



St. John the Evangelist Church

Bulletin Deadline: Mondays by 7:00 p.m. to be published following weekend

Email: bulletin@delphosstjohns.org



Alpha - Registrations

Have questions about life? Try Alpha! Alpha is a series of interactive sessions that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith in a friendly, open and informal environment. There's no charge to attend. It begins Tuesday, March 7th at 6:00 p.m. at the Delphos Eagles Hall. Join us for food, a short video presentation and small group discussion. Who will you invite to join you on this adventure? Please register online at <https://goo.gl/ePVkVx> or call 419-695-4050 to sign up today.

Cemetery Clean-Up

Clean-up has begun at St. John the Evangelist and Resurrection cemeteries. If you have any Christmas, winter, or other items that you would like to keep that you have placed at a loved one's grave, please be sure to pick them up within the next couple weeks, prior to **Monday, March 20th**.

1st Grade

will be recognized at the 9:15 a.m. Mass this weekend. Thank you to Mrs. Erin Fischer, Mrs. Megan McIntyre, and Mrs. Brandi Gorman for their ministry to our students!



201 N. Pierce St., Delphos, OH 45833 / (419) 695-4050 / Emergency after-hours: (419) 513-0425

Eucharist

Monday-Saturday 8:00 a.m.
Wednesday 12:15 p.m.

Weekend Masses

Saturdays - 4:30 p.m.
Sundays - 7:30 a.m., 9:15 a.m., 11:30 a.m.

Reconciliation

Weekdays 7:30 a.m.
Saturdays 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.
May be scheduled by appointment

Baptism

1st Sunday of the month at 1:00 p.m.
3rd Weekend of the Month during any of the Masses.

Please contact the Ministry Center to schedule pre-baptismal instructions

Anointing of the Sick

Communal celebrations in May and October. Sacrament may also be administered by request.

Matrimony

Please contact the Ministry Center at least six months in advance to schedule your preparation and celebration.

Liturgy Readings

March 5th

Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11

Pastor

Rev. Dennis Walsh
 frdenniswalsh@delphosstjohns.org

Associate Pastors

Rev. Daniel Johnson
 frdanieljohnson@delphosstjohns.org
 Rev. George Mahas
 frgeorgemahas@delphosstjohns.org

Deacons

Fred Lisk, David Ricker, John Sheeran

Business Manager

Ted Hanf

Director of Communications & Public Relations

Victoria Recker
Liturgical Coordinator
 Mary Beth Will
 mbwill@delphosstjohns.org

Music Director

Lynn Bockey

Elementary Principal/ Preschool Director

Nathan Stant
 Elementary: (419) 692-8561
 Preschool: (419) 692-9806

Jr. High/High School Principal

Adam Lee
 (419) 692-5371

**Youth Group**

The Youth Group will be meeting on Sunday, March 5th from 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. at the Robert Arnzen Gym. Come join us for a game day! Games will include hide and seek, dodgeball and many more. Any student in Grades 7-12 are invited to attend!

K of C Lenten Fish Fries

The Lenten Fish Fries at the K of C will begin on March 3rd and continue through April 14th. We can always use additional help. If you can help get things ready, or help out during serving time, please call Tom Odenweller at 419-230-2893.

2017 Run Your Ashes Off 5K Run/Walk

Join us on March 1st at St. John's Annex for a prayer service, distribution of ashes, and the 5K race and 1.3 mile walk to follow. Registration opens at **4:45 p.m.**, the prayer service will begin at **5:15 p.m.**, and the race will start at **5:30 p.m.** Cost for students is \$15 and for adults is \$20 and includes a race shirt. It is sponsored by the St. John's Athletic Boosters. Proceeds go to St. Vincent DePaul Society. For questions or information, please contact Julie Rode at 419-230-3485 or Linda Schulte at 419-549-6933.

Seeking Alpha Team Volunteers

The Alpha team is now being formed. Anyone interested in being on the Alpha team and assisting with hospitality, set up/tear down, prayer team or leading small group discussions is asked to attend an orientation meeting. Orientation will be held at the Ministry Center on Sunday, February 26th at 3:00 p.m. If you are interested in helping with the Alpha Ministry, please contact Kim Honigford at 419-695-4050 or honigford@delphosstjohns.org.

