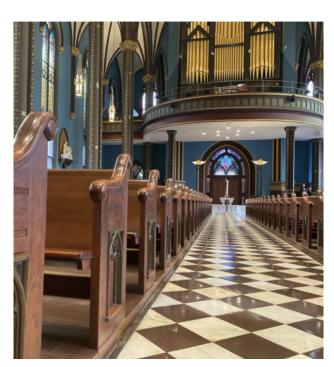


## Congratulations

on your recent engagement! We celebrate that God has brought you and your fiancé to this moment in your lives and pray that this time of preparation will be one of grace, peace, and joy for you and your families.

Since we are host to many weddings every year, these wedding policies are designed to assist you in your planning. It is important to note that reception of the Sacrament of Matrimony **requires** that either the bride or groom are Catholic. If you have questions that are not answered within these pages, please contact us at 513-721-4045.

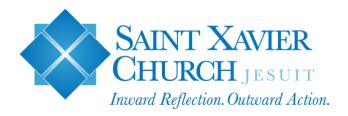
#### **Your Wedding at Saint Xavier Church**



Since our church will have a significant place in your married life, we invite you to consider becoming members of St. Xavier parish. An active member of the parish is defined and understood to be one who weekly attends Sunday Mass as is their obligation and participates in parish community life through stewardship (time, talent, and treasure).

Non-members of Saint Xavier Church may be married here provided that the parish Pastor of both the bride and the groom gives permission (if applicable). A priest or deacon is not assigned to your wedding by St. Xavier Church. Non-members of Saint Xavier Church (or those who are not members at the time of the wedding

planning) may need to arrange to have a priest or deacon, other than a member of our staff, officiate at the wedding. The chosen priest or deacon is expected to give the required instructions for marriage preparation. The priest or deacon will be expected to complete the required marriage preparation documents for permanent archiving at Saint Xavier Church.

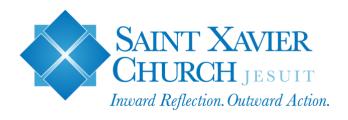


#### **Fees**

- 1. The fee for celebrating a wedding in Saint Xavier Church is \$2,500. A non-refundable deposit of \$1,250 (half the fee) is required when the date is confirmed, and the Agreement and Couple's Information forms are submitted. The fee includes the use of the parish facilities, the assistance of the St. Xavier Church sacristans, the organist, and the cantor. The remaining balance must be paid at least two weeks before the scheduled date. We will gladly set up a no interest payment plan for wedding fees. Checks should be made payable to Saint Xavier Church but online payment by debit or credit card is also acceptable. Simply access our website <a href="http://www.stxchurch.org/">http://www.stxchurch.org/</a>. Select *Donations* and follow the links to *Donate* and select *Wedding Payment*.
- **2.** The stipend for your priest or deacon is in addition to the fees listed above. A suggested minimum stipend is \$250
- **3.** If you require **Pre Cana marriage preparation** for a ceremony to be held at **a parish other than St. Xavier Church**, the St. Xavier parish priest or deacon who guides the preparation receives a stipend of \$400, and St. Xavier Church receives a fee of \$1,100 for expenses and file preparation. The total preparation fee is \$1,500.
- **4. You must pay for parking**. The parking lot adjacent to the church does not belong to St. Xavier Church. It is managed by Park Place Parking Company. Parking is not free for weddings. For prepaid parking arrangements call 513-381-2179 for information.

#### **Scheduling Your Wedding**

- **5.** The Archdiocese of Cincinnati requires that your wedding be scheduled at least six months before the anticipated date. However, it is recommended that inquiries be made at least one year in advance since the Saint Xavier Church calendar fills up very quickly. To make arrangements, contact our Pastoral Associate through the Saint Xavier Church office (513-721-4045).
- **6.** Weddings may be scheduled to begin on: Saturday afternoons at 2:00 PM or Saturday evenings at 6 PM. (If you desire a Friday evening wedding, please contact the parish office for further information). You may consult our *Wedding Calendar* on our website under the *Wedding* tab to help determine available dates. The Pastoral Associate must be consulted to ensure the date you request is available on the master church calendar which determines actual real-time availability.
- **7.** SaintXavierChurchoffersaVigilMassonSaturdayat4PM.Allactivityinthechurchproper (photography, removal of decorations, flowers, etc.) must be completed by 3:30 PM. Please make note of these limitations when scheduling.



