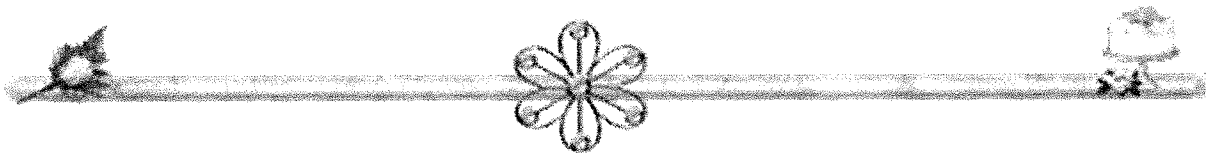


THE PARTNER PARISHES OF
CHRIST, PRINCE OF PEACE
& ST. LAWRENCE



MARRIAGE
GUIDELINES &
PROCEDURES



CHRIST, PRINCE OF PEACE & ST. LAWRENCE

718 Fourth Avenue,
Ford City, PA 16226
724-763-9141

GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES FOR MARRIAGE

(Effective January 1, 2017)

A Christian wedding is an act of worship in which the bride and groom come together to celebrate a sacrament, to offer thanks and praise together with their family and friends, and to ask God's blessing on their life together as husband and wife.

This booklet will provide you with the information and tools that you will need to experience a holy and blessed ceremony and life dedicated to God through the vocation of Marriage.

PREPARATION

1. Before any wedding ceremony date is scheduled, a meeting must be scheduled with the pastor. Marriages must be scheduled no later than 9 months in advance. The wedding will ordinarily take place in the church of the bride, or in the parish of the Catholic party.
2. Approval will be withheld for marriages in the church for those prior to their 18th birthday until an evaluation by Catholic Charities is made. The parish priest, in the final analysis, knowing best all the details, will make the final decision.
3. Six months prior to the approved scheduled wedding date, the couple will make an appointment with the parish priest. At the first meeting, the priest will complete the necessary paperwork, administer the marriage inventory called FOCCUS (Facilitating Open Couple Communication, Understanding, and Study).
4. A second meeting will be scheduled to review and discuss the results of the FOCCUS answers.
5. You must do one of the following:
 - A. Participate in a Marriage Preparation session
 - B. Participate in an Engaged Encounter weekend
6. The final meeting will be with the parish priest to discuss the wedding rehearsal and the actual wedding ceremony.
7. This preparation is important by church standards and the couple is expected to follow the procedures. Some of the reasons a priest may delay the marriage are:
 - A) A previous valid marriage by either of the couple
 - B) A non-practicing Catholic with no intention of returning to the faith
 - C) A lack of appreciation for the sacramental aspects of marriage as assessed by the priest in personal in interviews, premarital counseling and evaluation and by use of the FOCCUS instrument
 - D) Refusal to participate in the Marriage preparation offered by the parish or pre-marital counseling
 - E) A lack of time for sufficient pre-marriage assessment, counseling, and preparation

MARRIAGE LICENSE

The marriage license must be obtained from a county courthouse in the state of Pennsylvania. This should be completed 10 to 30 days prior to the wedding date. Once the couple obtains the license, they are to bring it to the parish office to be kept on file until the wedding.

STIPENDS

Your wedding at Christ, Prince of Peace Parish or St. Lawrence requires time and effort to plan, prepare, rehearse, and celebrate with the support of your pastor, music minister, organist, cantor, wedding coordinator, and altar servers. You can expect the total amount of these services to be approximately \$700. If you plan to use additional professional musicians, their fees are not included in this stipend.

This is the itemized list of stipends:

- A) \$250.00 Priest
- B) \$ 20.00 Per Server (2)
- C) \$350.00 Organist
- D) \$100.00 Cantor
- E) \$ 500.00 Non Parishioner Fee

The Diocesan regulations stipulates that a stipend be given to the presiding priest. The stipend for the organist is to designate the he or she is employed by the wedding party, as is with the case of the cantor. Some small stipend is normally given to the servers provided by the church.

REHEARSAL

Rehearsal generally occurs the evening before the wedding. Please discuss the time with the priest.

The rehearsal should be attended by not only the wedding party but everyone who will be involved in the wedding. This includes: parents of the bride and groom, all lectors, and those who may be bringing the gifts forward to the altar at presentation. In addition, if a program will be provided to your guests, please bring a copy of your program to the rehearsal.

TIME OF WEDDING

Weddings may be scheduled to start no later than 2:30 PM. You must consider time for photos and departure from the church no later than 4:30 PM. This is due to the Vigil Mass that begins at 5:00 PM.

