

The Sacrament of Matrimony

“The matrimonial covenant, by which a man and a woman established between themselves a partnership of the whole of life, is by its nature ordered toward the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of offspring; this covenant between baptized persons has been raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a sacrament.”

God who created man out of love also calls him to love—the fundamental and innate vocation of every human being. For man is created in the image and likeness of God who is himself love. Since God created him man and woman, their mutual love becomes an image of the absolute and unfailing love with which God loves man. It is good, very good, in the Creator’s eyes. And this love which God blesses is intended to be fruitful and to be realized in the common work of watching over creation: “And God blessed them, and God said to them: ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it.’”

Catechism of the Catholic Church
#1601 & #1604

If you are interested
in getting married at
St. Joseph Catholic Church,
please call
the Parish Office
at 337-334-2193
to begin marriage
preparations.

St. Joseph Catholic Church
401 South Adams Avenue
P. O. Box 199
Rayne, LA 705783

www.stjoerayne.org

Phone: 337-334-2193

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**St. Joseph
Roman Catholic
Church**

**Sacrament
of
Holy
Matrimony**



**Rev. Brent Smith
Pastor**

Marriage Preparation

The first step towards marriage is meeting with a priest to conduct a **pre-nuptial enquiry**, a short interview that gathers necessary information and proves the couple's freedom to marry. Only after this step has been completed can a wedding and rehearsal be scheduled. Weddings must be scheduled at least six (6) and no more than eighteen (18) months after the initial interview.

After the pre-nuptial enquiry, couples must themselves register for three preparatory programs. Registration for all three can be made online and the cost of each is the responsibility of the couple. Additional information on marriage preparation and registration forms can be found at www.diolaf.org/marriage.

The Nuptial Mass

Couples are encouraged to celebrate their marriage in the context of the mass, which gives full expression to our Catholic faith, but also may prefer a simple wedding rite. Weddings at St. Joseph parish may take place any time on Fridays or Saturdays before 1:30 pm or after 6:30 pm. According to diocesan policy, weddings between a Catholic and non-Catholic may not be celebrated within a nuptial Mass. Also, couples who are presently cohabitating should not celebrate a nuptial Mass and will be married according to the simple wedding rite.

In addition to a refundable security deposit, a church usage fee is charged for all weddings held at St. Joseph Church in order to defray our operating expenses: \$200.00 for parishioners and \$1000.00 for non-parishioners

Parishioners are those who reside within the boundaries of our parish, or are registered in the parish census, or who live elsewhere but whose parents continue to live and worship at St. Joseph. Non-parishioners must obtain written permission from their own pastor to be married at St. Joseph and must make their own arrangements for an out of parish clergy to conduct the rehearsal and officiate their wedding. Weddings of non-parishioners will not be scheduled until confirmation is received from the visiting priest or deacon who is overseeing preparation and officiating the wedding ceremony. All necessary paperwork is to be delivered to the parish office at least two weeks prior to the date of the wedding.

Special Circumstances

Marriage between Catholic & Non-Catholic

Marriages between a Catholic and non-Catholic are possible with special permission, however, the wedding ceremony may not take place in the context of the Mass.

Previous Marriage

If either party (whether Catholic or not) had entered into a previous marriage, steps must be taken immediately to prove the eligibility of remarriage. As this can delay the process, no plans for the second marriage can be made until both parties are free to marry.

Pregnancy or children

Pregnancy or having children prior to the marriage is not an obstacle to marriage in the Catholic Church. For the good of the family, however, it is recommended that the marriage take place within six months if at all possible.