- 8. No one is guaranteed the use of the main church any earlier than 30 minutes prior to the starting time of the ceremony or Mass and 30 minutes at the completion. If additional time is needed in the main church beforehand, the parish office must be contacted in writing. If a request is approved, the amount of time allowed will be determined by availability on the parish calendar.
- **9.** The Pastoral Associate will ask for some preliminary information and check on the availability of the date and time that you request. Once it has been determined that the date you are requesting is available, and that you are free to marry in the Roman Catholic Church, you must provide the following items before the date can be confirmed and placed on the calendar:
  - 1. The Couples Information Sheet which must include the name of the priest or deacon who will instruct and officiate.
  - 2. The signed Agreement Form—included with this booklet— acknowledging that you have read thoroughly the Saint Xavier Church Wedding Policies and that you agree to abide by them- without exception.
  - 3. The \$1,250 non-refundable deposit.
  - 4. The letter of permission from the Pastor of the bride and groom (or of the Catholic party)

giving permission for the marriage to be celebrated at Saint Xavier Church. [This is required if both parties are non-registered members of Saint Xavier Church.]

Once these items are given to the Pastoral Associate and the date has been confirmed, you should begin to meet with the priest or deacon who will be assisting you with your marriage preparation and instructions.

#### **Wedding Rehearsals**

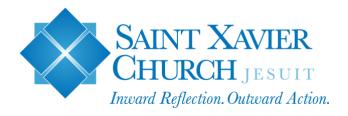
The Pastoral Associate assigns rehearsal times after your wedding date is confirmed on the parish calendar. The following schedule will determine rehearsal assignments:

Friday evening weddings 5:30 PM on Wednesday or Thursday

Saturday afternoon weddings 5:30 PM on Friday Saturday evening weddings 6:30 PM on Friday

**10.** All rehearsals will begin at the scheduled time (whether or not all participants have arrived). There is a maximum of 45 minutes permitted for rehearsal. It is suggested that your wedding party be instructed to arrive 15 minutes early. Ask all members of the wedding party to use the

<sup>\*</sup> If there is a Friday evening wedding scheduled at Saint Xavier Church, all rehearsals for Saturday weddings will be on Thursday evenings or late afternoon on Friday.



Parish Center parking lot side entrance (north side) as the front main doors are locked after mass on weekdays. The celebrant (aided by the Saint Xavier Church sacristans) is in charge of directing the rehearsal. The church does not allow professional wedding planners/coordinators to be involved in directing the rehearsal or actual wedding ceremony. The couple should discuss all details ahead of time with their officiant (including where family members will sit). This will allow the rehearsal to proceed in a timely manner.

#### **Marriage Preparation**

- **11.** As part of the instruction process, you will be asked to do "FOCCUS" ("Facilitating Open Couple Communication Understanding and Study"), a professional evaluation tool designed to highlight strengths and weaknesses in your relationship so that life issues and concerns can be addressed and openly discussed before marriage.
- 12. Furthermore, according to the guidelines established by the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, marriage preparation must also contain participation in either the Pre-Cana workshop or an Engaged Encounter weekend. Please contact the Wedding Preparation Office of the Cincinnati Archdiocese—website: <a href="http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/family-life/engaged-couple-programs/">http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/family-life/engaged-couple-programs/</a> for further information. Any of these programs must be completed several months before your wedding.
- **13.** St. Xavier church offers a marriage preparation session for couples as they begin the marriage preparation process and is mandatory if the presider is a priest or deacon from St. Xavier Church. The session includes the theology and sacramentality of a Roman Catholic marriage and may include the administration of the FOCCUS instrument. Please contact the Pastoral Associate for details.
- **14.** During the instruction process, you must present the following items to your priest or deacon:
- **a.** Baptismal certificates for both parties, whether Catholic or Protestant. For a Catholic, contact the church where the baptism took place. If the church no longer exists, contact the local diocese chancery office (Archdiocese of Cincinnati, 513-241-3131.) Do not mail the certificates to Saint Xavier Church. Instead, give them to the priest or deacon who is preparing you for marriage. A Catholic baptismal certificate should be dated no more than six months before the date of your wedding. If no baptismal certificate is available for a baptized non-Catholic, a signed statement by someone who was present at the baptism—stating the date, the name of the church and place of baptism—is needed. If either the bride or groom has not been baptized, your priest or deacon will have to file a request for a special dispensation for the marriage.