Red Cross Blood Drive

There will be a Red Cross Blood Drive at the Delphos Eagles on Thursday, March 2nd from 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. To schedule your blood donation appointment, please call 1-800-Red-Cross, or go to redcrossblood.org, sponsor code "eaglesdel."

Lenten Season - Stations of the Cross

During the Lenten Season, Stations of the Cross will be prayed every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in church. On Wednesday, March 22nd, the Stations of the Cross will be led by 15 families in the parish. Each family will be assigned a station where the parent(s) and child(ren) read how the station relates to family life. If your family would like to help this year, please contact Lynn Bockey at 419-235-1083.

Stop Hunger Now

St. John's students in Grades 7-12 will be participating in the Stop Hunger Now project at Delphos Jefferson High School on Sunday, February 26th from 1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Families are encouraged to help with this worthwhile project. The week of March 6th-10th, the junior high and high school students will be challenged to raise \$250.00 for each grade level. If they reach their goal, they will be given a jean day. The grade level that exceeds the goal and raises the most money will receive a jean day, donuts and juice. If you would like to help a particular grade level reach their goal, please contact Kim Honigford at 419-692-5371 ext. 1133 or via email at honigford@delphosstjohns.org.

Athletic Boosters Pulled BBQ Pork Dinner

The St. John's Athletic Boosters Pulled BBQ Pork dinner is Monday, March 6th. The meal is \$8 and includes 6 oz. of pulled BBQ pork, baked beans, cheesy potato, coleslaw, roll and cookie. Dinners can be picked up from 4:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m. at the K of C Hall drive-thru. Tickets can be purchased from any junior high and high school student involved in a sport, the Ministry Center, and the Junior High/High School Office. Dinners are presale only and must be purchased by Monday, February 27th. Proceeds will be used to purchase equipment and supplies for all sports.

Calendar Key

Chapel - **CHA**

Knights of Columbus Hall - **KOC**

Robert Arnzen Gym - **RAG**

Church - **CHU**

Little Theater - **LT**

St. John Annex - **SJA**

Elementary School - **ES**

Ministry Center - **MC**

Trinity United Methodist Church - **TUMC**

Sunday, February 26th**8th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Visitation Sunday

7:30 a.m. - Mass - **CHU**

9:00 a.m. - Early Childhood - **ES**

9:15 a.m. - Mass - **CHU**

*1st Grade Recognition at 9:15 a.m. Mass

10:20 a.m. - PSR - **ES**

11:30 a.m. - Mass - **CHU**

3:00 p.m. - Alpha Team Training - **MC**

Monday, February 27th

7:30 a.m. - Confessions - **CHU**

8:00 a.m. - Daily Mass - **CHU**

8:30 a.m. - Rosary for Respect of All Life - **CHU**

6:30 p.m. - Freshmen Parent Orientation - **RAG**

7:00 p.m. - Eucharistic Adoration - **CHU**

Tuesday, February 28th

7:30 a.m. - Confessions - **CHU**

8:00 a.m. - Daily Mass - **CHU**

7:00 p.m. - CRHP - **CHA**

7:00 p.m. - Cantors - **CHU**

7:45 p.m. - Adult Choir - **CHU**

Our Gift to God

February 19, 2017

Adult Offering	\$18,267.00
Anonymous	\$581.59
Student Offering	\$100.00
Total	\$18,948.59

Thank you for your generosity!

Saturday Bingo - Volunteer Help Needed!

Saturday Bingo is in need of volunteer help. We are looking for 1-4 people to sell the early-bird Bingo games and Instant Bingo tickets from 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m. before Bingo. We also need a couple of groups of 2-3 people to verify the winning Bingo numbers and put items away afterwards from 7:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. If you would like to be the cashier, pass out the winnings, and verify instant ticket sales from 7:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m., we have a spot for you, as well. If you are available one Saturday a month or only once every three months, we will schedule you for days that work for you. If you can help or want information, please contact Ted Hanf at the Ministry Center at 419-695-4050.

German Visitors Are Coming

Thirty German friendship link visitors will be coming to Delphos on May 19th. They will stay in Delphos over the weekend and travel on to New York City mid-Monday morning. Traditionally, we provide host families for these travelers while they are in town. If you are interested in hosting some of our visitors, please contact Rick Hanser at 419-863-0703 or friendshiplink@roadrunner.com. These visitors are from the Verl, Germany area which is the original home of Fr. Otto Bredeick, our parish founder.

