



CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR ENGAGEMENT!

Dear Future Husband & Wife,

This is a wonderful time in your life and we at St. Edith Parish want to do our best getting you ready for your wedding day and a lifetime of love in the Sacrament of Marriage. Sacraments are the doors to the sacred; through which we are touched and graced in a special and unique way. The Sacrament of Marriage is such a door that two walk through in the presence of family, friends and their faith community.

If you grew up at St. Edith what a blessing it is to celebrate your wedding in the church where you and your family have worshipped at so often. If you are new to St. Edith, WELCOME! We're glad you've decided to make St. Edith your faith community.

The following information includes basic parish information and guidelines for the wedding, marriage preparation, and answers for questions that come up. Please call the Parish Office at (734) 464-1222 to set up an initial meeting time. We look forward to sharing this special moment with you!

The St. Edith Parish Community
Fr. James McNulty, Pastor

15089 Newburgh Rd
Livonia, MI 48154
Tel (734) 464-1222
Fax (734) 464-7582
parishoffice@stedith.org
www.stedith.org



@frjim5



St. Edith Parish

Marriage Preparation Information

The following should be helpful in answering some of the questions you may have. Our goal is to have your wedding day as special as it can be, and to assist you in preparing for a lifetime of love!

To Begin

- ♥ Please call the parish office (734) 464-1222, at least six months prior to the tentative wedding date and ask to speak with the pastor to set up an initial meeting in order to set a date. Please do not confirm a date with a hall, caterer, band, etc., beforehand to ensure the availability of the day. We will do the best we can to honor your date request.
- ♥ A marriage preparation program facilitated by parish staff and mentor couples will explore the many areas of relationships that impact on our lives as married persons and discuss Marriage, as sacrament and covenant within our Catholic faith tradition. This time together is an excellent opportunity to discover more about each other. A minimum of six month's will be needed to complete this. This will be on both an individual basis and in a group setting.
- ♥ Marriage preparation at St. Edith's includes:
 - ♥ Each couple completing a pre-marriage inventory. After meeting with the pastor you will be contacted to set up a time to complete this. After the results have been received we ask that you meet with our Marriage Team Family Psychologist, Juliann Binienda, Ph.D. to review the results. Please call (248) 355-2114 to schedule an appointment with her.
 - ♥ Attending two one-half day seminars; a Part I and Part II. These occur on a given Sunday in January & February and September & October, from 10 AM until 2 PM facilitated by mentor couples in the parish. Lunch is included.
 - ♥ Attending an Introduction to Natural Family Planning (NFP). This is a one class overview of the Church's teaching about the Sacrament of marriage, with medical and scientific support for choosing NFP as a healthy, moral and successful way to postpone or achieve pregnancy. Class schedules and registration at www.aod.org/nfp.
 - ♥ Using the booklet, "Together for Life," Ave Maria Press, to select the readings and prayers for your ceremony.
- ♥ We follow a general policy that, when the religious traditions of the two families are different, that the Wedding Liturgy take place outside of the context of Mass. Normally, our parish priest will witness weddings within Mass, our deacon will witness weddings outside of Mass.

Visiting Clergy

- ♥ Couples are permitted to ask priests, or deacons who are family members, or with whom they are friends, to witness their marriage at St. Edith.
- ♥ Ministers of another faith are welcome to assist at weddings here when a non-Catholic is marrying a Catholic. Please let the priest or deacon, know of your request early in your meeting with them.

Wedding Times at St. Edith

- ♥ Saturday weddings are scheduled at 2:00 p.m.
- ♥ Friday weddings are normally scheduled at 5:30 p.m.
- ♥ Weddings may take place on other days of the week except Sunday. Times for these weddings will be determined in discussion with the couple and depend on what other parish activities may be scheduled.

Marriage as Vocation

Marriage in the Church is a vocation we choose to live out our baptismal call in. Like other sacraments, it is a sign that reveals Christ, and is a communication of his divine life and love. We live this life not only in our homes, but also within the faith community. If you are not currently registered in the parish we encourage you to do so. For it is within the faith community that your marriage experience will be shared and nourished. Because of our faith community ties, many young people desire to be married in the church they grew up in and we welcome you! Please note:

- ♥ If you are still registered under your parents, please register now as an adult with your own household.
- ♥ If you are living out of the area, please let the pastor of your new parish home be aware of this. As a member of another parish community your pastor's ministry is to prepare and witness your marriage. He will give his blessing and written permission for us to witness your marriage here at St. Edith!

Questions That Come Up

- ♥ We encourage questions about the Catholic faith from non-Catholic parties. Should there be a desire on the part of the non-Catholic party to enter into communion with the Catholic Church, we welcome them and can provide an avenue to do so!
- ♥ If there is a prior marriage for one, or both of the individuals, the appropriate documents will be needed before a date can be set, and marriage preparation begin.
- ♥ A Catholic wedding is appropriately celebrated in a church, as it is a sacramental celebration of your new commitment within the Christian community. While weddings in picturesque settings have a romantic element to them, they do not reflect a celebration of the gathered Christian community.
- ♥ Witnessing weddings celebrated at St. John's Center in Plymouth, or at other chapels, are up to the discretion of each priest, or deacon. The pastor of St. Edith will grant permission for them to take place there, but it will be up to the couple to make the arrangements with the Center, or other chapel.



