



359 West Areba Avenue  
Hershey, PA 17033

Parish Office  
717-533-7168

Religious Ed. Office  
717-533-8578

School Office  
717-533-2854

# St. Joan of Arc Wedding Policy

Your wedding is extremely important to both you (the bride and groom) and to us (St. Joan of Arc Parish). As you deserve the very best, Christ and His Church command that we celebrate Matrimony reverently, tastefully, and in accord with canon law. Christian marriage is not merely a romantic and social event, it is above all else, a Sacrament of the Catholic Church. Consequently, we will **ONLY** celebrate a wedding ceremony in accord with the universal law of the Church and the policy of the Diocese of Harrisburg. The Nuptial Liturgy, whether it is with Holy Mass or the ceremony by itself, will be celebrated in this way.

The following are **NON-NEGOTIABLE** regulations for all weddings at St. Joan of Arc Parish.

1. At least one person, (bride or groom) if not both, must be a baptized Catholic who is either a registered parishioner or lives within our parish territory. Catholics from other parishes must secure a letter of permission from their respective pastor to allow a marriage in our church.
2. It is **NOT** necessary that both the bride & groom be Catholic **NOR** is it required that the non-Catholic party convert. The Catholic party must promise, however, to raise any children to be born of this union in the Catholic faith. The non-Catholic party is to be informed of this and is highly encouraged to continue practicing his/her own faith.
3. If either person has been married previously, an annulment will need to be obtained before a wedding can proceed.
4. The Catholic party is highly encouraged to make spiritual preparation for the worthy celebration of the Sacrament of Matrimony by making a good confession sometime the week before the wedding, especially, if they have not been to Mass regularly or are not in the state of grace.
5. The Diocese of Harrisburg requires that the couple make preparations with the parish at least 9 – 12 months prior to the wedding. Furthermore, all couples are required to take part in our Parish Mentoring program or Engaged Encounter before their wedding.