Couple's Night Out Program

Attention young, married couples! What makes marriage work? According to ForYourMarriage.org, it is communication, commitment, and faith. Our parish is offering support to young parents in their vocations as married couples and parents. Couple's Night Out provides childcare to families and children ages 3 months-6th grade. Families are able to leave their child(ren) at the Annex one evening per month from 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Each family pays \$3 per child, per night to cover costs. Each couple is required to volunteer one Friday, complete Virtus online training, and background checks. For more information, please contact Mikie Ricker at 419-863-0249 or mikiericker@yahoo.com.

A Tweet from Pope Francis



"God knows better than we do about what we need. We must have faith, because his ways are different from ours."

Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP) - Delphos Retreat

Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP) retreat for women is around the corner! CRHP is a spiritual renewal weekend designed to help individuals grow in their personal relationship with Jesus Christ and with others in their faith community. It is an excellent opportunity for Catholics to renew the understanding of the basic beliefs and traditions of their faith. This retreat weekend for women is scheduled for March 25-26, 2017. Please plan on attending this weekend of spiritual growth. Limited space is available. Registration forms are located in the back of church. **Deadline to register is March 10, 2017.** For questions, please contact Mary Lou Rode at 419-604-0137.

Lynn's Music Notes



"Today's communion song, "You Are Mine", was written by David Haas. Haas was born in 1957 and currently lives in Bridgeport, Michigan. We sing many of his songs found in our Gather hymnal: "Blest Are They", "We Are Called", "We Have Been Told", "Song of the Body of Christ" and "Now We Remain". This week, our Lenten journey begins. Starting March 8th at 7:30 p.m., we will have Stations of the Cross in church every Wednesday.

Ministry Scheduler Pro

We need Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and greeters for Holy Week. If you can volunteer, please do so on Ministry Scheduler Pro. Need assistance? Contact Kim Honigford at 419-692-5371 ext. 1133 or honigford@delphosstjohns.org.

"Therefore, do not make any judgment before the appointed time, until the Lord comes, for he will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will manifest the motives of our hearts, and then everyone will receive praise from God." ~ 1 Corinthians 4:5

Please Pray For:

The Sick in the Parish: Braden Knebel, Kyle Mullenhour, Tim Thines, Sally McCall, Ashton Michael Smith, Doris Gerdeman, Kermit Minnig, Sharon Hines, Carl German, Linda Miller, Vivienne "Sue" Warnecke, Stacey Klint, Connie Wieging, Patty Bridges, Tom Bridges, Joan Pulley, Duane Jacob Kuhlman, Eli Drewyore, Sue Burnett Jettinghoff, Rose Kaverman, Alice Heidenescher, Barry Friemoth, Brad Friemoth, Carol Brinkman, Betty Osting, Paula German, Monica German, Dan Morris, Tim Drewyore, Don (Lefty) Hoehn, John Williams, Larry Luersman, Veronica Luersman, Cheri Core, Carl Core, Ben Babcock, Tim Trentman, Rosella "Rosie" Bonifas, Judy Pohlman, Francis German, Mike Wrasman, Aria Nammour, Celeste Bushnell, Ed Zalar

Recently Deceased: Marguerite Thitoff, Al Imholt, Mildred Elwer

Those Serving in the Armed Forces: Tyler Hayson, Christine Bemis Vermillion, Nate Vermillion, Mary Frances Bemis Sigler

Wednesday, March 1st

6:00 a.m. - Mass and Ashes - CHU
7:30 a.m. - Confessions - CHU
8:00 a.m. - Ash Wednesday Mass - CHU
12:15 p.m. - Ash Wednesday Mass - CHU
4:45 p.m. - Run Your Ashes Off - SJA
5:00 p.m. - Shepherds of Christ - CHU
6:45 p.m. - Bingo - LT
7:30 p.m. - Ash Wednesday Mass - CHU

Thursday, March 2nd

7:30 a.m. - Confessions - CHU
8:00 a.m. - Daily Mass - CHU
12:00 p.m. - Community Lenten Service - TUMC
7:00 p.m. - Contemporary Group - CHU
7:00 p.m. - Women's Night - MC
7:00 p.m. - RCIA - MC

