

WEDDING GUIDELINES



***SAINT THERESE DE LISIEUX
CATHOLIC CHURCH***

*11800 Lake Worth Road
Wellington, FL 33449
561-784-0689*

Reverend David C. Downey, Pastor

***Congratulations to you both on your upcoming Wedding!** On behalf of our Pastor, the Deacons and the entire Parish Staff, please know that you both are in our prayers as you prepare for the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony here at St. Therese de Lisieux Catholic Church. (Lisieux is pronounced “li-zyoo”, which is the name of the Town in France where St. Therese lived, and where she died in 1897.)*

PREPARATION

There are preparations required by both the Catholic Church and Diocese of Palm Beach in order for you to proceed with Marriage in the Catholic Church. The Diocese requires that there be at least a four-month period of time between your initial interview with the Pastor or one of our Deacons, and your proposed Wedding date. During this time you both will be able to accomplish the required steps in the Marriage Preparation process. St. Therese de Lisieux requires all paperwork and documentation be submitted at least one month prior to the Wedding.

“ENGAGED ENCOUNTER”

“God’s Plan for Marriage” is a daylong *Conference* which is required and provided by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Palm Beach. It is offered at various Parish locations throughout the Diocese for groups of engaged-couples. You must pre-register to attend and submit the nominal fee to the Diocese at time of registration. Information and Registration can be found on the website: www.diocesepb.org Under *Ministries* click on *Marriage & Family Life Ministry* and follow through to *Premarital Programs*.

The purpose of *“God’s Plan for Marriage”* is to help you facilitate the life-long covenant and commitment you are about to enter into with each-other, as well as prepare you for the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony. At the end of the Conference you will be given a *Certificate of Completion*. A copy of your Certificate needs to be dropped off at the Parish Office. Take the original Certificate with you when you go to obtain your Marriage License from the State of Florida. They will give you a significant discount on the cost of the Marriage License for having participated in such a pre-marriage program.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

For *Catholics*, you must contact the Church of your Baptism and have THEM SEND a copy of your *Baptismal Certificate* directly to St. Therese de Lisieux. The copy must be issued within the last six months.

Non-Catholic Christians must also submit a copy of their *Baptismal Certificate*; this can be a copy and does not have to come directly from the Church of your Baptism.

During your initial Interview, the Pastor or Deacon will assist you and your fiancé with completion of the Pre-Nuptial Questionnaire and will discuss with you any other documentation specific to your particular circumstance (such as Annulment Decrees, Dispensations, etc.).

MARRIAGE LICENSE

A Marriage-License, issued by Palm Beach County in the State of Florida, is required. The Parish clergy are not permitted, under penalty of law, to Preside at any Wedding in the State of Florida without this License in their possession. Further information is available online from the Office of the County Clerk.

Go to: www.mypalmbeachclerk.com and click on *Marriage Licenses* under *Other Services*.

YOUR WEDDING DATE AND TIME

When you come in for your initial interview, the Pastor or Deacon will discuss dates with you. While tentative dates can be “penciled-in” on your behalf, the final decision will take place during your interview. Please be advised that no dates are final until this meeting. We will do everything we can to accommodate your requested date, as long as the Parish Calendar is open and your date is available for both your *Wedding* and *Rehearsal* the day before.

NUPTIAL MASS or a WEDDING CERMONY?

The *Sacrament of Holy Matrimony* between two Catholics enjoys the privilege of a full Wedding (Nuptial) Mass. A Wedding Ceremony, without Holy Mass, is provided for marriages between a Baptized Catholic and a non-Catholic Baptized Christian. Marriage between a Baptized Catholic and a non-Baptized person will be discussed with you at the time of your initial interview.

FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS

The choice of Florist is up to you. The layout of our church permits up to three Floral pieces; one at floor level, directly in front of the altar and two arrangements on pedestals (provided by the Florist) on the sides of the altar, if you so choose. Plants, trees or trellises are not permitted. Bows, ribbons, or flowers for the aisle-pews are permitted **BUT MUST BE SECURED WITH NON DAMAGING MATERIAL**, such as rubber bands or cloth ties, provided by your Florist. They **MAY NOT** be scotch-taped, glued, wired or tacked on in any way. Please consider floral designs that complement the simple design of our church.

It is traditional in the Catholic Church for newly married Couples to leave at least one floral arrangement, in the church after the Wedding. It is a sign of gratitude to Almighty God for the Sacrament you have just received. The flower arrangement also serves as a petition to the people of the Parish for their prayers for a newly married Couple when they see them in the sanctuary at Sunday Mass. Please keep in mind that the purpose of flowers in Church is to beautify God's House, more so than decorative pieces used for photos, which are then removed once everything is done here and taken to another location. Please discuss your floral plans ahead of time with the Pastor or Deacon, since certain Liturgical Seasons in the Catholic Church Calendar Year have floral restrictions involved.

