

*“And the Two  
Shall Become One”*

*Wedding Guidelines  
And  
Preparation Information*

SAINT JOHN VIANNEY

CATHOLIC CHURCH

*Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston*

YOUR WEDDING AT  
SAINT JOHN VIANNÉY

*We rejoice with you as you prepare to enter into Holy Matrimony, a sacrament of the Church. As such it is a sacred period and time of prayer. Be assured that you will be kept in our prayers. When things become hectic know that you are being remembered in the prayers of many.*

*Your wedding day will take a great deal of planning and we are here to help. We have lots of experience and are eager to share it with you.*

*Remember to keep important things important. Everything will work out! Important above all else is God's love for you and his desire for your happiness. The other thing to remember is that God truly knows what really makes us happy. We only think we know!*

*Because this is a holy time, remember to pray. Attend Mass every week, go to Confession, read your bible and pray your rosary. There is no substitute for prayer.*

## D a t e s   A n d   T i m e s

Weddings may be celebrated in the Church or in the Chapel (the old church). Normal times for weddings are on Saturdays (except when prohibited by church law as on certain Holy Days). *There are no Sunday weddings.* Saturday weddings are celebrated at 10:00 a.m., 12:00 noon, 2:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Each wedding is allotted two hours in the church. The couple has the use of the church beginning one hour prior to the time of the ceremony. Everything must be completed within two hours. The Nuptial Mass is not celebrated at the 4:00 and 7:30 pm times.

Rehearsals are generally on the eve-

ning before the wedding. Rehearsals are conducted by the Parish Wedding Assistant or presiding clergy and last no longer than 30 minutes. Rehearsals times are generally 5:15, 5:45, 6:15, 6:45, 7:15. There are special times during Lent. *Failure to show up on time for a rehearsal requiring rescheduling will result in forfeiture of your deposit.*

*Wedding dates, times and rehearsals are scheduled through the Adult Formation Office. No date can be reserved until the deposit is received.*

## P r e p a r a t i o n   S e s s i o n s

Marriage preparation sessions take place in alternating months on Sunday afternoons following the 11:00 a.m. Mass. Attendance at Mass is expected.

The Initial Couples Session is generally held on the first Sunday of the month. The FOCCUS Communication Instrument is administered on the second Sunday and the additional sessions are generally on the third Sunday of alternating months. Topics include Marital Communications, Finance, Sexuality/NFP, and The Creed. Preparation sessions **must be** completed **prior** to date of the wedding. *Failure to complete the marriage preparation sessions can result in the postponement of the wedding.*

As the wedding day nears there will be an additional meeting for the couple with the priest or deacon witnessing the vows.

## **T h e   W e d d i n g**

*A Catholic wedding takes place in the context of the Sacred Liturgy. It is part of the Church's praise of God. During the Rite of Marriage the Church seeks God's blessings for the newlyweds and the couple profess their solemn vows to God and to each other. The Rite of Marriage may be celebrated within a Liturgy of the Word or within the Nuptial Mass. The Nuptial Mass is celebrated only when both parties are practicing Catholics.*

## **L i t u r g y   o f   t h e   W o r d**



### **INTRODUCTORY RITE**

Greeting and Opening Prayer

### **LITURGY OF THE WORD**

1st Reading (Old Testament)

Responsorial Psalm (sung)

2nd Reading (New Testament)

Gospel Acclamation (sung)

Gospel

Homily

### **RITE OF MARRIAGE**

Consent

Exchange of Vows

Blessing and Exchange of Rings\*

### **CONCLUDING RITE AND FINAL BLESSING**

Our Father

Nuptial Blessing & Dismissal

\*Arras, Lasso, Veil, Presentation of Bible & Rosary and flowers to the statue of the Blessed Mother are allowed and take place following the exchange of rings.

# **T h e N u p t i a l M a s s**



## **INTRODUCTORY RITE**

Greeting and Opening Prayer

## **LITURGY OF THE WORD**

1st Reading (Old Testament)

Responsorial Psalm (sung)

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Gospel Acclamation (sung)

Gospel

Homily

## **RITE OF MARRIAGE**

Consent

Exchange of Vows

Blessing and Exchange of Rings\*

## **LIUTRGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

Preparation of the Altar

Eucharistic Prayer

## **COMMUNION RITE**

Our Father

Nuptial Blessing

Holy Communion\*\*

## **CONCLUDING RITE AND FINAL BLESSING**

\*Arras, Lasso, Veil, Presentation of Bible & Rosary are allowed and take place following the exchange of rings.