Friday, March 3rd

6:30 a.m. - Men's Prayer Group - MC
7:30 a.m. - Confessions - CHU
8:00 a.m. - Daily Mass - CHU
9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. - 1st Friday Adoration - CHA
3:15 p.m. - Youth Choir - CHU
4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. - Fish Fry - KOC



2017 Benefit Auction – Save the Date!

This year's St. John's Benefit Auction will be held on Saturday, April 29, 2017. The theme this year is "The Sock Hop". Doors will open at 5:30 p.m., dinner will be served beginning at 6:00 p.m., the Oral Auction will begin at 7:30 p.m., and the Silent Auction bids will end at 9:00 p.m. Tickets are \$75 and admits two people for dinner and the auction. Music and dancing will be available for your enjoyment. **The grand cash prize this year will be \$5,000.00! NEW THIS YEAR - The Golden Ticket!** The Golden Ticket is \$75.00 for the chance to select an Oral Auction prize of the winner's choosing before the Oral Auction begins! Only 75 tickets will be sold, so purchase yours before you miss out on this incredible opportunity. Winner must be present to win in order to make selection prior to the Oral Auction. You can purchase your tickets at the Ministry Center beginning **Monday, February 27th.**

Delphos St. John's Band - Annual Flower Sale

Spring is almost here which means it is time for the St John's Band annual flower sale! Items range from petunias, impatiens, geraniums, vegetables, plenty of hanging baskets and more! Contact any band member or call Sue Vonderwell at 419-236-5400. Sale ends March 20th with delivery day on May 8th - just in time for Mother's Day!

Food for the Body and Soul

On February 26th, St. John the Baptist in Landeck will have a special Sunday evening Mass at 4:00 p.m. followed by a 5:00 p.m.–7:30 p.m. homemade soup and sandwich fundraiser. The meal includes Venedocia sausage and homemade ice cream. If anyone would like to help please call the parish office, 419-692-0636. We will be accepting free will offering.

Ministry Schedule

Wednesday		March 1, 2017 - Ash Wednesday Mass		7:30 p.m.	
Greeters	VOLUNTEER, VOLUNTEER, VOLUNTEER, VOLUNTEER, VOLUNTEER, VOLUNTEER	Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion	Jerry Brickner, Brian Buettner*, Dave Clark, Gene Honigford, Joyce Keipper, Deacon Fred Lisk, Cheryl Pelasky, Dave Roach, Laura Roach, Ron Rode, VOLUNTEER*	Servers	Elliott Courtney, Matt Dickrede, Jared Honigford
Cantor	Victoria Recker			Lector	Andy Wrasman
Saturday				March 4, 2017	
Greeters	Kevin Dukes, Cheryl Gossard, Irvin Moenter, Dave Ostendorf, Mike Schimmoeller, Robert Weinandy	Greeters	Dennis Bockey, Hannah Bockey, Noah Heing, Owen Rode, Gary Smith, Joanne Smith	Servers	Robbie Buescher, Sydney Eley, Sarah Moenter, Cassidy Werts
Cantor	John Pohlman	Cantor	Gene Siefker	Lector	Joyce Day
Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion	Brian Buettner, Ed Collins Sr., Deb Fischer, Mark Fischer, Annita Flanagan, Barry Friemoth, Denise Gerdeman, Kelsi Gillespie, Karen Grothouse, Lois MacLennan*, Nathan Rahrig, Sandy Rostorfer, Eric Schier*	Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion	Kathy Buettner, Ben Dickrede, Dee Dickrede, Matt Dickrede, Troy Elwer, Cindy Grothouse, Halee Grothouse, Connor Hulihan, Doris Neumeier, Jessica Odenweller, Tricia Patton*, Breece Rohr*, Janet Siefker, Collin Will	Sunday	
Sunday		March 5, 2017		7:30 a.m.	
Greeters	Brandy Baldauf, Jerry Luersman, Cole Reindel, Steve Warnecke, John Wittler, Mary Lou Wittler	Greeters	Ally Gerberick, Patty Gerberick, Kim McCracken, Brooklyn Mueller, Lincoln Mueller, Robby Saine	Servers	Lucas Metcalfe, Marie Mueller, Brady Parrish, Emma Reindel
Cantor	Archie Metcalfe	Cantor	Contemporary Group	Lector	Charlie Rohrbacher
Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion	Jerry Brickner*, Ryan Dickman, Elaine Evans, Helen Fischer, Josh Fish, Deven Haggard*, Pam Hanser, Sandy Hellman, Anita Lindeman, Carol Odenweller, Dennis Youngpeter	Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion	Dave Clark, Kay Elling, Madison Ellis*, Kylie Fritz, Mark Hammons, Marjorie Jacobs, Maddy Jettinghoff*, Jim Knebel, Dawn Ledyard, Sarah Miller, Haley Rode	Sunday	
Sunday		March 5, 2017		11:30 a.m.	

