

**St. Joseph Parish – Westphalia**  
**Non-Parishioner Wedding Fee Policy**  
*Last revised January, 2023*

As a stewardship parish, St. Joseph does not charge its active parishioners a fee for the celebration of weddings at their parish church. Additionally, in view of the parish's mission of charity and mercy in providing for the sacraments, there are circumstances that warrant waiving a fee even for those who are not currently active parishioners. However, the parish also has a duty to maintain its facilities and ensure that the labor and resources contributed by parishioners primarily serves those for whom the parish is responsible for providing pastoral care.

If at least one of the following conditions is met at the time of the wedding, an engaged couple is not to be charged a fee to use St. Joseph church for a wedding:

- The bride or groom lives within the canonical boundaries of St. Joseph Parish.
- The bride or groom is a Catholic who is registered in St. Joseph Parish and regularly participates in Sunday Mass at St. Joseph.
- A parent of the bride or groom is an active parishioner of St. Joseph Parish.
- The bride or groom was an active parishioner of St. Joseph Parish within the last five years, has moved away (e.g., for college), and is an active parishioner of his/her current parish.
- The bride or groom meets one of the above criteria with respect to St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Folk.

If none of these conditions is met, the couple must pay a fee of \$500 for the use of St. Joseph church. The use of St. Joseph church by non-parishioners is a favor and does not have to be granted by the parish.

In disputed or unclear cases, the pastor of St. Joseph Parish makes the final judgment.