

Marriage Guidelines for Out-of-Town Couples and Non-Parishioners
Requesting Marriage at
St. Peter Catholic Parish
100 Francis Street
Mary Esther, FL 32569
850-581-2556

- If you do not presently live within the boundaries of St. Peter Parish in Mary Esther, Florida, and are not a registered parishioner of St. Peter Parish, **you must contact your local pastor to begin the necessary paperwork and interviews for marriage preparation.** Church law requires that your local pastor gives permission for the marriage to be held outside the local parish boundaries.
- If the Catholic parties to your upcoming marriage are not presently active in a Catholic parish where you live, then it is necessary that the Catholic parties resume the practice of their faith by regular Mass attendance and participation in the life of the parish where they live. The local pastor of the Catholic Church will help you understand what must be done before any preparation for the Sacrament of Marriage may take place or a date set for the marriage.
- Your local pastor and/or his staff will work with you to gather all the information and documentation that will be needed to complete the marriage preparation. It will be your responsibility to see that all the requirements he discusses with you are met. Once the marriage preparation has been completed at your local parish, the completed file, including your local pastor's letter of permission for the marriage to take place at St. Peter Catholic Parish, will be sent to us.
- **IMPORTANT:** No date can be set for your marriage here at St. Peter Parish until we have heard from your local pastor and received his permission.
- It is critical that you do not print invitations, arrange transportation, or schedule a reception hall until the above requirements have taken place and you have been given a firm, committed date and time by letter from the priest or deacon who will be performing the marriage ceremony.
- There is a fee of \$400.00 for all non-parishioner couples who will be married at St. Peter Catholic Parish. This fee does not cover rental of the Parish Center for a reception, the services of our parish's musicians, nor the stipend for the priest or deacon who performs the marriage ceremony.
- We need at least three month's notice before we can schedule a wedding. This is in addition to the time required by your local pastor for marriage preparation. There are situations, especially if either of you have been married before, or if you do not presently practice your Catholic faith, where additional steps must be taken before a wedding date may be set and additional time may be required. Again, your local pastor's evaluation and participation in your preparation is crucial.
- Once a date and time for your marriage has been set, you will work with the priest or deacon and the Director of Music at St. Peter Parish in planning the marriage ceremony.