to do all in his or her power to ensure that any children born of the union will be raised in the Catholic faith. The non-Catholic party makes no promises but is made aware of the promise by the Catholic party.

In an interfaith marriage, the minister of the non-Catholic party may be invited to participate in the ceremony. The type of participation will depend upon whether or not the marriage will be celebrated within a Mass. Usually it will involve participating in the readings and/or giving a blessing. In some circumstances, permission will be given for a minister to officiate at the marriage in a location other than the Catholic parish. If you wish to obtain this permission, you must speak to a member of the clergy at St. Luke's to obtain a dispensation so that the marriage will be recognized by the Catholic Church.

LOGISTICS

Wedding Coordinator: Consultation with the wedding coordinator at the parish is required for all weddings at St. Luke's. The St. Luke's wedding coordinator, Brandy Thomas (blstthomas@yahoo.com) will contact you within

90 days of your wedding. Please be aware that the entire ceremony is under the direction of the St. Luke clergy and wedding coordinator. Bridal consultants, if you choose to have one, must not interfere and may function only under the direction of the clergy and the wedding coordinator. The wedding coordinator will be responsible for meeting with couple 60 days prior to wedding, rehearsal supervision, opening bride's and groom's dressing rooms, readying sanctuary and church for ceremony, making copies of readings, and any other reasonable consultation.

Facilities: The church seats approximately 300 people. The church may be reserved for a 3-hour block (typically the ceremony lasts one hour, so the church may be reserved for one hour before the time the ceremony commences and one hour after the ceremony ends). The wedding party, photographers, etc., may arrive 1 hour before the ceremony for preparation and pictures.

Photography and Video: The bride and groom make arrangements for photography and videography. Although we permit a great deal of leeway inside the church before and after the ceremony, **photographers and videographers may not enter the sanctuary (where the wood floor begins) during the ceremony. There is to be no movement of the photographer once the ceremony and/or Mass begins. The photographers and videographers may remain next to the baptismal font once the ceremony begins. St. Luke's does not allow flash photography during the ceremony.** The photographer is allowed forty-five minutes after the ceremony for posed photographs. Any posed photographs involving the officiant are to be taken first.

The following regulations apply to videotaping weddings:

- All video equipment must be set up no later than thirty minutes before the wedding.
- Wireless microphones may be worn by the bride, groom or officiant.
- Video equipment must be stationary during the ceremony; no "roving" cameras.
- Cameras may not be set up anywhere in the sanctuary (altar area).
- No floodlights or any other special lighting may be used during the ceremony.
- No wires may be laid down across any aisles.
- Nothing may be taped, pinned, stapled or otherwise affixed in any way to church walls, furnishings or floors.

Flowers, Candles, and Decorations: The parish wedding coordinator will determine appropriate placement of flowers and any other decorations. Sanctuary furnishings, coverings, flags, etc. may not be removed. No aisle runners are allowed. Due to liability issues, flower petals may not be strewn on the floors. Neither may rice or bird seed be thrown in or outside of the Church. Pew decorations, if used, must be affixed with ribbon or plastic clips. Tacks, staples, tape or putty are not permitted on the church walls or furnishings. All pew decorations must be removed immediately following the ceremony.

Prayers and Readings: Once you begin meeting with the priest or deacon for marriage preparation, you may visit the website, ForYourMarriage.org, which contains all the options for prayers and readings for the wedding liturgy. In your meetings with clergy and with the wedding coordinator, you may tell us of your selections.

Other Participants in the Liturgy: Normally, when a wedding Mass is celebrated, it is required that lectors and all participating as public ministers in the liturgy be Catholic. If the wedding is a Liturgy of the Word (without Mass), non-Catholic Christians may serve as readers.

Reception of Holy Communion at Mass: As Catholics, we believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is a sign of our unity in faith, life and worship. Members of churches with whom we are not yet fully united are therefore not ordinarily able to participate in Holy Communion. We welcome our fellow Christians and members of other

faiths to the Eucharistic celebration and to make a spiritual communion, and we pray that the Holy Spirit in this Eucharist will draw us closer to one another and begin to dispel the sad divisions which separate us. All who are not receiving Holy Communion are encouraged to express in their hearts a prayerful desire for unity with the Lord Jesus and with one another (spiritual communion).

Clergy Stipend: There is no charge for the administration of sacraments. It is purely at the discretion of the couple if they want to give an honorarium to the officiant.

Rehearsal: The rehearsal is usually scheduled for the day before the ceremony. Please be aware that the entire ceremony is under the direction of the officiant who is in attendance, with the assistance of the parish wedding coordinator. Bridal consultants, if you choose to have them, are not to interfere and may function only under the direction of the officiant and/or the wedding coordinator. The rehearsal is limited to the time allotted. The bride and groom are responsible for ensuring prompt attendance of the wedding party. If you would like to meet in the Parish Hall to gather prior to entering the Sanctuary for the rehearsal, please let us know. Those attending should be present at least 20 minutes before the scheduled rehearsal time.

Appropriate Behavior and dress: All attendees should keep in mind the sacred nature of the occasion and conduct themselves accordingly with a realization that the church is a sacred place and reverential silence is expected during the wedding and rehearsal. **Similarly, all should be dressed appropriately for this sacred setting.** No food or drinks are allowed in the church at anytime; however, food and drinks are permitted in the dressing rooms. It is the responsibility of the bride and groom to advise the photographer, videographer, and other attendants of these regulations and to insist upon compliance. The odor of an alcoholic beverage among the wedding party calls into question the capacity to consent to the marriage and thus means the ceremony will be suspended until a later date.