- **b.** Documentation that you have participated in a marriage preparation program, had individual instruction, or attended a Pre- Cana workshop or Engaged Encounter weekend.
- **c.** Though not part of the actual instruction process, you will need to bring a civil marriage license from Hamilton County or from any Ohio county of residence to the rehearsal. For more information about Hamilton County license requirements, call 513- 946-3589 or visit their website <a href="https://www.probatect.org/marriage-license/marriage-licence-process">https://www.probatect.org/marriage-license/marriage-licence-process</a>.
- **15.** Several months before your wedding, your priest will discuss with you the details of your wedding liturgy. If either the bride or groom is not Roman Catholic, your ceremony will be a Liturgy of the Word outside of Mass.

#### Music

- 16. Before planning any music or engaging musicians, please review the music policies below, and contact our parish Music Director Trevor Kroeger by email at tkroeger@stxchurch.org no later than four months prior to your wedding. The Music Director is responsible for overseeing the music at your wedding and for all decisions in these matters. He will select and book all musicians for your wedding, and he will assist you in choosing music that is tasteful, beautiful, and appropriate for the wedding liturgy. To ensure the music performed at your wedding is of the highest quality and in line with our standard of musical excellence, guest musicians (including organists, pianists, singers, and instrumentalists) are not permitted to perform, under any circumstances, at St. Xavier Church.
- 17. The Music Director will provide you with three documents that will guide you in selecting music for your wedding liturgy: (1) Wedding Music Planning Guide, (2) Wedding Music Repertoire, and (3) Wedding Music Planning Form. Please review these documents carefully and only choose music from the provided repertoire list. Recordings of musical selections can be found on Apple Music, Spotify, and YouTube. Email a digital copy of the completed planning form to tkroeger@stxchurch.org no later than six weeks prior to your wedding, or sooner if you are able. If you wish to engage additional instrumentalists, such as string quartet or trumpet, please indicate this on the form. The earlier a request for additional musicians is made, the better. Do not make any final decisions concerning musical selections or musicians until your completed form has been returned and approved. If you would like further assistance in completing your planning, please email the Music Director to schedule a phone call or a meeting.
- **18.** ORGANIST The Music Director serves as the primary organist for weddings at St. Xavier Church. If the Music Director is unavailable for your wedding, an equally qualified, parish-approved organist will be provided. Guest organists and guest pianists are not permitted at St. Xavier.



- **19.** CANTOR St. Xavier Church requires that all songs of the wedding liturgy be led by a professional cantor from the parish. St. Xavier employs a roster of experienced professional singers who are trained in a variety of musical styles. Either the Music Director will cantor your wedding himself, or he will select a cantor for your wedding from this roster. Guest vocalists are not permitted at St. Xavier.
- **20.** ADDITIONAL INSTRUMENTALISTS St. Xavier is fortunate to have a fine pipe organ. In addition, we have a Yamaha digital piano that can also be played, upon request. While the organ and piano are suitable for all the music played during your wedding liturgy, additional instrumentalists (e.g. string quartet, violin, flute, oboe, trumpet, harp, etc.) may be hired at your expense. The fee for each additional instrumentalist is set by the instrumentalist and typically ranges between \$175 and \$200. You are responsible for paying each additional instrumentalist directly. If you wish to engage the services of additional instrumentalists for your wedding, the Music Director will assist you in booking professional, parish-approved instrumentalists. Guest instrumentalists and instrumental ensembles are not permitted at St. Xavier.
- **21.** MUSIC FEES The organist and cantor for your wedding are provided by the church. The fees paid to the organist and cantor include individual preparation and the wedding liturgy. Should additional musicians require separate rehearsal sessions with the organist, an additional fee of \$60/hour will be due and should be paid directly to the organist by the couple.
- **22.** PROFESSIONAL VOCAL ENSEMBLE It is also possible to hire an eight- to twelve-voice professional vocal ensemble for your wedding. If this option is of interest to you, contact the Music Director for further information.
- 23. SECULAR MUSIC The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops decreed in their 2007 publication Sing to the Lord: Music in the Divine Worship that, "Secular music, even though it may emphasize the love of the spouses for one another, is not appropriate for the sacred liturgy. Songs that are chosen for the liturgy should be appropriate for the celebration and express the faith of the Church." In keeping with this decree and the wedding music guidelines set forth by the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, St. Xavier Church requires that all song selections be sacred in nature and appropriate for the liturgy. Lyrics must be religious and clearly refer to God by name in a significant way. Popular songs that happen to mention God in an incidental manner do not qualify as sacred music. Therefore, secular and popular songs are not permitted to be sung nor played as instrumental solos at any point before, during, or after the wedding liturgy.
- **24.** RECORDED MUSIC Because music in the liturgy involves an active relationship between the pastoral musician and the assembly, the use of recorded music is inappropriate and is not permitted before, during, or after the wedding liturgy.

