

# Marriage Preparation Guidelines

Marriage preparation is mandatory for every couple wanting to be married in the Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of Newark and at Holy Redeemer Parish. The seriousness of entering a Christian marriage requires the utmost diligence and willingness to be prepared in the best possible way.

**Marriages have to be scheduled between 9 months to 1 year in advance**

## DOCUMENTS YOU WILL NEED

*(These forms are required from all couples being married here)*

### **1. PERSONAL & WITNESS TESTIMONY FORM**

The engaged couple provides information regarding identity, status in the church, and freedom to marry.

This form must be filled out **in the presence of a Catholic priest or deacon or official auditor of the church.**

This usually takes place at the first Interview

### **2. BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATES**

Catholics and any baptized Christians must provide recently issued copies of their baptismal certificates

(**by "recent" is meant dated within the last six (6) months**). This is a standard procedure in the Church.

Baptismal certificates can be obtained by either calling or writing the church where the individual was baptized.

A copy has to be brought at the 2<sup>nd</sup> interview with the priest performing the Ceremony

### **3. DISPENSATION & PERMISSIONS**

If one of the engaged couple is not Catholic or a baptized Christian, **an Application for Matrimonial Dispensation & Permissions is required** (the priest preparing you for marriage will see that these permissions or dispensations are received).

### **4. MARRIAGE LICENSE**

The couple must present a valid New Jersey Marriage License to the Church *at the rehearsal*. The license may be obtained from any Town Hall in New Jersey and as **one month validity**.

### **Ecumenical Concerns**

**A.** Official witnesses of the marriage may be non-Catholic.

**B.** With the **appropriate permissions**, a non-Catholic minister may be invited to participate in the Catholic marriage service.

## **OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

### **1. Time of the Celebration**

Wedding Masses are celebrated only on Saturdays. *Wedding Ceremonies* can be celebrated on Sundays.

Weddings may be scheduled from 11:00 am till 3:30pm. No changes in these times are allowed. *Delay will cause it to be downsized*. \$100.00 late fee will be added for any delay of more than 10 minutes

### **2. Rehearsal**

To familiarize the wedding party with the procession, the sanctuary, ushering and other elements of the celebration, you will need to schedule a rehearsal. The rehearsal usually lasts 30 minutes and everyone that has a part in the wedding should be in attendance. The rehearsals are normally scheduled on the Friday evening before the day of the wedding at 6:45pm

### 3. Church Decorations

Some decorations are permitted. *Setting them up and cleaning them up is your responsibility.* No tackles or tape are permitted on the pews or on the floor.

**Seasonal parish decorations may not be taken down or moved for any reason.**

### 4. Flowers

Have your florists contact the Parish as to the placement of flowers. No flowers are to be placed on the altar table but may be around the altar.

**No flower petals (real or artificial) are to be strewn down the aisle at any time by anyone.**

### 5. Photography/Videographer

The use of photography in a wedding ceremony has to be handled sensitively. Often it causes friction and hard feelings because individuals hold opposing views of what a marriage liturgy is meant to be.

The Christian understanding is that the wedding is an act of worship, which has its own unique relation to time. A photograph album, a video tape, a sound track, all can be precious reminders of the sacredness of the moment in which a couple pledged their lives to each other, and can even sustain their love through difficult periods of marriage in later years.

These, however, are not to interrupt the flow of the liturgy. Videographers must remain stationary and may at no time be in the center aisle. They may not use flood or spotlights. Professional photographers pride themselves on their ability to be unobtrusive. More troubling are amateurs who appear inappropriately and destroy the impact of the most solemn moments. **We insist on courtroom decorum for the photographers.**

**The sanctuary is not to become a studio for photograph sessions.** If photos are taken before the liturgy nothing is to be moved in the Church for the purpose of photographs. If pictures are taken after the ceremony, allow enough time so that the picture taking will not interfere with other scheduled activities. Should your ceremony run long, you will have to take your after-wedding pictures outside. A maximum time of 20 minutes is allowed after the ceremony to take pictures in the Church.

### 6. Dressing Code

A dressing code will be strictly enforced. Shoulder straps will not be allowed. If the dress of the Maids of honor will have straps **the shoulders will have to be covered by a shawl. Gowns have to be at least at the knee. No dress cuts allowed**

### 7. Parking

We suggest you let your guests know that we have a free parking lot behind the parish Center.

### 8. Throwing Rice

Rice, birdseed or confetti **are not allowed** to be thrown after weddings; they are potential hazards to persons and animals. We appreciate your cooperation in this. Nothing may be scattered or thrown during the wedding ceremony due to stains and lack of time for clean up.

### 9. Clean up

The engaged couple is responsible for clean-up including: *collecting leftover programs, bows, flower boxes and any other debris after the ceremony.* Well ahead of time, the engaged couple should designate trustworthy persons to be responsible for clean up. There will be an additional fee of \$25.00 should the church not be cleaned up after the ceremony.

### 10. ALCOHOL

**No alcohol is allowed in or around the church building. Use of alcohol or drugs by the persons to be married impairs the validity of a marriage. Any others attending under the influence of alcohol will be asked to leave the premises regardless of their relationship to the bride and groom. If there is drinking in or about the Church or the bride or groom appear to be under influence of drugs or alcohol the wedding will be cancelled.**

## 11. Fees

*For registered and regularly contributing parishioners* of at least 1 year the church donation is \$ 300.00.