AISLE RUNNER

The use of an Aisle-Runner is not permitted at St. Therese de Lisieux

CANDLES

The use of additional candles or candelabra is not permitted at St. Therese de Lisieux.

APPAREL MODESTY AND EXPECTED DECORUM

When choosing your wedding-gown and/or bridesmaid dresses, it is expected that *respectful modesty* and good taste, appropriate to a House of Worship, be observed. It is not our desire or intention to meddle into or dictate in any way what you choose to wear at your Wedding Reception; but if your style of gown or dresses involves low backs, plunging neck-lines, etc., then you must obtain "Church-Shawls" for use while you are in the House of God. Your Gown or Bridal Shop can assist you with this. Please speak to the Pastor or Deacon if any further clarification is needed.

Food or beverage of any kind, including water bottles, etc., **is not permitted inside the Church**. Alcoholic beverages are prohibited on Parish property. Any guests who are chewing gum will be asked to dispose of it properly before entering the Church. **Smoking is prohibited within thirty-feet of the outer doors.**

REHEARSAL

Wedding Rehearsals are limited to one hour and are expected to start at their scheduled time. For this reason, and in order to keep things as easy and peaceful for you, ONLY those who have some role to play during the Wedding or who will be processing in, are welcome to come for the Rehearsal. The Rehearsal serves the purpose of making sure everyone, especially you and your fiancé, can be as relaxed and comfortable for the following day. Anyone who does not have a specific role in the Wedding may not come as 'observers'. Please make appropriate arrangements for your guests to meet you at your Rehearsal Dinner. They should not be instructed to gather here for the *Rehearsal*.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY

It is your responsibility to select a photographer. He or she must speak with the Pastor or Deacon prior to the Wedding in order to make sure that proper decorum and reverence be maintained and to prevent distractions. Additional lighting is not permitted. Flash photography may only be used as you process in and process out. You are allowed 30 minutes for pictures in the Church after the Wedding. For this reason, the rather time-consuming “Receiving Line” immediately following the Wedding is strongly discouraged.

MUSIC

Liturgical Music is an important component of your Wedding. It enriches prayer, reverence and the sacred beauty of the Nuptial Mass or Ceremony. The *United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*, as well as the *Diocese of Palm Beach*, mandate that only sacred Liturgical music be used inside the Church. Secular music or pre-recorded CD/iPod *canned* music is not permitted. It is your responsibility to contact our Pastoral Associate, Deacon Pete Del Valle, here at the Parish Office, for assistance with booking musicians, soloists, etc.

Extraordinary circumstances, such as having a family member or friend who sings or is a musician, need to be discussed with Deacon Pete. We suggest you contact him at your earliest convenience once your Wedding date is approved and set. **Musician/soloist fees are \$300 and are separate from the Parish fees.** It is expected that payment for them be received along with the other Parish Fees; **at least one month in advance of your Wedding.**

RICE, CONFETTI, BIRD-SEED, FLOWER PETALS, LIVE BUTTERFLIES, DOVES

NONE of the above are permitted on the grounds of St. Therese de Lisieux Church. While we regret having to forbid this traditional practice, it has become necessary due to safety hazards, clean-up and maintenance problems, and Liability Insurance. Please inform your family members and guests ahead of time of this restriction in order to prevent problems, unpleasant hard-feelings, or embarrassment for them or us. We want ALL of your family members and guests to feel *welcome* and to enjoy celebrating this very important day with you here. Preventing anything from happening which could dampen the happy atmosphere of your Wedding Day, is our objective too!

BIODEGRADABLE HELIUM BALLOONS are permitted. They are readily available from many places, **please check with your Florist about obtaining them.** **BUBBLES, ONLY OUTSIDE THE CHURCH, are also permitted** as long as **NO puddles of soapy water are left on the pavement, which presents a serious slipping hazard.**

FEES

The **stipend** for use of the Church for a Wedding is: **\$550.00. A \$200.00 Security Deposit will also be collected and must be included** with your Church Stipend Check (**total of \$750.00**). The \$200.00 WILL BE RETURNED within a week after your Wedding IF the Church, Vestibule, Rest Rooms and Entrance Area are left in as neat and clean conditions as they were when your Wedding Party arrived. **The Security Deposit will be used if we are required to hire Custodial help to clean up any “debris” left behind after your Wedding.**

A check for both the **Church Stipend and Security Deposit (\$750)**, and a **separate check for Musician’s Fees (\$300)**, *made out directly to the Musician*, must be in hand at the Parish Office no later than one month prior to your Wedding Day.

We are often asked what the *Honorium* is for the Priest or Deacon who is Officiating. Customarily \$100 is given in a card or envelope for him. While the *Clergy Honorium* is not mandatory or required, it is customary and is certainly very much appreciated.

*Once again, on behalf of our Pastor, Fr. Downey, our Deacons and our entire Parish Staff, we extend to you and to your fiancé our **heartfelt congratulations!** Please know that both of you and your families are being remembered in prayer as you prepare for the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony here at St. Therese de Lisieux!*