



St. Basil Catholic Church

513 Monroe Boulevard
South Haven, Michigan 49090-1111
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WEDDING POLICY FOR SAINT BASIL CATHOLIC CHURCH SOUTH HAVEN, MICHIGAN

Because of the beautiful location of our church that overlooks the shores of Lake Michigan, we receive many requests from couples to be married at Saint Basil Parish. Many of these inquiries come from couples who are from out of town and are not year-round members of the parish. The most common reasons given are the beautiful view and because the location would be a mid-point to bring families together.

While we understand and appreciate the many requests, we must emphasize that we are not a wedding chapel. We are a parish community that celebrates faith and our primary obligation is to attend to the needs of our own parishioners. To avoid disappointment and misunderstanding on the part of couples who seek to be married here, Saint Basil Parish has the following policy:

- 1) At least one of the persons seeking to be married at Saint Basil must be:
 - a) a practicing and active Catholic in good standing; and
 - b) is, or has been, a registered and active member of Saint Basil Parish
 - c) is, or has been a year-round resident of the South Haven area; or
 - d) his or her family is or has been a registered and active member of Saint Basil Parish.
- 2) We understand that there are many who spend vacations in the South Haven area and we are always happy to welcome them and provide for them a place to worship. While we would like to accommodate all the wedding requests we receive, we must give priority to our own parishioners.
- 3) The celebration of the Sacrament of Matrimony is always a sacred event and in our Diocese all weddings must be celebrated in a church. Our worship space is never "**rented**" and we **never** celebrate the sacrament on the bluff or on the beach.
- 4) As you prepare for your wedding be assured of our prayers and best wishes. If you fall into the guidelines of our policy we look forward to working with you in preparing for this special day.