

St. Benedict Parish Wedding Policy

Who May Be Married at St. Benedict Parish?

1. Each of the couple must be free to be married.
 - a. Any annulments must have been granted before marriage preparation may begin or a date may be set.
 - b. At least one of the couple must be a practicing Catholic.
2. For those to be married who reside within the parish boundaries:
 - a. At least one of the couple must be a registered and active member of St. Benedict Parish *or* a current Benedictine College student.
 - b. Priority is given to those who reside within the parish boundaries.
3. For those whose parents are active members of St. Benedict Parish or who grew up in the parish:
 - a. At least one of the couple must be a registered and active member at the parish in which they reside or participate the vast majority of the time
 - b. Permission must be granted from the pastor from the location where one is registered.
4. For non-residents:
 - a. At least one of the couple must be a registered and active member at the parish in which they reside or participate the vast majority of the time.
 - b. Permission must be granted from the pastor from the location where one is registered.

Marriage Preparation Requirements:

5. The couple must allow a minimum of six months in advance to complete the marriage preparation program. This is meant to be a time of preparation not merely for the wedding day, but more importantly for a healthy marriage.
 - a. If you are a member of St. Benedict Parish, the parish priest coordinating the wedding will coordinate FOCCUS and arrange other prep work.
 - b. If you are a current Benedictine College student, you will take FOCCUS and complete all other Marriage Prep work through Benedictine College Ministry. Please contact Benedictine College Ministry at chaplainsassistant@benedictine.edu.
 - i. With approval of St. Benedict Parish and Benedictine College Ministry, a current employee of the college may also complete their FOCCUS and Marriage Preparation through the college program.
 - c. If you are a non-resident, the marriage preparation is to be coordinated through the parish where one is registered.
 - i. Couples who live outside the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas must show evidence of completion of a marriage preparation program that is approved in the diocese of where they are registered or that is equivalent to one of the marriage preparation programs approved in this Archdiocese.
6. The prenuptial form must be completed and appropriate certificates must be turned in.
 - a. All baptized persons must turn in official baptismal certificates with notations, issued within the six months prior to the marriage date.
 - b. The couple must turn in certificate of completion of approved marriage preparation program immediately following the completion of the program.
 - c. Other documents are required in the event of convalidations, annulments or the death of a previous spouse.

7. Each couple will take the FOCCUS inventory. FOCCUS stands for “Facilitating Open Couple Communication Understanding Study” to help with communication between the couple on important topics.
8. Marriage prep also includes meeting with a mentor couple and possibly other engaged couples.
 - a. The engaged couple is encouraged to participate in the Catholic Engaged Encounter weekend.
 - i. Dates and more information are found at <http://www.archkck.org/EngagedEncounter>.
 - b. If the couple cannot participate in the Engaged Encounter, the couple is to participate in the “Preparing to Live in Love” program or another approved program. This class tends to meet five to seven times and is coordinated through the Atchison Region Marriage Preparation Coordinator.
9. An “Introduction to Natural Family Planning” course is required.
10. The pastor, at the request of the engaged couple, may give permission to any priest or deacon in good-standing to administer the Sacrament of Marriage.
 - a. If a couple requests a priest or deacon to preside at their wedding who is from a different diocese, the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas requires the priest/deacon’s home diocese to send a letter attesting that he is a “Priest in good-standing” to the Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas well in advance of the wedding so the priest/deacon can attain proper faculties and permissions.
11. A great resource for marriage preparation is found at <http://www.archkck.org/family-life/mfl-2015-marriage-prep>.

Wedding Ceremony Requirements:

12. Tentative dates for the marriage may be requested *only after* the initial meeting with the priest.
 - a. Dates are not considered finalized until the marriage preparation program is completed and final payment has been received.
 - b. Priority is given for dates to those who are residents or whose parents are active parishioners.
13. In the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas, weddings are not allowed on Sundays, Holy Days of Obligation, or during the season of Lent.
 - a. For weddings scheduled on Saturdays, the wedding must begin no later than 1:00 p.m.
 - b. Wedding rehearsals are at 5:00 p.m. the evening before the wedding, unless otherwise arranged with the parish and the presiding priest/deacon.
14. The couple will discuss the planning of the liturgical ceremony, including the readings, with the presiding priest/deacon.
15. St. Benedict Parish and the presiding priest/deacon maintain the right to judge the appropriateness or inappropriateness of any music. Any music not approved, will not be allowed for use in the wedding ceremony.
16. Tape and sticky tack are not permitted on the pews. It is recommended to use fishing line or ribbon to hang bows on pews.
17. Photography in the church and decoration of the church may begin no earlier than two hours before the ceremony.
 - a. Photography should conclude no later than 30 minutes before the ceremony.
 - b. Photography following the ceremony should conclude no later than one hour following the ceremony or when the scheduled times for confessions and/or liturgical services arrives.
 - c. Photography is not allowed on the east lawn of St. Benedict’s Abbey.
 - d. The wedding party is responsible for cleaning up all decorations (including rose petals, and any decorations inside and outside the church) within one hour following the ceremony.

18. For placement of flowers and wedding decorations and/or the inclusions of traditions, please consult the parish priest.
19. For safety sake, aisle runners, birdseed, and rice are prohibited for weddings.
20. Fees for a wedding include:
 - a. Parish fee to cover building usage and other residual costs
 - i. \$300 for residents or those whose parents are parishioners
 - ii. \$1000 for non-residents, including those who have not been Benedictine College students for three months at the time of the anticipated wedding date
 - b. FOCCUS processing - \$35
 - c. Catholic Engaged Encounter Weekend option - separate \$225 fee payable to the Archdiocese
OR
“Preparing to Live in Love,” Couple-Pack option - \$75, payable to “St. Benedict Parish”
 - d. Natural Family Planning class - \$25, paid to the NFP instructors
 - e. Recommended stipends for (given directly to them):
 - i. Priest/Deacon – \$100-150, additionally any applicable travel expenses of the priest/deacon (For all monks of St. Benedict’s Abbey, including Fr. Jeremy and Abbot Barnabas, please make checks out to “St. Benedict’s Abbey”.)
 - ii. Musicians –set by the musicians
 - iii. Servers – \$20-\$25
 - f. Fees owed to St. Benedict Parish are due four months before the wedding.
 - i. This check should be made out to St. Benedict Parish (memo: marriage preparation fees), and sent to the St. Benedict Parish Office as soon as possible.
 1. Only when all fees are paid to the parish may the date for the wedding be finalized.
 - ii. For St. Benedict parishioners, fees include parish fee, FOCCUS fee, and all the applicable marriage preparation program fees.
 1. These should be paid by the time the couple meets with the parish priest to review the FOCCUS Inventory.
 - iii. For current Benedictine College students and for non-residents, the applicable fee owed to the parish is the appropriate parish fee.
 1. Benedictine College Ministry provides current students with their marriage preparation materials, including the FOCCUS Inventory. Please contact them for any additional fees.
 2. Non-residents are to work through their parish for the FOCCUS Inventory and Marriage Preparation programming. These parishes may have different fees for their programming. Please contact them about such fees.
21. The drinking of alcohol is forbidden at all church property of St. Benedict Parish on the day of the wedding and the evening of the wedding rehearsal.