Saturday, March 4th

Sunday, March 5th

Connect with Us!

7:30 a.m. - Confessions - CHU
 8:00 a.m. - Daily Mass - CHU
 8:30 a.m. - Rosary for Respect of All Life - CHU
 8:30 a.m. - Catholic Men's Fellowship - MC
 3:30 p.m. - Confessions - CHU
 4:30 p.m. - Mass - CHU
 7:00 p.m. - Bingo - LT

1st Sunday of Lent
 7:30 a.m. - Mass - CHU
 9:00 a.m. - Early Childhood - ES
 9:15 a.m. - Mass - CHU
 *RCIA Rite of Sending at 9:15 a.m. Mass
 10:20 a.m. - PSR - ES
 11:30 a.m. - Mass - CHU

Website:
www.delphosstjohnparish.org
Facebook – /delphosstjohn
Twitter – /delstjohnparish
Pinterest – /destjohns
Instagram – /stjohnparish

Liturgical Celebrations of Lent and Easter

Ash Wednesday, March 1st, 2017

- + **6 AM Mass** with ashes distributed after the homily.
- + Masses at 8:00 AM, 12:15 PM and 7:30 PM. Ashes will be distributed after the homily at each celebration.

Lenten Devotions

- + Daily Eucharist at 8:00 AM. Eucharist is also celebrated at 12:15 PM on Wednesday. (Check Bulletin for Schedule.)
- + Stations of the Cross will be celebrated on Wednesdays at 7:30 PM beginning on March 8th, followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.
- + March 22nd is celebration of Family Stations

Lenten Penance Schedule

Confessions: Throughout Lent the regular times for confession are:

7:30-7:50 AM Every weekday

3:30-4:15 PM Saturday

A Day of Grace

St. John's, Delphos: Thursday, March 23rd. Confessions from 9 AM-7 PM.

St. John's, Landeck: Monday, April 10th, 5-7 PM.

St. Patrick's, Spencerville: Wednesday, March 29th, 6:30-7:30 PM.

Leave the Light On: Lenten Confessions - Wednesday, April 5th from 4-7 PM.

Community Lenten Services are scheduled at 12 Noon every Thursday during Lent, beginning on March 2nd at Trinity Methodist Church. Luncheon will follow.

Fish Fry on Fridays during lent. Fish Fry is at the K of C Hall from 4-7 PM. Carry-outs are available.

Order of Celebrating Matrimony



What you see happening when you attend a wedding- or if you're getting married yourself-will be a little different from what you've seen in the past. Members of the Liturgy Committee want all parishioners to know and understand the changes, so we are providing you with this information.

The revisions are a little overdue. Following the Second Vatican Council, the Church's entire liturgical life was reformed, including each of the sacraments. The Vatican issued a new marriage rite in March 1969, and an English translation soon followed. A second edition of that rite was approved by Pope St. John Paul II in 1991, but an English translation was never approved until now. **So what's different?**

THE NAME: First and most obvious is the title! What has been known until now as the **Rite of Marriage** will now be called the **Order of Celebrating Matrimony**. The U.S. bishops felt that the word "matrimony" has a more sacred connotation than "marriage." The U.S. bishops thought the change was important in the American context, where we've seen marriage redefined as more of a civil contract only. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has launched an Initiative called "Marriage: Unique for a Reason." Its purpose is to help educate and catechize Catholics on the meaning of marriage as the union of man and woman. For more information visit: www.marriageuniqueforareason.org

THE FEEL: The new Order of Matrimony calls the assembly to really be joyful participants, not just spectators. To help establish that feel, the **Entrance Procession** will be more like a liturgical procession. The **Penitential Rite** (in which the priest leads the assembly in asking forgiveness for their sins) has now been removed. And the singing or saying of "**Glory to God** in the highest..." has been added when marriage is celebrated in the context of Mass. This change elevates the nuptial Mass to the same level as a liturgical Feast. It's a great opportunity to encourage singing as a means to foster a heightened sense of solemnity. Stressing the participation of the assembly, the assembly will respond, "Thanks be to God," after the Reception of the Consent (exchange of vows). It's an expression of approval and joy!

