

St. Frederick & St. Stephen Catholic Church

P.O. Box 602
Edisto Island, SC 29438
www.edistocatholic.com

WEDDING INFORMATION

Dear Friends,

The clergy, staff and parishioners of St. Frederick and St. Stephen Catholic Parish rejoice with you in your engagement to one another. We will walk with you as you approach one of the most important days in your life, the beginning of the sacred covenant of Christian marriage.

In asking to be married in the Catholic Church, you are publicly proclaiming your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. For two baptized persons of all Christian traditions, this union becomes the Sacrament of Matrimony, a tangible sign of Christ's love and life in our midst. The sacred liturgy of your wedding, which begins your married life by your solemn exchange of marital consent is an act of worship and not a ceremony. We will help you prepare both for that happy day and for the lifetime of marriage that follows your nuptial liturgy.

We appreciate your desire to have every detail of your wedding carefully planned and gracefully executed. We will work with you to ensure that the sacred liturgy is a beautiful and memorable event for you, your families, and your friends. We ask you to remember that your wedding, although an intensely personal moment for you, is not a *private* event; rather, it is a liturgy- an act of worship by the Church. For this reason, we must take care to ensure that the sacred liturgy is celebrated according to the mind of the Church and in conformity with liturgical law and local customs. You may rely on our experience in guiding and assisting you with how weddings are first and foremost celebrated as worship.

Below is important information for you as you begin to plan your wedding. Please contact us with any questions. Email is our preferred method of communication, as we do not have regular office hours.

May God bless your joy and happiness in this time of anticipation and preparation!

Pastor: Reverend Jesuprathap (JP) Narichetti

Parish Office Manager: Alice Briese

Wedding Coordinators: Alice Briese

Christine Harrington

Office telephone: (843) 631-1459 Office email: edistocatholic@charlestandiocese.org

- The Church requires all engaged couples to attend an approved pre marriage preparation program. This must begin no less than six months prior to the intended wedding date, and should be scheduled through the couple's home parish or the diocese.
- All wedding paperwork must be submitted to the Diocese of Charleston at least 2 months prior to the wedding date. The wedding will not take place without timely submission of the paperwork.
- For weddings between two Catholics, the Nuptial Mass is the appropriate liturgy. For weddings between a Catholic and a non-Catholic, only the shorter Rite of Marriage will be celebrated.
- If you are a member of another parish, you should invite your own priest or deacon to officiate at your wedding. The Pastor of SFSS is not available to officiate at weddings of non-parishioners.
- FEES: No fee is charged for active, registered parishioners. However, donations are appropriate and appreciated. For non-parishioners, the fee is \$1000 plus a \$300 administrative fee. Payment of 50% of the fee, plus the \$300 administrative fee is due at the time that the wedding reservation is made. The balance is due 3 months prior to the wedding date. Please make checks out to St. Frederick & St. Stephen Catholic Church, PO Box 602, Edisto Island, SC 29438. Arrangements and payment for flowers, decorations, music, altar servers, and the celebrant are the obligations of the wedding couple.
- Only sacred, approved music is allowed. Contact our music director, Terese Soliman at 843-819-3064 for information.
- The wedding reservation includes: 3 hours in the church on the wedding day, a one- hour rehearsal on the day before the wedding, the services of a wedding coordinator at the rehearsal and wedding, the services of a sacristan to set up the altar, the use of the sound system, organ, furnishings, and altar pieces during the ceremony.
- Weddings on Saturday can begin no later than 1 pm. The ceremony and pictures must be complete NO LATER than 3 pm. The parking lot must be cleared no later than 3:30 pm in preparation for Confessions and Saturday evening Mass.
- Our parish wedding coordinators are representatives of our parish and will help familiarize the wedding party with our church. They are responsible for implementing the policies and customs of our parish.
- If the couple wishes to have a worship aid (program) for the ceremony, this must be done after consultation with the officiant and the music director.
- No strapless, spaghetti straps, backless or other revealing dresses are allowed unless a wrap or jacket is worn during the ceremony.
- The rehearsal will be held at 5 pm or 6 pm the day before the wedding. It is limited to one hour. Church appropriate clothing is required.
- Flash photography is not permitted during the ceremony.
- The wedding party is expected to refrain from using alcoholic beverages before the rehearsal and the wedding.
- No rice, birdseed, confetti, bubbles, or flower petals are to be used on church grounds.
- Our church comfortably accommodates approximately 180 people.