

OTHER INFORMATION

1. Four (4) witnesses (2 for each member) are required for the signing of the Registers.
2. We must inform you that the Catholic Church does not do "blessings" of civil marriages. If you have already been civilly married you have to go through the previously mentioned procedure.
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. The following however, must also be done:

1. The pre-nuptial interview and all paperwork must be done in your Parish who will send the relevant documents to their Chancery Offices for forwarding to our Chancery Office by **courier** (FEDEX or other) to ensure safe arrival:
The Chancery Office
Archbishop's Office
Battery Road, Vigie
P.O. Box 267, Castries
St. Lucia, West Indies
2. The documents should be dispatched to St. Lucia **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.

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

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MARRIAGE INFORMATION

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

REQUIREMENTS

1. Six (6) months notice is required for all marriages. Couples should not attend the pre-marital sessions before having been interviewed by their Parish Priest.
2. The following documents are needed for the interview:-
 - A recent (**issued not more than 6 months ago**) copy of your **Birth and Baptism certificate, First Communion and Confirmation certificates**. Parties should be confirmed before marriage. If not, please check with your Parish to arrange.
 - **Birth 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.
3. Couples **MUST** attend the pre-marital sessions. The Parish will provide the necessary information about these sessions.
4. Couples must meet with the Gros Islet Parish Priest to discuss the wedding programme.
5. If there is to be Baptism, the usual Baptism process is to be followed. Please check with your Parish Office.

MARRIAGE FEES

Compulsory Fees

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

Optional Fees

Choir	-	<i>depending on the Choir</i>
Carpet	-	\$200.00

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 and the marrying couple are at fault.

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 decorations blend in with the existing ones. **Balloons are not allowed.**

Please discuss ALL your decorations arrangements with the Parish Office.

Please note: - If personal florist is used, 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 at both sides of the pews must not be obstructed.

PROGRAMME

Please contact **Ms. Sharon Ephraim**, the Wedding Coordinator at 285-9463 or (H) 452-8910, for assistance with the programme, immediately after your interview with the Parish Priest. **No SECULAR SONGS will be permitted.**

Couples wishing to conduct **rehearsals** in the Church should also contact the Wedding Coordinator.

DRESS CODE

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.

PHOTOGRAPHS

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

1. The Sanctuary (Altar) 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. asking the Priest or Deacon to stop or pause while officiating at the ceremony.