



Wedding Guidelines – Basilica of Saint Adalbert

Congratulations on your engagement and upcoming wedding! The celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage will mark one of the most important times in your lives. The clergy and staff at the Basilica will do everything we can to help you in the planning of this most special day.

These guidelines are intended to insure a reverent and joyful celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Step One: Check the Basilica availability for your proposed wedding date by contacting the Parish Office

Denise 616-458-3065 / parishoffices@basilicagr.org

Some things to consider before you contact the parish office:

The laws of the Catholic Church require that those entering into the sacrament of marriage must be free to marry, understand the commitment they are making, and be able to fulfill the obligations that marriage requires. The dioceses of Michigan require a minimum immediate preparation period of at least six months prior to the wedding date. Each couple will participate in individual preparation with the pastor, will complete a Pre-Marital Inventory, and participate in a formal program such as Engaged Encounter or one of the pre-cana programs that are available. The preparation program will be tailored for each couple depending on their specific needs. The marriage of a Catholic to a non-Catholic may be permitted if certain requirements are fulfilled and the permission of the local bishop is obtained.

An inter-faith couple who wish to have their marriage recognized by the Catholic Church should consult with the pastor of the Catholic party. The ceremony may normally take place in the church of either party, with permission. The pastor of the church at which the wedding is held presides at the service and receives the vows. When these weddings are conducted here, the Sacrament of Matrimony is celebrated within a Liturgy of the Word. The Liturgy of the Eucharist is permitted but not necessary at an interfaith ceremony.

You are not required to be a parishioner at the Basilica. However, non-parishioners are required to make a donation of \$1,000. To be considered a parishioner, either one or both of you must:

- a) have been registered under your own names for a minimum of six months prior to your first marriage preparation appointment with the pastor.
- b) have been attending Mass here regularly on Sundays and Holy Days.
- c) have demonstrated a consistent pattern of contributing to the financial support of this parish.

Both the bride and the groom must be at least 18 years of age. If one or both are under 18 years, or if there is a pregnancy involved, there will be a longer and more careful assessment made which will minimally include professional counseling, parental interviews, and pastoral judgment. Two witnesses are required to be present for the legality of the wedding according to the law of the State of Michigan and by the law of the Catholic Church.

Weddings are scheduled on Friday evenings at 4pm, 5pm, or 6pm or on Saturday afternoons at 1:00pm or 1:30pm. In keeping with church law, weddings may not be scheduled during the Paschal Triduum.

Both the bride and the groom must submit newly issued copies of their Baptism and Confirmation record if they did not receive those sacraments here at St. Adalbert Basilica Parish. The issue date must be no more than six months prior to the wedding date. The couple must procure and submit to the parish office a State of Michigan Marriage License no later than three days prior to the wedding.

Step Two: Contact the Basilica Rector or Associate Pastor
616-458-3065

The rector or associate pastor will meet with you and review the necessary documents as well as premarital counseling and instruction.

Step Three: Contact the Basilica Wedding Coordinator
Julie Dykhouse 616-437-2006 / jdykhouse55@gmail.com

Julie will meet with you and your fiancé and walk through the ceremony step by step. She will be able to answer any questions you may have regarding the use of church facilities as well as guidelines for flowers, photography, etc. Please note that children must be at least five (5) years of age to be part of the wedding party.

Step Four: Contact the Director of Music
Peter Kurdziel 616-458-0563 / music@basilicagr.org

Music is an integral part of the celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage. Please complete the **wedding music planning form** available on line at www.basilicagr.org (click on *music* and then on *wedding music planning*). After your form has been submitted the Basilica Director of Music will contact you to complete the planning process. Please do not make any arrangements for music until you have submitted the form and communicated with the Director of Music.

Planning a Budget

Donation to the Basilica	\$1,000 – for non-parishioner (\$700 down payment due to secure wedding date) TBD – a freewill contribution for parishioners
Wedding Coordinator	\$250
Music	\$250
Marriage Preparation, PMI, etc.	TBD – see the wedding music planning form for details \$100

The donation to the Basilica as well as the Marriage Preparation fee must be paid in full at least one month prior to the wedding. Fees for the Music Director, Wedding Coordinator, Cantor, and any other musicians should be received at the wedding rehearsal by the wedding coordinator. They should not be mailed to the parish office.

Basilica of Saint Adalbert
654 Davis Avenue NW
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504

Document Checklist

Bride ___Baptism Certificate with
 ___Annotation of Confirmation
 ___Annotation of Marriages

Groom ___Baptism Certificate with
 ___Annotation of Confirmation
 ___Annotation of Marriages

Both ___State of Michigan Marriage License

Marriage preparation program

___Pre-Marital Inventory (PMI)
 ___Pre-Cana or Engaged Encounter
 ___Completion of Counseling with Priest