WEDDING MUSIC

1. It is the responsibility of the wedding couple to contact the Directors of Music Liturgy for Christ, Prince of Peace Church & St. Lawrence, Michael Heilman at 724-859-8244, or Sandra Reich @ 724-525-0924 to plan the wedding liturgy.
2. It is the policy of Christ, Prince of Peace & St. Lawrence that Michael or Sandra play the music for all weddings. In the event that they are not available, they will arrange for an organist for the wedding.
3. Request for cantors, soloists, or any other kind of musical instrument must be made to the Directors of Music.
4. Only liturgical music appropriate for the wedding will be played or sung before or during the liturgy of marriage.
5. The placement of music within the marriage liturgy is set by liturgical norms. The Director of Liturgy knows the liturgical law along with the priest and will help to plan the liturgy of marriage.

UNITY CANDLE

The unity candle is not part of the Roman Catholic Rite of Marriage. It will not be used during the liturgy of marriage, however, a unity candle ceremony may be used at the reception.

AISLE RUNNER

The aisle runner is not used or provided at Christ, Prince of Peace & St. Lawrence. The use of a crash is a potential danger to the wedding party and their guests.

FLOWERS & RICE

Flowers that are purchased for the candle rings are not to be removed from the church. Also, flower petals and rice are not permitted during any part of the ceremony.

PRESENTATION TO THE BLESSED MOTHER

It is tradition or customary for flowers to be presented to the Blessed Mother. If you choose to do this presentation, flowers may be taken to the Blessed Mother after the communion prayer.

DECORATIONS

The church may be decorated for wedding ceremonies. It is expected that the flowers remain in the church after the ceremony. Aisle flowers or bows may be used but must be removed immediately after the ceremony.

*If candle ring flowers are provided for the ceremony, they are **NOT** to be removed and must remain in the church after the ceremony.

DRESSING AREA

* Christ, Prince of Peace does not provide an area in the church for the wedding party to use as a dressing room. However, the confessional is a private area that may be used by the bride prior to the ceremony.

* St. Lawrence does provide an area aside from the church for the wedding party to use as a dressing room.

THE PRESIDING CELEBRANT

The pastor of Christ, Prince of Peace & St. Lawrence normally conducts the wedding ceremony at the parish. If the bride or groom has a relative who is a priest, he is welcome to preside.

In the case of a mixed religion marriage when there is not a complete Mass, a non-Catholic minister is welcome to participate in the service. The parts of the liturgy in which they can share are governed by the Catholic Church Law.

PROGRAMS

If a program will be used during the ceremony, it is the responsibility of the bride and groom to provide one. The program should include all music selections which will be sung by the congregation. It is important that any reprinted music has copyright permission. It is the responsibility of the bride and groom to designate someone to remove all the remaining programs from the pews after the service.

(The program must be reviewed by the pastor prior to printing)

PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEOGRAPHY

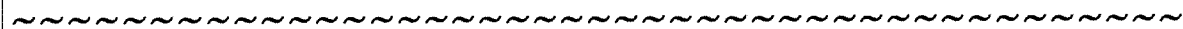
Following the ceremony, the photographer will be allotted 30 minutes for pictures inside the church.

The use of video equipment is permitted during the ceremony.

Please have your photographer and/or videographer inquire with the priest as to when he/she can or cannot photograph/videograph during the ceremony.

Excessive movement is not permitted by either nor are they permitted in the sanctuary.

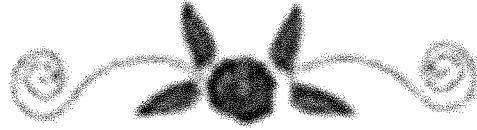
It is our desire that your marriage preparation and wedding ceremony goes as smoothly as possible. Good communication is critical in assuring your positive experience through this entire process. Therefore, at any time, if you have any questions, concerns, or need clarification, do not hesitate to contact Christ, Prince of Peace Parish—St. Lawrence Parish Office-724-763-9141.



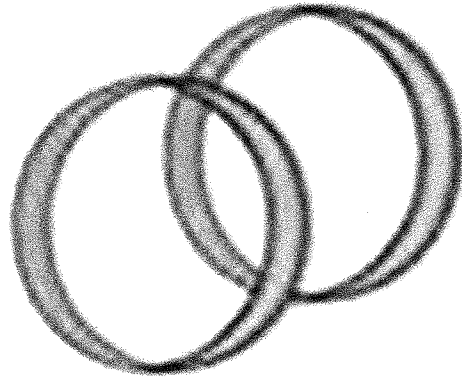
**ALCOHOL, DRUGS, AND FIREARMS
ARE NOT PERMITTED
ON CHURCH PROPERTY.**

**SHOULD ANYONE BE SEEN UNDER
THESE INFLUENCES OR BE CAUGHT WITH
POSSESSION OF A FIREARM,
WILL BE ASKED TO LEAVE AND THE
CEREMONY WILL BE CANCELLED.**

PLEASE ADVISE YOUR WEDDING PARTY OF THESE RULES.



...On This Day



...Two Become One

