



Guidelines For Marriage

*Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary |
St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church*

Sacrament of
Holy Matrimony



Revised January 2018



Wedding Policies for Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary St. Francis Cabrini Catholic Church

To the Bride & Groom:

You are about to enter into a union which is most sacred and most serious, a union which was established by God Himself. By it, He gave to man and woman a share in the greatest work of creation, the work of the continuation of the human race. And in this way he sanctified human love and enabled man and woman to help each other live as children of God, by sharing a common life under His fatherly care.

The Roman Catholic Community of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary –St. Frances Cabrini extend our congratulations to you on your decision to marry not only out of friendship, but out of the belief that what you plan is sacred and Christian.



This guide is not exhaustive. Other questions may be presented to the pastor, and they will be resolved using a common sense approach.

Revised: January 2018

Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary

St. Frances Cabrini Parish

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Music & Decorations:

The policy of our parishes allows the full range of liturgical music to be used but **only** liturgical music may be used.

Flowers are furnished by the wedding party and may not be placed on the altar. If pew bows are used they may **NOT** be attached with tape, only ribbon. Rice, confetti, flower petals, bird seed and balloons are not allowed.

Wedding decorations should reflect the solemnity of the service and take into account the liturgical season and sacraments that are currently in use in the Church.

All pew markers must be attached to the pew securely, but not with tape or other items that may damage the pew, walls, or floor.

Aisle runners and archways are not permitted.

No torches may be used at the end of the pews.

It is the responsibility of the florist and the wedding party to remove all floral and other decorations from the church after the wedding.

Unity Candle

The unity candle is not part of the Catholic marriage rite.

There will be no props allowed in the wedding procession, or during the wedding ceremony



Setting the Time and Date of the Wedding:

Couples are expected to contact a priest of the parish at least six months in advance of the date on which they hope to celebrate their wedding. At the time the couple meets with the priest, a pre-nuptial questionnaire is filled out by the priest on the personal status of the couple. At the time the wedding date is booked, the couple meets with a member of the Holy Rosary staff to receive the wedding guidelines.

The Nuptial Mass or Marriage Ceremony without the Mass are celebrated at times which do not interfere with the normal parish schedule. Likewise, the couples are to choose decorations that are simple and considerate of the special character of the particular liturgical season of the Church in which their wedding date falls.

Realize that if the parish Liturgical Committee has decorated the parish church for these seasons, these decorations will not be removed.

*Weddings will not be scheduled from December 17th through December 26th of any given year.

*Weddings will not be scheduled on the following holy days of obligation or feast days: Christmas, New Year's Eve, New Year's Day, Ash Wednesday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Saturday, Pentecost Saturday, the Assumption, the Ascension, All Saints, All Souls, Immaculate Conception, the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart.



Time of Weddings: Friday: 6:00 to 7:00 PM

Saturday: 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Saturday Evenings: 6:00 to 7:00 PM

If mass is celebrated on Saturday evening, weekend mass readings must be used. This evening mass is also fulfillment of the Sunday Mass obligation, because it is after the 4:00pm anticipated mass.

Rehearsal:

Rehearsal is usually held around 6:30 PM one or two evenings, or a week preceding the wedding. Arrangements must be made with the priest as to the time and date of the rehearsal.

Marriage Preparation Programs:

Before final arrangements are made, the couple must attend one of the following: Engaged Encounter Weekend or other Dioceses approved program such as Foundations (One-Day class) or Catholic Marriage Prep On-Line. The Engaged Encounters is the preferred program of the Pastor. Check the Engaged Encounter web site for more information.

Fees:

There is a \$200 fee for the use of the Church if either the bride or the groom is a parishioner of Holy Rosary Church Parish. The fee is \$300 if neither the bride or the groom are parishioners of Holy Rosary. This fee must be paid to the Church Office prior to the wedding. There is no fee owed to the Priest witnessing the marriage, it is however traditional to give a donation as a token of appreciation. All fees for music must be paid directly to the musicians.

No parishioner will be denied the sacrament of marriage or any other sacrament.



Lectors

The bride and groom may ask one or two persons to serve as lectors for their wedding. These persons are to be practicing Catholics (One who regularly attends Sunday Mass and is able to receive the sacraments.) Lectors are encouraged to practice their readings in the church during the rehearsal for the sake of acoustics, mic positioning etc.

Gift Bearers

The bride and groom may ask two or three people to serve as gift bearers for their wedding. These persons should be practicing Catholics (One who regularly attends Sunday Mass Sunday and is able to receive the sacraments.)

Bridal Attendants

1. The number of bridal attendants should conform to local customs, namely between four and six. However, only the best man and maid of honor will be permitted to enter the sanctuary.
2. The bridal attendants' attire should be modest and convey the respect that is due in church. Upper portion of the body must be covered properly with sleeves. Dresses should be no shorter than 1 inch above the knee.

Conduct & Behavior:

For both the wedding rehearsal and the wedding, the conduct of the wedding party and guests should reflect the sacredness of the Church. There should be no shouting, loud noise, improper conduct, no gum chewing or smoking inside the Church. It is absolutely forbidden to bring alcoholic beverages inside the Church. Drunkenness will not be tolerated. **If any member of the wedding party comes to the Church intoxicated, the wedding may be postponed or cancelled!!**

**Sacrament of Penance:**

All Catholics are urged to receive the Sacrament of Penance (Confession) prior to their wedding day as a preparation for the Sacrament of Marriage. Upon request of the bride and groom confession could be offered at the time of the rehearsal for themselves and also the wedding party.

Deacons and Visiting Priests:

Deacons like priests are equally ordinary witnesses to the Sacrament of Marriage. A couple may choose a Deacon to assist at their wedding ceremony and prepare them for their marriage. However, Deacons cannot celebrate Mass. If a couple chooses a Deacon to witness their marriage, the marriage ceremony normally takes place outside the context of Mass. If a couple chooses a Deacon to witness the marriage and would like the sacrament to be celebrated with Mass, a priest would also have to be present for the celebration.

If the Priest celebrating the wedding is not a Priest of our Parish, he must receive permission from our Pastor as soon as possible. He must secure and fill out all the necessary papers which are to be in the parish office at least two weeks prior to the date of the wedding. Only then will our Pastor send a letter of delegation to the Pastor officiating the marriage. He must abide by parish policies found in this booklet and he must provide proper pre-marriage instruction for the couple.

Planning the Wedding Liturgy:

In preparing the ceremony, you will need to choose the scripture readings which will be used at your wedding from among those included with this booklet. The couple may choose other readings with the consultation and approval of the Priest witnessing the marriage.

**Wedding Liturgy Worksheet:**

Complete the wedding liturgy worksheet included with this booklet and return it to the parish office at least one week before the wedding rehearsal.

Documents Required:

A current (Not The Original) Baptismal Certificate with notation of other sacraments must be obtained from the church of baptism with the church seal if one of the party was not baptized at Holy Rosary. This should be brought to the Church office at least 2 to 3 months before the wedding.

Marriage License:

The Marriage license must be brought to the parish secretary after it is obtained from the local Clerk of Court. The license must be in the parish office at least one week before the wedding. The license must be signed by at least 2 witnesses who must be at least 18 years of age and are usually the Best Man and Maid of Honor. After the wedding the signed license will be returned to the Clerk of Court by the parish office.

Different Religious Backgrounds:

In an interfaith marriage between a Catholic and a Christian of another Church, or a non-Christian, the Catholic party promises to live the Faith and to encourage baptism and education of the children according to the Roman Catholic Tradition.