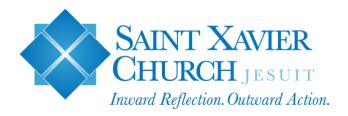


**25.** BAGPIPES You are welcome to hire a bagpiper, at your own expense, to play outside the church before and after the wedding liturgy (not during) if you wish. However, bagpipes are not permitted inside the church.

#### **Photography**

To maintain the dignity and solemnity of the wedding liturgy photographers/videographers are required to adhere to the following policies:

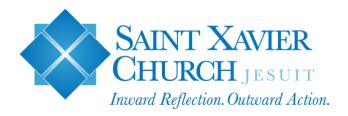
- **31.** It is important to remember that the church is a sacred place and everything that the photographer does should reflect reverence for our church and the wedding liturgy. As a guest of the wedding he/she must respect and honor these policies and our customs.
- **32.** The photographer/videographer is asked to introduce himself/herself to the priest or deacon and to the sacristan(s) before the wedding and ask for any final instructions or clarifications.
- **33.** Before a Friday evening or Saturday 2:00 P.M. wedding, pictures may be taken in the Church sanctuary provided there is no other activity in the church, e.g. rehearsal, or funeral. Permission for this must be obtained by the couple from the Pastoral Associate in writing prior to the wedding date. Permission cannot be presumed.
- **34.** If there is a prior Mass, photographers may not set up any equipment in the church or vestibule until that Mass is over. Please do not drop off any equipment that will need to be stored anywhere on the church premises. St. Xavier Church cannot be responsible for the equipment.
- **35.** Flash pictures are permitted only during the processional and recessional. At no other time during the ceremony is flash photography allowed. During the ceremony itself, all extra lighting is prohibited. Photography/videography must use existing light.
- **36.** Photographs may be taken from the side aisles or from the rear of the church. The photographer is permitted to be in the center aisle during the processional and recessional. Otherwise, all aisles must remain clear of any obstructions and photographic equipment.
- **37.** Photographers may not enter the sanctuary at any time during the wedding liturgy. Remote cameras are not permitted in the sanctuary.
- **38.** The sacristy, i.e. clergy vesting area, is not available for photography session before or after the wedding.



- **39.** At a Saturday 2:00 P.M. wedding, picture-taking must end by 3:30 P.M. to allow us time to prepare for the 4:00 P.M. vigil Mass. For a Friday or Saturday evening wedding photography must end 30 minutes after the end of the ceremony.
- **40.** For videographers: with the exception of an electrical extension cord, no cables of any type may be used. Also, no extra lighting may be used.
- **41.** Video cameras may be used only from the side or rear aisles. At no time may a video camera be used in the center aisle. The choir loft is not available for any videography or photography. No audio recording devices of any type may be placed in the sanctuary.
- **42.** Sanctuary furniture, decorations, or flowers may not be moved by the photographer/videographer or family. Seasonal decorations (Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter) provided by the parish are integral to the parish liturgical celebration and must not be moved by the photographer.

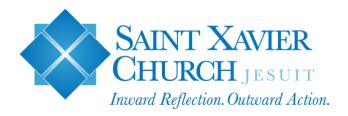
#### **Miscellaneous Items**

- **43.** If either the bride or groom is not Catholic, a non-Catholic cleric may be invited to participate in the wedding. Please notify the Pastoral Associate of Saint Xavier Church and the priest or deacon preparing you for marriage if a non-Catholic will be participating in the ceremony.
- **44.** A sacristan will be on hand for both the rehearsal and the wedding to assist the wedding party and to make sure that all policies for the use of the facilities are observed. The wedding party may arrive one hour prior to the start of the ceremony. The ushers/ groomsmen should arrive at church no later than 45 minutes prior to the start of the wedding to seat guests. The bride and her attendants are expected to be ready to enter the vestibule area of the church no later than 15 minutes prior to the start of the wedding. There is space in the Parish Center where the bride and her bridesmaids can wait prior to the beginning of the ceremony. They can access the vestibule of the church by way of a separate stairway from the lower level.
- **45.** St. Xavier Church does not provide liturgical ministers (e.g. servers, readers, or communion distributors) for weddings. If liturgical ministers are needed, it is the responsibility of the couple to provide individuals who have been suitably trained for that ministry.
- **46.** If you are having a Mass, you are encouraged to forgo the lighting of a unity candle. For Catholics, the Eucharist is the primary symbol of unity. While the unity candle has become a popular addition to many ceremonies, it does not have a place within the Rite of Marriage of the Catholic Church. Please discuss this with your presider.



