MARRIAGE AT LMU

LMU’s Sacred Heart Chapel exists as a Roman Catholic chapel for our LMU students during their years of study on the Bluff. It is not a regular parish. The Archdiocese of Los Angeles has authorized LMU to offer regular celebration of the Eucharist and Reconciliation/Penance in Sacred Heart Chapel. All other sacraments (Baptism, Confirmation, Marriage, etc.) require permission from the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Permission is granted under very specific guidelines.

ELIGIBILITY

Full-time LMU undergraduate and graduate students, Loyola Law School students, and university faculty and staff are eligible to celebrate a Catholic marriage in the Chapel of the Sacred Heart or in one of the other university chapels. Alumni weddings are permitted as well.

Wedding reservations are accepted for between six to twelve months prior to the wedding date, no sooner and no later.

PREPARATION

Marriage Preparation as laid out by the Archdiocese of Los Angeles is required for all engaged couples to assess their readiness for marriage and to assist their deeper understanding of marriage as a vocation, a covenant and a sacrament. Because the Chapel of the Sacred Heart is not a parish, LMU does not provide the Marriage Preparation process. Couples who decide to wed at LMU are required to go through the Marriage Preparation process in their home parish.

To begin the process of reserving the chapel and planning your wedding liturgy at LMU, please contact Dr. Jonas Bognar to discuss your wedding plans at 310.338.7534 or at Jonas.bognar@lmu.edu

The couple will need to provide the following:

1. The completed forms found in the Wedding Packet which is available on the Campus Ministry website. [https://mission.lmu.edu/ministry/liturgy/sacraments/baptismmarriage/](https://mission.lmu.edu/ministry/liturgy/sacraments/baptismmarriage/)
2. “Newly Issued” Baptismal certificates, and copies of First Communion and Confirmation certificates.
3. Name of the Priest or Deacon who will preside at the ceremony.
4. Certificates of completion of an approved Marriage Preparation course.

Each individual wedding requires the permission of the Local Bishop (or Episcopal Vicar). Every wedding reservation is tentative pending the Bishop’s (or Vicar’s) approval and the couple’s submission of all necessary paperwork.

Once your wedding is scheduled and the chapel is reserved, our wedding coordinator and music coordinator will assist you with planning your wedding liturgy. The chapel staff and wedding coordinators are regularly available to assist you with any needs you may have in preparing for your wedding at LMU.
LMU CHAPEL REGULATIONS FOR WEDDINGS

**Please forward this information to your guests and vendors.**

Sacred Heart Chapel is the spiritual center of the LMU campus. Since 1953, it has served as an icon of the university and represents LMU’s vision of a holistic education, which includes mind, body, and spirit.

Since you are asking for your marriage to take place in the chapel, it is obvious that you recognize the sacred nature of the space. Great care should be taken to insure the beauty and seriousness of your ceremony. It is your responsibility to inform your guests and vendors of your desire that they respect this space in every way.

These regulations are established to insure the appropriate atmosphere for your wedding. Obviously, if any of the regulations are violated, you forfeit your deposit. But more significantly, you or others lessen the special character of this important ceremony. *All of these regulations are subject to change.*

1. **FEES**

   The fee for the use of the Chapel of the Sacred Heart for your wedding is **$1,750.00**. This includes a basic fee of $1,250.00 and a refundable $500 security/cleaning deposit. *Any violation of the following policies or procedures will result in the forfeiture of your security deposit.*

   **Additional Fees for Weddings:**
   - The Stipend for Musicians will be paid directly to the Associate Director of Music.
   - The Stipend for the Wedding Coordinator will be paid directly to the Wedding Coordinator
   - A Stipend will be paid to the Acolyte
   - It is also customary to offer the presiding priest a stipend for witnessing your wedding

2. **Wedding Start Time**

   - Weddings are expected to begin at their scheduled times. Other weddings or services may be scheduled for the same day, and it is essential that each wedding begin at its scheduled time.
   - If the wedding begins more than 10 minutes after the scheduled time, the couple will forfeit the chapel security deposit.
   - Additionally, if the wedding begins much later, the ceremony may have to be shortened to accommodate the reservation time.
   - Please be considerate of your guests, your officiating priest, the musicians, and our staff and assure yourself plenty of time to arrive at the chapel early.
3. **SAFETY**
   - Runners are not permitted down the main aisle of the chapel;
   - No ribbons or balloons are permitted in the chapel;
   - No rice, flower petals, birdseed, confetti or bubbles may be thrown inside or outside of the chapel. (These items are a genuine safety hazard.)