\*\*Presentation of flowers to the statue of the Blessed Mother takes place following communion.

## D o c u m e n t s

You will need to provide several documents for your marriage:

- a notated **Baptismal Certificate** from the Church of your baptism issued within six months from the date of your wedding.
- a valid civil **Marriage License** to be signed by the priest or deacon at the time of the wedding.

The marriage license should be obtained approximately one to two weeks prior to the ceremony. In Texas, licenses are valid for 29 days and have a 72 hour dormant period. A marriage license can be obtained at any courthouse in Texas and is valid in any county of the state. The Best Man or father of the bride should present the license along with the Presider's honorarium to the wedding assistant either at the rehearsal or immediately prior to the ceremony.

## F l o w e r s & C a n d l e s



Flowers may be used in the Church in the designated areas except during Lent. It is customary to leave your flowers in the church for the weekend liturgies. If you choose to donate your flowers you may request a letter for your taxes.

Silk or plastic flowers are not allowed in the church.

You are encouraged to share your flowers (and the costs) with other couples being married the same day. To arrange this please consult the Adult Formation Office.

*The Unity Candle is strongly discouraged.*

Aisle runners, candles/lanterns with live flames, the scattering of flower petals is not allowed for safety reasons. The throwing of rice, birdseed, bubbles, confetti, etc., outside, after the celebration, is also prohibited.

***The Parish Wedding Assistant will be on site to direct the florist, photographer and videographer in the proper placement of floral arrangements and camera equipment.***

***FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THESE GUIDELINES WILL RESULT IN THE FORFEITURE OF THE DEPOSIT.***

## M u s i c

All couples to be married at Saint John Vianney must use staff musicians for their ceremony. Chorale ensembles, harpists, brass, strings, etc., are arranged through SJV Music Ministry.

All music must adhere to the appropriate liturgical requirements of the marriage ritual. The Responsorial Psalm and Gospel Acclamation are always sung, as well as the Ordinary of the Mass. Prelude music begins 15 minutes prior to the wedding. For more information, see the guidelines provided by music ministry.

## S c r i p t u r e R e a d i n g s



For weddings both within and outside of Mass, there are three readings and a psalm response. These are selected from the Marriage Ritual book and are listed below. You may select one reading from the Old Testament and one reading from the New Testament. You may also choose a psalm response in consultation with the music ministry. Normally the priest or deacon selects the gospel.

**Lectors should be practicing Catholics who are familiar with reading in public.**

### OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

Gen. 1:26-28,31/Gen. 2:18-24/Gen. 24:48-51,58-67/Tobit 7:9-10, 11-15/  
Tobit 8:5-7/Song of Songs 2:8-10,14,16/Sirach 26:1-4,13-6/Jer. 31:31-34

### PSALM RESPONSES

Ps 33/Ps 34/Ps 103/Ps 112/Ps 28/Ps 145/Ps 148

### NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

Rom. 8:31-35,37-39/ Rom. 12:1,2,9-12/ I Cor. 6:13-15, 17-20/1Cor. 12:31-  
13.8/Eph. 5:21-33/Eph. 5:25-32/Col. 3:12-17/1 Pt 3:1-9/1 Jn 3:18-24/ 1  
Jn 4:7-12/Rev. 19-1,5-9

***The full text of the readings in a printable format may be found on the parish website: [www.stjohnvianney.org/wedding](http://www.stjohnvianney.org/wedding). Please print these out and give to your selected lectors to bring to the rehearsal and wedding.***

## **W e d d i n g   A s s i s t a n t s**

A Parish Wedding Assistant will be on site for the rehearsal and on the wedding day to ensure the celebrations proceed smoothly, promptly and according to guidelines. Wedding Coordinators hired by the bride will at all times defer to the parish Wedding Assistant for direction.