THE LOOK: The **Entrance Procession** will be more like a liturgical procession with the servers, priest and lector followed by the bridal party. The groom AND the bride are encouraged to process in with both parents. This change stems from the fact that the bride and groom are **EQUAL participants** in the sacrament of Matrimony. It's not just the bride's day and the aisle is not a fashion runway. Here at Delphos, the preferred method is to have both sets of parents walk with the bride and groom, but we will accommodate the father escorting his daughter with the groom entering from the sacristy. Also in the revised rite, the bride and groom are encouraged to see each other before the ceremony and be addressed by the priest privately. The tradition of not seeing each other beforehand was to prevent a 'runaway bride' situation when marriages were pre-arranged.

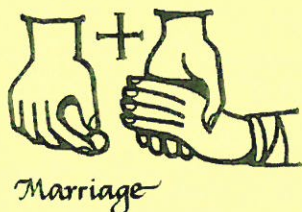
THE WORDS: The wording of the questions and the consent have changed some. Before the consent (vows) the priest questions them about their freedom of choice, fidelity to each other, and the acceptance and upbringing of children. For instance, there's a new phrase inserted in the consent (vows) "...in sickness and in health, **to love and to cherish** until death do us part." A substantial addition that involves the assembly includes a part after the Reception of the Consent (exchange of vows), when the celebrant says, "**Let us bless the Lord,**" and the assembly responds "**Thanks be to God.**"

The Nuptial Blessings now include an explicit calling forth the blessing of the Holy Spirit. The priest/deacon recites, "Send down on them the grace of the Holy Spirit and pour your love into their hearts, that they may remain faithful in the Marriage covenant."



The Order of Celebrating Matrimony also includes special blessings for engaged couples and couples celebrating anniversaries. A priest might use these blessings for couples celebrating an anniversary at the end of a parish Mass where the couple is present.

THE SYMBOLS: You will no longer see the Unity Candle/Sand Ceremony/Unity Cross used within the Liturgy. If a couple really wants to have a Unity Candle, a great time to do it would be at the reception.



The **Blessing and Giving of Rings** is still very important in the revised rite, because rings are meant to be worn perpetually. Some new ceremonies that have never been a part of Catholic weddings in English may now be included, optionally, in the rite. These include a **Blessing and Giving of the Arras** (coins) and a **Blessing and Placing of a Lazo** (a veil or cord) over the couple during the nuptial blessing.

Both of these are traditional marriage practices in many Hispanic cultures. The 13 coins traditionally represent Jesus and the 12 apostles but in modern times represent the couple's commitment to mutually support each other and to serve the community. Placing the *lazo* over a couple is a symbol that they are now bound together sacramentally.

Other frequently asked questions about Marriage in the Catholic Church.

Does the revised rite change the validity of marriages prior to this? No, because the criteria for a valid Catholic marriage still remain as follows: 1. Spouses are free to marry. 2. They freely exchange consent. 3. In consenting to marry, they have the intention to marry for life, to be faithful to one another and be open to children; their consent is given in the presence of two witnesses and before a properly authorized Church minister.

If a Catholic wants to marry a non-Catholic, how can they assure that the marriage is recognized by the Church? In addition to meeting the criteria for a valid Catholic marriage (see paragraph above) the Catholic must seek permission from the local bishop to marry a non-Catholic. If the person is a non-Catholic Christian, this permission is called a "permission to enter into a mixed marriage." If the person is a non-Christian, the permission is called a "dispensation from disparity of cult." The parish and priest helping to prepare the couple for marriage would assist with the permission process.

Why does a Catholic wedding have to take place in a church? For Catholics, marriage is not just a social or family event, but a church event. For this reason, the Church prefers that marriages between Catholics, or between Catholics and other Christians, be celebrated in the parish church of one of the spouses. The fact that the wedding takes place in a church signifies it is a sacred action. Only the local bishop can permit a marriage to be celebrated in another suitable place.