4. **PHOTOGRAPHERS**
   Photographers should not move around the chapel during the ceremony and should not walk or stand in the main aisle for pictures during the wedding. Flash photography may **not** be used. You are responsible for the conduct of all of your guests. If you have any questions about appropriate behavior, please contact Dr. Jonas Bognar at 310.338.7534.

5. **VIDEOGRAPHERS**
   If you are planning on having a video photographer, he or she may only use **one video camera**, which should be stationary outside of the sanctuary. No additional lights may be used to record the ceremony.
   
   **NEW:** Sacred Heart Chapel is now equipped with stationary cameras for livestreaming and recording. Please contact Dr. Bognar for more details on how to request the use of this service **at least three months in advance**.
   
   Please note that the use of drones of any kind is forbidden inside or outside the chapel at all times.

6. **FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS**
   No more than three floral arrangements are allowed in the chapel. When applicable, one may be placed at the base of the main altar, two others in the front of the podia or on stands on either side of the altar. The chapel does not provide stands for flower arrangements. **No floral arrangements may be placed on the wooden predella without prior notice and approval from Dr. Bognar!** Failure to do so can cause permanent damage to the wood. The floral piece in front of the altar may be left as a gift to the chapel, if you wish. Small floral arrangements or bows may also be placed on the end of the pews with the use of plastic hooks (provided by your florist) that hang on the end of the pews. No tape/adhesives can be used. Please instruct your florist to deliver the flowers no sooner than one hour before the ceremony, unless special arrangements are made. It is also your responsibility or that of your florist to remove any decorations from the pews after the ceremony. If your florist does not comply with these regulations, your deposit will be forfeited.

7. **FOOD AND/OR DRINK**
   No food, drink (other than water), chewing gum, or alcohol is permitted in the chapel. There are absolutely no exceptions to this regulation.

8. **ARRANGEMENT OF FURNITURE AND CHAPEL ITEMS (UPDATED)**
   The new wooden predella (altar platform) and the altar furnishings, which include the ambo, altar, presider’s chair and candlestands, are now fixed in place and cannot be moved for any reason. The integrity of this sacred space and the placement of the ambo, altar and presider’s chair need to be respected and left in place. Please do not place any objects on the predella and report any damages as soon as possible. Damage to predella is subject to a loss of your chapel deposit plus any costs incurred to fix the platform.

   Also, the chapels are adorned with art and environment (plants, banners, etc…) specifically for each liturgical season. The environment is not to be altered, removed, or changed in any way unless under the specific direction of a member of the Liturgy & Music Staff.
9. MUSIC AND MUSICIANS

The Rite of Marriage celebrated in Sacred Heart Chapel is a festive and solemn liturgical event. Thus, the music for your wedding should come from the wealth of music that the Church recognizes as appropriate for worship.

All music chosen should reflect the dignity and reverence of the occasion and be consistent with the intent of the liturgy to express the Christian nature of love, faith, and marriage. Music selected must be musically, liturgically, and pastorally appropriate. In general, music from the Gather Hymnal (GIA Publications) is appropriate.

As you begin to discern the selection of the music for your wedding liturgy, please remember the following policies:

- Musicians for liturgy (vocalists and instruments) must come from the current LMU music ministry team who work under the supervision and direction of the Wedding Music Coordinator, Dr. Chris de Silva. Guest musicians outside of LMU are not allowed.

- The couple should not make any prior arrangements in the hiring of musicians.

- All liturgical music decisions must be made in discussion with Dr. Chris de Silva.

- The minimum requirement for musicians at the wedding liturgy is a cantor (song leader) and a pianist or organist.

- Music played at the wedding liturgy is to be rooted in Sacred Scripture. Songs from popular culture are not permitted for use at Mass and should be saved for the reception.

- All musicians’ fees are to be paid in full one month prior to the wedding.

- Mass Programs/Worship Aids – Couples must submit a copy of the Mass program/worship aid to Chris de Silva for approval, before printing. A final draft of the program must be completed and submitted one month before the wedding date.