

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH
1707 Bull Street
Savannah, GA 31401

GUIDELINES FOR ALL PROSPECTIVE BRIDES AND GROOMS

- If either the bride or the groom is a registered member of the parish, and **currently attending and contributing weekly** to the support of the parish, then you will pay the member's fee of \$200.00.
- If you are registered, **but are not contributing weekly to the parish**, you will be charged the non-contributor's venue fee of \$700.00.
- If you are not a registered member, you will be charged the non-member's venue fee of \$1,500.00.
 - The venue fee for the rental of the church **must be** paid in full at the time of booking with a personal check.
Parishioners-- Cancellations that occur thirty days prior to the wedding will receive a refund less \$100.00 cancellation fee.
Non-parishioners-- Cancellations that occur thirty days prior to the wedding will receive a refund less \$200.00 cancellation fee.
 - The venue fee does not include: a stipend for the musician, a stipend to the priest who prepares the paperwork, nor a thank you gift to the celebrant.
 - If organ music is desired, please contact Mr. Rick Morgan, Sacred Heart's organist at 908-507-8430. If he is available to play at your wedding, but you choose to hire an organist not on staff at Sacred Heart, you will then pay a "bench fee" as well as a separate fee to the organist of your choice.
- The Church can be reserved twelve months in advance, but not available for weddings during Advent or Lent.
- Weddings may be scheduled on Saturday, at 1:30 p.m. or 6:30 p.m. Parish services have first priority. Rehearsals are typically scheduled at 4:00 p.m. the Friday before the wedding.
- Non-parishioners are required to bring their own priest to celebrate the Eucharist. If the Eucharist is not planned, you may request our Deacon, Rev. Mr. Robert Larcher, to celebrate the sacrament of matrimony.
- All required church documentation, which must be completed in the presence of a priest/deacon, must be received at the **Savannah Tribunal, 2170 E. Victory Drive, Savannah, GA 31404**, no later than thirty (30) days prior to the wedding date.
- Visiting priests are required to provide a "letter of good standing" from the Diocese of their affiliation.
- Baptism Certificates are required of all Catholics who plan to contract marriage. The certificate must be issued **within six** months of the ceremony date.
- The Diocese of Savannah requires all couples to participate in a pre-marriage program to assist you in your personal preparation for your marriage. The Engaged Encounter Weekend or another Marriage Preparation conference are options available in most dioceses.
- Both the wedding rehearsal and the wedding must begin on time.
- Space is not available on site to be used as a dressing room. The church's public restroom can not to be used as a dressing room. We do have a good parking area.
- Drinking alcohol on church property at the wedding or at the rehearsal is strictly prohibited.
- At the time of the rehearsal the priest/deacon should be given the Chatham county marriage license.
- Under no circumstances may anything in the sanctuary be moved or tampered with. In addition, sanctuary carpet must be protected from candle wax.
 - 1:30 Weddings – Unless prior agreement, decorations must be removed before the 4:30 p.m. Mass.
 - 6:30 p.m. Weddings – Decorations can be placed after the 4:30 p.m. service.
- Guests are requested NOT to throw rice or rose petals in the church or outside the church doors.
- Due to liability issues, runners are not allowed on the aisle. Lit, held candles are not allowed for similar reasons.
- The photographer should be made aware of the sacred nature of the marriage ceremony and should endeavor not to be a distraction. He/she cannot, at any time, enter the sanctuary area immediately around the altar.
[At no time should anyone enter the sanctuary for video-taping parts of the wedding.]
- The church building requires continuous repair and general maintenance in order to preserve its beauty. We ask that you are mindful and accept that unexpected repairs/maintenance that might occur during or around the time of your wedding cannot be stopped.