- **47.** Photographs may be taken in the church following the conclusion of the ceremony or Mass.
- **48.** Church law prohibits the consumption of alcohol prior to the ceremony. Alcoholic beverages of any type are not permitted on church property or in the parking lot. No food or drink is permitted in the church itself.
- **49.** No guest books or receiving lines are permitted in the church. The use of any wagon-type conveyance to transport toddler attendants down the aisle during any part of the processional or recessional is not permitted. **Throwing rice, confetti, flower petals, or birdseed; blowing bubbles, or releasing balloons is not permitted in the church or anywhere on the premises.** Violation of this policy will result in a substantial additional maintenance fee.
- **50.** The official record of your marriage will be kept at St. Xavier Church. Please designate someone to be responsible for removing programs and any other items that may have been left behind in the church by your guests.
- **51. Parking** The parking lot adjacent to the church does not belong to Saint Xavier Church. It is managed by Park Place Parking Company. Parking is not free for weddings. For prepaid parking arrangements call 513-381-2179 for information.
- **52. Program/Worship Aids** The Music Director or Pastoral Associate can assist you with proper wording and order of the ceremony. Please verify your program contents with your priest or deacon.
- **53.** It is imperative that you bring the civil marriage license to the rehearsal and give it to the priest or deacon who will officiate at the wedding. The wedding cannot take place without the presence of the license.

Know that you remain in the prayers of the good people of Saint Xavier Church as you prepare for your wedding day. May God, who has begun the good work in you, bring it to fulfillment in this holy time.



## Wedding Policies for Photographers Please Give These Policies to Your Photographer

To maintain the dignity and solemnity of the wedding liturgy photographers/videographers are required to adhere to the following policies:

It is important to remember that the church is a sacred place and everything that the photographer does should reflect reverence for our church and the wedding liturgy. As a guest of the wedding he/she must respect and honor these policies and our customs.

The photographer/videographer is asked to introduce himself/herself to the priest or deacon and to the sacristan(s) before the wedding and ask for any final instructions or clarifications.

Before a Friday evening or Saturday 2:00 P.M. wedding, pictures may be taken in the Church sanctuary provided there is no other activity in the church, e.g. rehearsal, or funeral. Permission for this must be obtained by the couple from the Pastoral associate in writing prior to the wedding date. Permission cannot be presumed.

If there is a prior Mass, photographers may not set up any equipment in the church or vestibule until that Mass is over. Please do not drop off any equipment that will need to be stored anywhere on the church premises. St. Xavier Church cannot be responsible for the equipment.

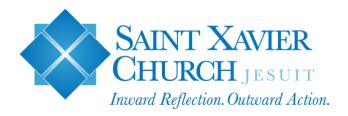
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Photographs may be taken from the side aisles or from the rear of the church. The photographer is permitted to be in the center aisle during the processional and recessional. Otherwise, all aisles must remain clear of any obstructions and photographic equipment.

Photographers may not enter the sanctuary at any time during the wedding liturgy. Remote cameras are not permitted in the sanctuary.

The sacristy, i.e. clergy vesting area, is not available for photography session before or after the wedding.

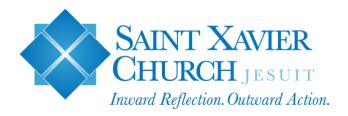
At a Saturday 2:00 P.M. wedding, picture-taking must end by 3:30 P.M. to allow us time to prepare for the 4:00 P.M. vigil Mass. For a Friday or Saturday evening wedding photography must end 30 minutes after the end of the ceremony.



Video cameras may be used only from the side or rear aisles. At no time may a video camera be used in the center aisle. The choir loft is not available for any videography or photography. No audio recording devises of any type may be placed in the sanctuary.

Sanctuary furniture, decorations, or flowers may not be moved by the photographer/videographer or family. Seasonal decorations (Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter) provided by the parish are integral to the parish liturgical celebration and must not be moved by the photographer.

Thank you for your cooperation.



## Wedding Policies for Florists Please Give these Policies to Your Florist.

Elaborate floral displays are not necessary due to the beautiful architecture of the church. If decorations are placed on the ends of the pews, they must be attached without the use of tape or tacks.