## **U s h e r s**

At least two people, apart from the wedding party members, should be asked to serve as ushers. The primary duties of the ushers are to assist in the seating of the guests and family members (before and during the celebration) and to aid in opening and closing the doors for the entrance and departure of the bridal procession.

Following the ceremony the ushers should insure that the church is in good order by picking up and discarding left over worship aids, floral containers or other items left by the bridal party or guests.

## **C h i l d r e n**

Children are always welcome in church however, little ones often find it difficult to sit still for long periods of time. It is *highly recommended* that children in the bridal party be above the age of five. When the small children of invited family and guests become disruptive ushers should see that they are taken to the Narthex or outdoors until they have calmed down. This avoids disruption or distraction to the guests.

## **B r i d a l   P a r t y**

The Bride's Room is primarily for the bride and not meant as a dressing room for the entire bridal party. The Bridal Party, therefore, should come attired in their formal wear to the church. At all times the bridal party should be mindful that the Bride's Room, a part of the church, is a holy place. This should be reflected before, during and after the ceremony in speech and behavior. A designated Bride's Maid should see that the room is left in good order for the following bride.

## **B u i l d i n g   U s e**



*Care and respect of the church as a place of worship and the house of God is to be exercised at all times.*

There is to be NO FOOD OR DRINK BROUGHT INSIDE THE CHURCH.

**There is to be ABSOLUTELY NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ON CHURCH PROPERTY. This includes the parking lot. Anyone with alcohol will be asked to leave the property.**

There are to be no concealed handguns or weapons brought inside the church or other buildings.

Cell phones and pagers should be turned off or placed on mute when inside the church.

Before, during and after the wedding, a reverent decorum should be maintained: no running or playing around by children, no loud or excessive talking by adults.

## **A t t i r e**

Proper attire should be worn at the wedding rehearsal by all in the bridal party. This includes no shorts, halter tops, tank tops or mid-driffs, baseball caps, torn jeans, sunglasses, flip flops or other inappropriate attire.

*Brides are to bear in mind the necessity of modesty in dress appropriate for a sacred occasion and place of worship. When selecting the wedding and bridesmaids' gown, low cut or strapless gowns should be worn with a shawl or wrap during the Liturgy.*

## **P h o t o g r a p h y & V i d e o g r a p h y**

The photographer and videographer should receive a copy of these guidelines. They may also be viewed on our website at [www.stjohnvianney.org/wedding](http://www.stjohnvianney.org/wedding).

The photographers must check in with the Parish Wedding Assistant before the ceremony. At all times they should strive to be unobtrusive. Once they liturgy has begun, photographers and videographers are not to move about the Church.

Pictures and video may be taken in the church prior to the ceremony beginning one hour before the scheduled wedding.

After the ceremony **ONLY 15 MINUTES** are allowed. **THERE IS TO BE NO DEVIATION FROM THIS TIME FRAME.**

The photographer and videographer are allowed **ONLY IN DESIGNATED AREAS. THEY ARE NEVER ALLOWED IN THE SANCTUARY.** *The Parish Wedding Assistant will be on site to assist in the proper placement of camera equipment.*

There is to be no artificial lighting or flash photography during the ceremony.

The bridal procession is not to be stopped or interrupted once it has begun.

All photos should be respectful of the sacred space and celebration (no “cutesy” or inappropriate photos).

The videographer should be stationary throughout the ceremony. *The Parish Wedding Assistant will direct the videographer and photographer to the appropriate locations.*

**FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THESE GUIDELINES WILL RESULT IN THE FORFEITURE OF YOUR DEPOSIT.**

## **H o n o r a r i u m**

The honorarium is the fee or stipend offered to the priest or deacon who presides over the ceremony. There is no set amount, however the average range is \$150–\$300.

This should be presented along with the Marriage License to the Wedding Assistant or clergy before or after the ceremony.

## F e e s

Saint. John Vianney Parish is pleased to have your wedding take place in our Church. As with everything else there are costs associated with keeping these beautiful structures operational and properly maintained. The fees noted below do not cover the entire costs of having your wedding here but they do help defray the expenses of hosting your celebration.