Music: St. Luke the Evangelist's Director of Sacred Music/Organist will meet with you to plan music for the Sacrament of Marriage. Please email mmoffett@stlukrcc.org to make an appointment. Music selections for all parts of the wedding liturgy must be sacred and liturgical to support the dignity of the sacrament. Below is a short list of options. When you meet with the Director of Sacred Music/Organist, more appropriate pieces can also be presented and selected. For a complete Mass, Offertory and Communion Hymns will be chosen from our Missal/Hymnal. As the Second Vatican Council has told us, "Gregorian chant...should be given pride of place in liturgical services" and in the "Latin Church the pipe organ is to be held in high esteem...the traditional musical instrument."¹ The organ has pride of place in the Catholic Church to support the liturgies. Cantors can be assigned if needed. Guest cantor or soloists and music must be approved by the Director of Sacred Music.

MUSICAL SELECTIONS (to listen to a preview of each piece, click on the link provided)

Processional (choose one from this section)

- Trumpet Voluntary - Jeremiah Clarke (most popular for processional)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D5j8jUa_M8I
- Rondeau - Joseph Mouret
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9UMPKwcMONM>

Recessional/Postludes (choose one piece for the recessional and one postlude if desired)

- Wedding March - Felix Mendelssohn (most popular for recessional)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4tDYMap6Dk>

¹ [Sacrosanctum concilium \(vatican.va\)](http://Sacrosanctumconcilium.vatican.va), 116, 120.

- Hornpipe from the Water Music - G.F. Handel
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d9aeDkcRT1k>
- Trumpet Tune – Henry Purcell
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nPVPV95Oz-M>
- Trumpet Tune – John Stanley
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sWsskwkdi-c>
- Psalm XIX – Benedetto Marcello
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dGBOtNx55Uc>
- Arrival of the Queen of Sheba – G.F. Handel
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YP9sYpS7xp0>
- Air from the Water Music - G.F. Handel
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B7jYaUpZvvg>

Preludes/Seating of the Mothers/Procession of the Attendants (choose one piece for a prelude if desired, one for the seating of mothers, and one for the procession of the attendants)

- Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring – J.S. Bach (most popular for seating of mothers)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lm2kAvlQxHE>
- Canon in D – Johann Pachelbel (most popular for the procession of the attendants)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bqj6ZpAD4L0>
- Sheep May Safely Graze – J.S. Bach
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9SSVyoRt5S0>
- Air on the G String - J. S. Bach
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b8272qezRwY>
- Arioso - J.S. Bach
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fV6F1bA7TnA>
- Nimrod from the Enigma Variations - Edward Elgar (fast forward to 1:45)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MeXPyl6Y1xw>

For Flowers for Our Blessed Mother

- Ave Maria - Franz Schubert
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BzMo0qCklGg>
- Ave Maria - J.S. Bach/Charles Gounod
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2TFeSYw0WeI>
- Immaculate Mary – The Lourdes Hymn, French Tune

Worksheet on the cost of using the church of St. Luke the Evangelist for Weddings

The following four are optional. Please check any/all that apply :

- \$250 Organist (if using the organist at St. Luke)
- \$150 Cantor (if using the cantor at St. Luke)
- \$100 Flowers (rental fee to use our silk bridal arrangement for altar and pews)
- \$100 Live Stream

Total A: _____

Next, all couples check one of the following:

- \$250 If you are a parishioner (see page 2 on how to determine)

OR

- \$1,500 Non-Parishioner

Total B: _____

Add Total A + Total B to know the total fee to pay included with the Wedding Registration Form. The check is made payable to St. Luke the Evangelist.

Couples should include \$20 in cash in an envelope for an altar server. This envelope should be given to the wedding coordinator at the rehearsal.

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND THE FORM ON PAGE 8 AND RETURN BOTH ALONG WITH THE CHECK TO ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH, 91 NORTH PARK ST., DAHLONEGA, GA 30533. **BY COMPLETING THESE FORMS, YOU ARE INDICATING THAT YOU HAVE READ THE ABOVE WEDDING REGULATIONS AND AGREE TO COMPLY WITH THEM.** YOUR RESERVATION IS NOT COMPLETE UNTIL WE HAVE RECEIVED THESE FORMS ALONG WITH YOUR PAYMENT.

ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST - WEDDING RESERVATION FORM

WEDDING REQUESTED AT ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST:

DATE REQUESTED: _____ TIME: _____ Mass? () or Service? ()
OFFICIANT: _____ requested and agrees? ()
OFFICIANT ADDRESS: _____ Prepared by: _____

IF WEDDING IS NOT AT ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST (PREPARATION ONLY):

DATE OF WEDDING: _____ TIME: _____
CHURCH OF WEDDING: _____ DENOMINATION: _____
CITY/STATE: _____
OFFICIANT: _____ DENOMINATION: _____
OFFICIANT ADDRESS: _____

BRIDE:

NAME: First: _____ Middle: _____ Last: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____
TELEPHONE: (H) _____ (W) _____ (C) _____
AGE: _____ BIRTH DATE: _____ E-Mail: _____
RELIGION: _____ BAPTIZED? (Y/N) _____
MAID/MATRON OF HONOR: _____
PREVIOUS MARRIAGE(S)? (number) _____ IF ANY, ANNULMENTS COMPLETED? (Y/N) _____

GROOM:

NAME: First: _____ Middle: _____ Last: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____
TELEPHONE: (H) _____ (W) _____ (C) _____
AGE: _____ BIRTH DATE: _____ E-Mail: _____
RELIGION: _____ BAPTIZED? (Y/N) _____
BEST MAN: _____
PREVIOUS MARRIAGE(S)? (number) _____ IF ANY, ANNULMENTS COMPLETED? (Y/N) _____

(rev. 1/31/23)