Policies and Procedures Manual

Title: Weddings in Saint Joseph Memorial Chapel
Policy Administrator: Wedding Coordinator
Effective Date: Mar-10-2011
Approved by: President of the College

Purpose:

If you have recently announced your engagement, congratulations from the College Chaplains at Holy Cross! This information is designed to help you determine if Saint Joseph Memorial Chapel is the right place for you to celebrate your wedding.

The place of celebration of the Catholic Sacrament of Marriage is guided by the Code of Canon Law: “Marriage between Catholics or between a Catholic and a baptized non-Catholic party is to be celebrated in a parish church; with the permission of the local ordinary or the pastor, it can be celebrated in another church or oratory” (Canon 1118). The Bishop of the Diocese of Worcester has granted permission for weddings to take place in college chapels when the couple is part of the college community. This policy governs the use of Saint Joseph Memorial Chapel at the College of the Holy Cross for weddings. It is intended to honor the deep attachment that many people in the Holy Cross community have to the Chapel, to provide pastoral care to engaged couples as they prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage, and to respect the reality that Holy Cross is not a parish.

Policy:

Marriages celebrated in Saint Joseph Memorial Chapel at the College of the Holy Cross are limited to Catholic weddings involving Holy Cross students, alumni/alumnae, current employees, children of current employees, and close relatives of Jesuits at Holy Cross. This applies to all spaces within the Chapel structure: Saint Joseph Chapel on the upper level, and the Mary Chapel, McCooey Chapel, Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Reconciliation Chapel, and Gathering/Baptismal Space on the lower level. It also applies to the outdoor Chapel Plaza in front of the Chapel.

In accordance with guidelines of the Diocese of Worcester and as a part of the College’s pastoral care, couples who celebrate their marriage in Saint Joseph Memorial Chapel must participate in the College’s annual Marriage Preparation Weekend or in a
similar program in their home parish or diocese. Couples must also receive written permission from their pastor for their marriage to be celebrated in Saint Joseph Memorial Chapel, and must obtain copies of their baptismal certificates from the parishes in which they were baptized.

All records of marriages celebrated at Holy Cross are kept in the Office of the Tribunal of the Diocese of Worcester. Requests for records should be addressed to:

Office of the Tribunal  
Diocese of Worcester  
49 Elm Street  
Worcester MA 01609

Exceptions to the Chapel marriage policy are rare, and are reviewed by the Director of Liturgy in the Office of the College Chaplains or, as appropriate, by the College President.

Procedures:

Couples seeking to celebrate their marriage in Saint Joseph Memorial Chapel contact the College Wedding Coordinator in the Office of the College Chaplains:

Sr. Lucille Cormier, S.A.S.V., Wedding Coordinator  
Office of the College Chaplains  
College of the Holy Cross  
1 College Street, Box 16A  
Worcester Ma 01610  
508-793-2754, lcormier@holycross.edu

Upon receipt of the College wedding fee, the Wedding Coordinator will reserve the date and time of the wedding. Weddings are only scheduled for times that do not conflict with College events in the Chapel. Guidelines concerning the liturgy and music for the wedding are discussed with the Wedding Coordinator.
Forms:

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Related Information:

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