

OTHER INFORMATION

1. Four (4) witnesses (2 for each of the couple) are required for the signing of the Registers.
2. The Catholic Church does not perform “blessings” of civil marriages. If you have already been civilly married you have to go through the previously mentioned procedures to have the marriage **convalidated** by the church. **A copy of the civil wedding certificate must also be provided.**
3. Those wishing to have their wedding vows renewed should produce their original marriage certificate. You must have been married in a Roman Catholic Church.

NON-NATIONALS / NON-RESIDENT NATIONALS.

All the above requirements apply to non-nationals/non-resident nationals who wish to be married by the church. The following however, must also be done:

1. The pre-nuptial interview and all paperwork must be done in **your overseas Parish** which will send the relevant **original** documents to their Chancery Offices for forwarding to our Chancery Office (see address below) by **courier** (FEDEX or other) to ensure safe arrival. **Documents must be originals, not copies. E-mailed documents will not be accepted.**
The Chancery
Archbishop's Office
Battery Road, Vigie
Castries
St. Lucia, West Indies Telephone 1 758 4522416
2. The documents should be dispatched to St. Lucia at least **three (3) months** before of the date of your marriage. Please advise us when they are dispatched.
3. Documents should **NOT** be brought down to St. Lucia personally.
4. Please arrange to arrive in St. Lucia **at least** three days before the ceremony.
5. On arrival in St. Lucia, you **MUST** schedule an appointment with the Parish Priest for final confirmation of the date and time of the wedding ceremony and any other queries which you may have.
6. You will need to obtain a **Marriage License** from Government Authorities before the ceremony can take place, unless you have already married each other by a Civil ceremony.

CONFESSION: Catholic couples are encouraged to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation ~~before receiving the Sacrament of Matrimony~~. Please check with your Parish Priest.



St. Joseph the Worker R.C Church

Gros Islet, St. Lucia

Tel (758)450-8325

Email: st.joseph_church@hotmail.com

st.joseph_church@candw.lc

MARRIAGE INFORMATION

The following information is important for all those wishing to be married at the St. Joseph the Worker Church, Gros Islet, St. Lucia.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Six (6) months notice is required for all marriages. Couples should not attend the pre-marital sessions before having been interviewed by the Parish Priest **in the Parish where they reside.**
2. The following documents are needed for the interview:-
 - A recent (**issued not more than 6 months ago**) copy of your **Birth certificate, Baptism certificate, First Communion and Confirmation certificates.** Parties should be confirmed before marriage. If you are not confirmed, please check with your Parish to arrange.
 - **Valid National Identification** e.g. National I.D. Card, Passport, Driver's License.
 - **Deed poll** if change of name was done and name is different on I.D. and Birth Certificate.
 - **Birth certificate and Baptism certificates of all children to be legitimated** (recent copies).
 - Recent copies of **marriage, divorce, and annulment certificates** if previously married.
 - If widowed, death certificate of former spouse.
 - If you have already married each other during a Civil ceremony, a copy of the **civil marriage certificate.**

When you have all the necessary documents, please call the parish office to arrange the interview with the Parish Priest.

3. Couples **MUST** attend the pre-marital sessions. The Parish will provide the necessary information about these sessions.

MARRIAGE FEES:

Compulsory Fees

Offering	-	\$300.00
Stipend	-	\$200.00
Late Fee	-	\$500.00* (see below)

Optional Fees

Choir	-	<i>depending on the Choir</i>
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You are free to choose a Priest or Deacon to officiate at your wedding. Please inform the Parish Priest of such arrangements.

LATE FEE*

To avoid disruption of the Church's programme on the day of the wedding ceremony, a \$500.00 deposit is required which may be **forfeited** if the wedding ceremony commences **(15) fifteen minutes** or later after the scheduled time through no fault of the church.

Where the lateness extends beyond fifteen minutes, the marrying couple runs the serious risk of not having a priest or deacon to conduct the service.

It is out of respect for the Church's programme of activities that we ask for prompt attendance.

All fees **MUST** be paid one (1) month before the wedding. The Church may assume a cancellation of marital plans where fees are not made by this time.

DECORATIONS

During Advent and Lent, weddings are not solemnized. This means that the music should be minimal and low-keyed. **During Advent, no flowers and decorations are allowed except potted GREEN plants. During Lent, the Church remains bare.**

Please note that the **church's decorations should not be removed without the permission and supervision of the office staff and/or Church Decorator.** It is highly recommended that your additional decorations blend in with the existing ones.

Please discuss ALL your decorations arrangements with the Parish Office.

Please note: - No decorations should be stuck, pinned or nailed on kneelers, pews, altar rails etc. If done, the late fee will not be refunded. Also the entrance to both sides of the pews must not be obstructed. Balloons are not allowed. The throwing of petals, rice etc is not allowed.

PROGRAMME

After your interview with the Parish Priest, please contact the parish office for assistance with the programme & hiring of a choir if needed. Programme is to be vetted by the Parish Priest before printing. **No SECULAR SONGS will be permitted.**

N.B. Programmes should have the words of the hymns chosen printed on it for the convenience of your guests and choir.

DRESS CODE - IMPORTANT

The Church is the House of God and MUST be respected at all times.

It is true that the weather is hot and whilst you may have paid a large sum for your outfit, **couples and their guests should be respectfully dressed**, bearing in mind that they are in the House of the Lord. The responsibility is that of the couple to inform their guests as to the required standard of dress. Men should not enter the Church with their heads covered and **ladies should not have their shoulders and backs exposed.** Failure to comply with the Church's dress code may unduly hinder the prompt commencement of the ceremony.

You **MAY NOT** enter the Church **UNLESS** properly attired, and this refers even to the BRIDE herself. A marriage ceremony in a Catholic Church is a **SACRAMENT, NOT A FASHION SHOW.**

Kindly co-operate in keeping the House of God holy, and include the dress code in your invitations.

PHOTOGRAPHS

While photographs and filming are permitted, certain rules need to be observed:-

1. The Sanctuary (Altar Area) is strictly off limits.
2. The individuals are not to sit on the Altar rails or the Sanctuary steps for photographs or filming under any circumstance.

The ceremony should not be interrupted for photographs or filming, e.g. by asking the Priest or Deacon to stop or pause while officiating at the ceremony.