### Fees

Marriage Prep FOCCUS (Prep only) (Marriage at another church)	\$ 30
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#### *For the Chapel*

Deposit	\$200
For active contributing parishioner*	\$275
For non-parishioner	\$550

#### *For the Church*

Deposit	\$200
For active contributing parishioner*	\$550
For non-parishioner	\$1100

\*Must be an active, contributing and registered parishioner six months prior to reserving the wedding date.

The deposit must be made at the time of the reservation. \$100 of the deposit is refundable if all guidelines are followed.

All fees must be paid in full at least 3 months prior to the wedding. If the wedding reservation is canceled the deposit is forfeited but the balance is refunded.

### *Music Fees*

Fees for the music are paid directly to musicians. All arrangements are made through the Music Ministry Department.

Parish Cantor: \$150  
Parish Organist \$250

## Sacraments for Catholics

Catholics who have not celebrated all of the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) are invited to receive preparation at Saint John Vianney. Contact the Adult Formation Office for Sacrament Preparation Classes for Adults.

Adult Confirmation is celebrated on Pentecost Sunday in the Spring, so it may not be possible to celebrate Confirmation prior to the celebration of the marriage. Nonetheless, every Catholic should desire to be Confirmed and year-round preparation programs are available.



## Becoming Catholic

While one does not have to convert to Catholicism to marry a Catholic in the Catholic Church, all non-Catholics are invited to learn more about the Catholic faith. Catholicism is a faith that is rich and beautiful and truly life enhancing. Saint John Vianney parish wishes to assist anyone,

who after personal reflection and thoughtful consideration, wishes to become Catholic or simply inquire about the Catholic faith.

For more information contact the Office of Adult Formation.

## Learning More About The Catholic Faith

Saint John Vianney has numerous programs and wide array of presentations throughout the year. All are welcome to join us for these presentations and programs. Regularly held Bible Studies, prayer groups, and presentations on various aspects of the Catholic faith and personal development are scheduled throughout the year. Check our Website for current offerings or call the Adult Formation Office for more information.

## B e c o m i n g   a   P a r t   o f S a i n t   J o h n   V i a n n e y   P a r i s h

Saint John Vianney parish welcomes you to come and pray with us whenever you can. We also extend an invitation to engaged couples to become part of our parish family. While it is not required to be a member of the parish to marry at Saint John Vianney, we wish to invite cou-

ples to consider being part of our parish community, especially those who are not currently registered in a parish. As you are celebrating the beginning of your new life together with us, we invite you to allow us to be part of your faith life.

*“Lord,  
As you have  
made this  
couple one in  
the  
Sacrament  
of  
Marriage  
so now make  
them one in  
Love with  
each other  
forever.”*

### A f t e r   T h e   W e d d i n g

One of the key elements that characterizes successful and happy marriages is an active and committed faith life. When couples live their faith and share their faith with each other they are strengthened.

Living marriage as a covenant with God enhances the joys and strengthens the bonds of love vowed on the wedding day. Weekly Mass attendance, daily prayer and participation

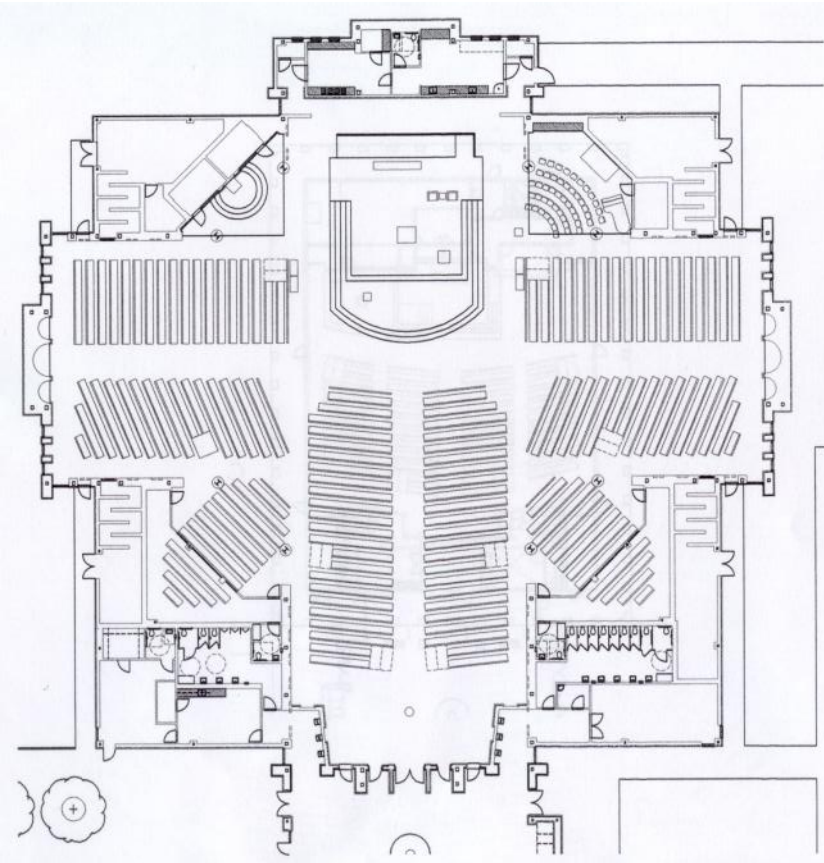
in the life of a parish faith community enables wives and husbands to more fully live a life of committed love.

