

Catholic Wedding Preparation

PREPARATION AT NEWMAN FOR A WEDDING AT NEWMAN

Who officiates at the wedding?

A Catholic wedding is witnessed by a Catholic priest or deacon in good standing. You should consult with him prior to selecting your date to determine his availability for the date(s) and time(s) you prefer. Friar Bill, Friar Tim, and Deacon Kevin Sullivan are all available to officiate. **If someone else**, he needs Friar Tim's (routine, but written) permission. If not a priest or deacon of the Diocese of Raleigh, he will need to submit a Letter of Suitability from his diocese indicating that he is in good standing.

Scheduling the Wedding and Rehearsal

Preparation for the celebration of Matrimony requires at least six (6) months.

Preparation

- After your wedding date has been determined, you will be registered for an on-line inventory entitled *Fully Engaged*. Take the inventory separately and as soon as possible. Your priest or deacon will then go over the inventory with you in 2-3 meetings to review the nature of the sacrament of Marriage and discuss issues of married life.
- As soon as possible, because space is limited, register <https://dioceseofraleigh.org/marriage-and-family-life/register-marriage-prep> to attend one full-day workshop (Pre-Cana Class). Participation in this workshop (or another equivalency) is required for the celebration of Catholic marriage.
- In a final meeting, the necessary paperwork is collected and the ceremony is planned; a planning guide is available.

What if we don't both live here?

If you both live in the same location outside of the Chapel Hill area, you may do the above preparation with your local Catholic priest or deacon, who will then forward all the necessary documentation to us at Newman.

If you both live in different cities, arrangements can be planned when you are both together in Chapel Hill. Much of the preparation can also be done via Zoom, but at least one of the meetings legally must take place in person.

Marriage between a Catholic and a person of another faith

If one of the parties is a member of another faith tradition or of no faith tradition, permissions are required from the Diocese of Raleigh. These are for the most part routine, but it does require some conversation regarding how the Catholic party plans to live out the faith and share it with your children.

If the party who is of another faith desires to have a member of their clergy present for the ceremony, they are welcome and can work with the Catholic officiant to determine what role (if any) they will play in the ceremony, keeping in mind the nature of Catholic ritual.

Required documentation

- A current (within six months) copy of each party's Baptismal certificate, available from the parish of Baptism for Catholics, and from the records of many other Christian churches;
- An affidavit signed by two witnesses (generally the parents) of each party, swearing that they either have or have not been baptized, and have or have not been previously married;
- A certificate of completion of the diocesan Pre-Cana workshop;
- A Marriage License (within 60 days of the wedding) issued from **Orange County** (regardless of where the couple lives now or will live in the future). Information available at <http://www.orangecountync.gov/763/Marriage-Licenses>.

Planning the Ceremony

The Sacrament of Marriage may be celebrated either during Mass or in a simple ceremony. This decision is made between the couple and the priest or deacon who is officiating. If one of the spouses is of another Christian tradition, it is recommended that the Marriage be celebrated in a simple ceremony; if one of the spouses is not a baptized Christian, the wedding is always a ceremony outside of Mass.

The ceremony will require the attention of both of the spouses as you prepare for your wedding. A reminder that no wedding ceremony is perfect, and more importantly, this sacrament is a religious service that should reflect a decorum that is different from other types of celebrations.

Music is an important dimension of a liturgical moment such as a wedding. Please contact our music director Jesse Kapsha jkapsha@uncnewman.org as soon as your date is confirmed, and later to plan the musical portion of the ceremony. He will also place you in contact with a vocalist, especially if the wedding will take place within the context of the Mass.

Other specifics of the ceremony will be reviewed with the officiant.

Fees

- \$500 for the preparation and the use of the Church building, check payable to UNC Newman prior to the ceremony; there is never a fee for a sacrament in the Catholic Church;
- \$150 for the musician, check payable to Jesse Kapsha prior to the ceremony;
- \$150 for the vocalist, check payable to her prior to the ceremony;
- If you wish to make an offering to the priest/deacon who officiates, thank you for your thoughtfulness.