Preparing for the Wedding Liturgy

When the music starts, months and years of anticipation become a special moment in time. The following information will help guide you in preparing for that special moment.

Movement, Scripture Readings & Prayers

- ♥ During marriage preparation you will be given a booklet, "Together for Life" to help you plan your ceremony. The priest/deacon witnessing your marriage will guide you in planning the details of the liturgy from processing into church, to selecting scripture readings and prayers for the ceremony.

The Music

- ♥ Music is planned and prepared with the Parish Minister of Music, Heather Shina. She can be contacted at (734) 464-1222, ext. 314, hshina@stedith.org.
- ♥ A Wedding Liturgy Music Preview, typically on a Sunday in January, will give you the opportunity to hear various music pieces and musicians. The music for the Wedding Liturgy is, generally, selected at this time, though CD's with music selections are available through the music director.
- ♥ The Parish Minister of Music must approve all guest musicians.
- ♥ A standard fee of \$350.00 is to be paid directly to the Minister of Music at least one month prior to the wedding. This includes both the music director and cantor. Additional fees may apply if rehearsals are required with guest musicians and soloists. The standard music fee applies even if you do not use the Parish Minister of Music.

Rehearsal

- ♥ Approximately three months before your wedding you should set up the date and time for your rehearsal by contacting our Wedding Coordinator, Nan Orloff at (734) 464-1290.
- ♥ All persons who will be a part of the ceremony should attend. Those reading will be given an opportunity to practice.
- ♥ The priest/deacon will not, normally, be at the rehearsal.

Photography & Videotaping

- ♥ Photography and Videotaping guidelines are written out and included within the Wedding Packet. These are to be signed by the photographer/videographer and returned prior to the wedding.

Flowers & Pew Bows

- ♥ Fresh flowers are welcome! Bouquets are, typically, placed in front of the altar and/or in front of the ambo. Please do not select flowers that may extend above the height of the altar. Flowers, also, can be placed against the back wall of the sanctuary. Flowers are, usually, taken to the reception after the wedding, but they may be left in place should you wish.
- ♥ Pew bows are nice additions. You may choose to use pew bows that St. Edith's provides or bring your own. Pew bows are placed on the pews in the center isle.

Other Liturgy Details

- ♥ Please, no runner of any type is to be used, nor the scattering of flower petals on the aisle. We also request that you refrain from balloons, bubbles, throwing of rice, birdseed, confetti or other material after the wedding.
- ♥ The practice of having young children (5 & under) in the wedding party as ring bearers, or flower girls is not unusual, but understandable caution should be taken.
- ♥ Unity Candles, though not a traditional part of the Liturgical Rite for Marriage in the Catholic Church, are welcome. If a Unity Candle is used, it will be placed on a stand near the altar. The Unity Candle is to be provided for by the couple.
- ♥ Please no smoking, eating, or drinking in any part of the church during the rehearsal and wedding. As a wedding is such a special moment, we suggest all in the wedding party refrain from alcohol prior to the wedding.
- ♥ If couples or family members wish to avail themselves of the Sacrament of Reconciliation prior to the wedding, we encourage you to do so. Please schedule this with the pastor, Fr. Jim McNulty.



Standard Fees

- ♥ There is no set fee for the use of the church for registered parishioners. Contributions made will go toward the cost of set-up and utilities.
- ♥ Contributions toward the rehearsal coordinator, altar servers, priest, or deacon are up to the discretion of the parishioner.
- ♥ There is a fee of \$100.00 with regards to the pre-marriage inventory and follow-up meeting with Dr. Binienda. We ask couples to submit a check to the parish at the time the inventory is taken to cover this.
- ♥ The standard music fee is \$350.00.

Other Important Details

Baptismal Certificate

- ♥ Catholic parties are to turn in a recently issued copy of their baptismal certificate at the start of marriage preparation. Please contact the parish where you were baptized and they will send you a certified copy to turn in. You may, also, request to have it mailed directly to St. Edith.
- ♥ If a Baptismal Certificate is available, in one form, or another, from non-Catholics we ask that a copy be turned in.

Marriage License

- ♥ Each couple must obtain a civil marriage license from a county clerk in Michigan. You may obtain the license from the clerk of the county in which either partner in the couple resides. Each county has different requirements so be sure to call the clerk's office for their standards. The Wayne County web site is www.waynecounty.com/clerk/marriage-licenses.htm.
- ♥ Please drop off the license at the Parish Office no later than the Monday prior to the ceremony.

Relax & Enjoy!

The time before a wedding can be a whirlwind of running around and "stressing out." Relax & enjoy this period as you prepare for your marriage! Often the worries associated with a wedding are needless anxieties we place upon ourselves. Let this not only be a time for you to come together as a future husband & wife, but for your families as well.



***The St. Edith Community
celebrates with you.***

***May God's
grace & blessings
be yours
now & forever!***



15089 Newburgh Road - Livonia, MI 48154
Tel (734) 464-1222 - Fax (734) 464-7582
parishoffice@stedith.org
www.stedith.org