

Parish Policy on Weddings in Our Church

In order to be married in the parish Church of Our Lady of the Scapular, one of the spouses must be a registered member of the parish. With permission, it is possible that a son or daughter of registered parishioners can be married in the church here. It is also possible that persons who are registered members of other parishes can be married in the church here, if they can provide a letter from the pastor of the parish where they are registered, stating that they are indeed members of his parish and that he gives permission for one of his parishioners to be married in church outside of that person's parish church. Everyone married in our church is expected to be a registered member of a Catholic parish somewhere and to be a practicing Catholic. A practicing Catholic is a person who goes to church on Sunday and receives the sacraments of Holy Communion and Confession regularly. Obstacles to being married in any Catholic Church anywhere are; a previous marriage in the Catholic Church which has not been declared annulled by the Catholic Church, or a civil marriage that has not been declared null by the Catholic Church. Please note that the Catholic Church considers marriages by non-catholics in other religious denominations as being valid until declared annulled by the Catholic Church. At least one of the spouses to be married must be a validly baptized Catholic. Catholics may marry members of other religious denominations or un-baptized persons with the permission of the archbishop. If neither of the parties being married are registered members of a Catholic Parish it will be necessary to register in a Catholic Parish before the wedding can take place in the parish Church of Our Lady of the Scapular. Registration in the parish here should ONLY take place if the couple intends on being active members of this parish and attending Mass here. It is recommended in most cases that couples register in the parish closest to where they will reside after being married. If a couple registers here in this parish where they are planning to be married their regular attendance at Mass will be monitored during the six months of preparation, and if necessary the wedding ceremony will be delayed. Weddings can only be scheduled in our church by the pastor. Normally the pastor of the parish conducts all weddings here. Marriage is a Sacrament of the Catholic Church. It requires serious preparation that requires at the very least six months to complete. Your marriage will affect every day of your life from the day of your wedding ceremony on. Your marriage and your wedding ceremony MUST be a part of your faith life. And your faith life needs to be lived out in the Catholic Church.