Aisle candles must be approved beforehand and be shielded with glass chimneys. No decorations are to

be placed on, in, or around the baptismal font in the rear of the church. The Pastoral Associate for Sacramental Life and Liturgy must approve ANY departure from these guidelines.

Candelabras are not permitted in the sanctuary. The only exception is the "unity candle" if one is to be used. All candles and glass chimneys must be removed immediately after the ceremony.

Sanctuary furniture, decorations, flowers may not be moved by the florist or family. Seasonal decorations (Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter) provided by the parish are integral to the parish liturgical

celebration and must not be moved by the florist.

Flowers may be placed in the sanctuary, but at no time may flowers or decorations be placed on the altar itself.

We do not have proper facilities to store flowers, ferns, palms, etc. before a wedding. Therefore, please do not bring these items until they can be set up for the ceremony.

Floral set-up should occur at the following times:

For a Friday evening wedding: after 4:30 P.M.

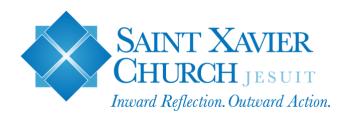
For a Saturday afternoon wedding: after 12:30 P.M

For a Saturday evening wedding: after the vigil Mass (approx. 5:00 P.M.)

St. Xavier Church is not responsible for any floral or rented items left in the building after a wedding.

The length of the middle aisle is 92 feet. Due to the potential hazard of the material sliding on the marble floor, aisle runners are not permitted. There are 24 rows of pews. The church seats approximately 983 people.

All aisle decorations must be removed immediately after the ceremony. We cannot be responsible for candlesticks or other decorations.



#### **Wedding Checklist**

Contact the Pastoral Associate at Saint Xavier Church to inquire about an available date and time.

After checking all arrangements, email the Pastoral Associate with your desire to secure the date.

Submit the non-refundable deposit made payable to Saint Xavier Church along with the needed information in the *Wedding Request form* (indicating the contact information of the priest or deacon who will be officiating your wedding.) After this is received by St. Xavier the date and time will be confirmed.

Contact the priest or deacon who will begin the marriage preparation process with you and officiate at your wedding. A priest of deacon is not assigned to your wedding by St. Xavier Church.

Obtain permission letters from the pastor of your home parish and submit them to St. Xavier Church for your file.

Obtain documentation that you have completed a Pre-Cana workshop, Engaged Encounter weekend, or other program to fulfill the marriage instruction process requirement.

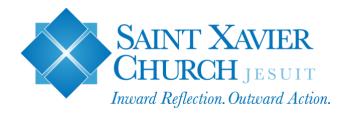
Obtain copies of the bride and groom's baptismal certificates.

Contact music director at Saint Xavier Church at least three months prior to the scheduled wedding date.

Give the florist a copy of the Guidelines for Florist. Give the photographer(s) a copy of the Guidelines for Photographers.

Arrange for ushers, readers, servers, communion distributors, etc. St. Xavier Church does not provide these.

Obtain a civil marriage license 60 days prior to the wedding and bring it to the rehearsal.

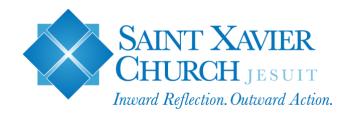


#### **Agreement for a Wedding at Saint Xavier Church**

### RETURN THIS AGREEMENT FORM ALONG WITH THE DEPOSIT TO SAINT XAVIER CHURCH

- 1. We have received and read thoroughly the Saint Xavier Church Wedding Policies and agree to abide by the rules and regulations contained therein.
- 2. We are aware of all time considerations involved in the use of the facilities. Any additional requests must be made in writing and directed to the Pastoral Associate for Sacramental Life and Liturgy at Saint Xavier Church. We understand that Saint Xavier Church is in no way obligated to grant any exceptions to the established guidelines.
- 3. We will provide the required deposit at the time of the initial booking and the remaining payment will reach the parish office no later than two weeks before the scheduled date of the wedding.
- 4. We will use the services of the Saint Xavier Music Director and we understand that no exceptions will be made to this policy.
- 5. We understand that on the day of the wedding, the Saint Xavier Church sacristan serves as a representative of the parish to ensure that all policies for the use of the building are strictly observed.

Bride's Name (PLEASE PRINT)	Date Signed
Signature of Bride	Date Signed
Groom's Name (PLEASE PRINT)	Date Signed
Signature of Groom	Date Signed
Date of Wedding	Time of Wedding



# Couple's Wedding Information PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN IT WITH YOUR SIGNED AGREEMENT AND DEPOSIT.

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