Saint John Vianney Parish welcomes couples to join in the liturgical, spiritual, educational and social activities of the parish.

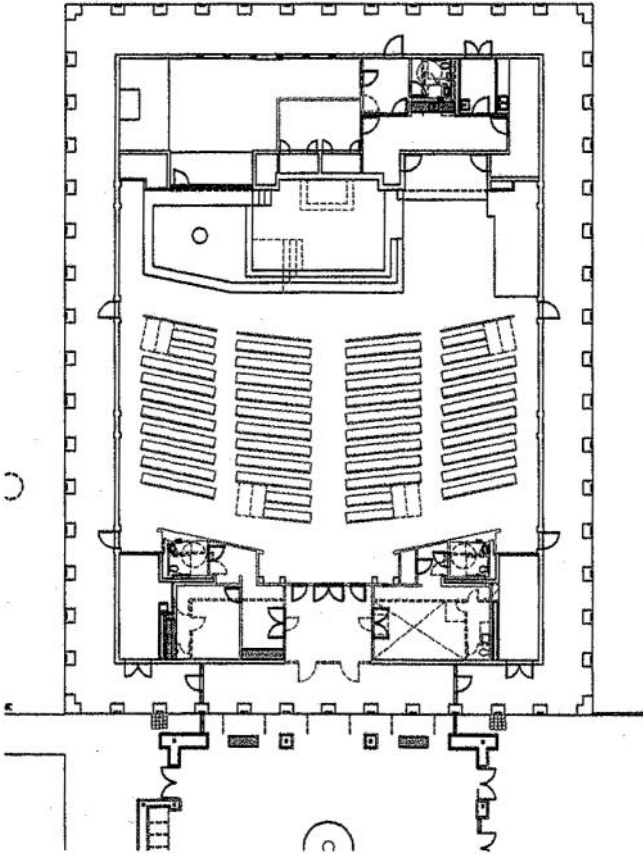
From softball, to the arts, to prayer groups and personal enrichment, Saint John Vianney has something for every couple.

Come and join us!

# The Church



# The Chapel



**P R A Y E R   F O R  
E N G A G E D   C O U P L E S**

Heavenly Father,  
in your great love you established marriage  
as blessing and grace for your people.

Bless and guide this couple who are preparing to celebrate  
this wonderful sacrament.

Give them patience during times of stress.  
Give them reassurance in times of doubt and  
give them increased peace and joy  
as their wedding day draws near.

Strengthen their love for one another,  
for their families and for you.

May the prayerful intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the  
bridal guest at Cana, be theirs  
all the days of their lives.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, Our Lord. Amen.

**Contact Information:**

Saint John Vianney Catholic Church  
Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston  
625 Nottingham Oaks Trail  
Houston, TX 77079

Telephone: 281-497-1500

Website: [www.stjohnvianney.org](http://www.stjohnvianney.org)  
Yvonne Gill, Director, Adult Formation  
[ygill@stjohnvianney.org](mailto:ygill@stjohnvianney.org)