*For non-registered parishioners* the donation is \$500.00.

At the time a date is assigned to you, a \$150.00 NON REFUNDABLE deposit is required. *The entire fee must be been paid in full at least one month before the wedding.*

*The \$100.00 late fee+\$25.00 cleaning have to be paid and will be returned after the wedding if not to be charged.*

**The Organist fee** is \$250.00 and is due even if you bring your own musician.

### LITURGICAL GUIDELINES

Planning the liturgical celebration is an essential part of the preparation for the wedding day. This planning must consider not only the preferences of the engaged couple but also the values and needs of the Church: the community which will gather to celebrate, the parish in which the celebration will occur, the priest or presiding Deacon and the various liturgical ministers involved in the celebration (readers, musicians, ushers, altar servers, Eucharistic ministers). These liturgical guidelines are presented to supplement the general norms for wedding Celebrations found in the Catholic Church's official Rite of Marriage. They are meant to assist the engaged couple and the presiding minister in planning the wedding ceremony.

**A.** Ideally, a liturgy has a central message which focuses attention for that liturgy so that those participating will share in a definite, discernible experience of faith. Obviously, it will not be an exclusive focus, but it will be a dominant, recurring message which will clearly stand out and makes an impression. Rather than simply have a celebration about love, couples should identify the specific characteristic of their love; Christ Presence in their married life, commitment, loving for a lifetime, love as service, etc. This message should be expressed through the music, visual decorations, scripture readings, and the homily. It should also guide the selection of the prayers and blessings, the responses, and other specific elements.

**B.** The marriage ritual offers options within the ceremony. The presiding priest or deacon will help you to make these choices.

**C.** The time for a wedding **must** respect the other regularly scheduled events in the church. Scheduling should allow adequate time for unhurried celebration, social gathering, the taking of photographs and cleaning up.

**D.** Catholic marriage is an act of worship. The parish church reflects both the sacredness of the event and a realization that it is an act of the Christian community. Only the bishop can give permission to hold a wedding celebration outside the parish church; such permission is seldom granted in this diocese.

**E.** Wedding programs for the assembly are recommended. They should be carefully designed to include the order of service and responses of the liturgy in their proper dimensions.

**F. Seasonal church decorations may not be taken down or moved for any reason.**

### MUSIC FOR WORSHIP

Particular decisions about choice and placement of wedding music within the liturgy should be rooted in the three judgments proposed in *Music in Catholic Worship*:

1. The liturgical judgment: Does the music's text, form, placement and style fit the nature of the liturgy?
2. The musical judgment: Is the music technically, aesthetically and expressively good?
3. The pastoral judgment: Will the music help this assembly to pray?

In any liturgy, the assembly is meant to take part as active participants rather than passive spectators. The music in a liturgy should enable the assembly to play its rightful role. Music in liturgy is not meant to be a performance but a means of involvement or at least a background, which enhances prayer. There is to be no taped music played during the ceremony. **For no reason secular music may be played during a service.**

### PHOTOGRAPHERS, VIDEOGRAPHERS, FLOWERS.

**Have to have an appointment with the pastor at least 3 weeks prior the celebration of the wedding**

## *BASIC OUTLINE OF THE RITE OF MARRIAGE*

Prelude: (Music)

### *INTRODUCTORY RITES*

Processional: (Music)

Greeting:

Opening Prayer:

### *LITURGY OF THE WORD*

First Reading:

Psalm Response: (Usually Sung)

Second Reading: (Optional)

Gospel:

Homily:

Prayers of the Faithful

### *RITE OF MARRIAGE*

Exchange of Consent:

Blessing and Exchange of Rings:

Our Father:

Sign of Peace:

### *LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST (Mass)*

Communion (Music)

### *CONCLUDING RITE*

Closing Prayer:

Nuptial Blessing:

Final Blessing:

Recessional: (Music)

To contact the parish Music Minister to coordinate the music please call

*Angie Rotella Suarez at 551-208-4899*



## Suggested Readings for the services or Mass

### First Reading - Old Testament Suggested Readings

- \* Genesis 2:18-24
- \* Songs of Songs 2:8-10, 13b-14, 16; 8:6-7
- \* Sirach 26:1-4; 13-16
- \* Genesis 1:26-28,31a *(The Creation of Man and Woman)*
- \* Genesis 24:48-51,58-67 *(The Meeting of Isaac and Rebecca)*
- \* Tobit 7:9c10,11c-17 *(The Marriage of Tobias and Sarah)*
- \* Tobit 8:4-9 *(Prayer of the New Spouses)*
- \* Jeremiah 31:31-32a,33-34a *(The New Covenant of the People of God)*

### Responsorial Psalms

- \* Psalm 34
- \* Psalm 103
- \* Psalm 128
- \* Psalm 33 *(The Lord is our help and shield; our hearts rejoice in Him)*
- \* Psalm 34 *(The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and rescues them)*
- \* Psalm 46 *(God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble)*
- \* Psalm 103 *(As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion)*
- \* Psalm 112 *(Happy the man who fears the Lord)*
- \* Psalm 121 *(My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth)*
- \* Psalm 127 *(Children are a gift of the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a reward)*
- \* Psalm 128 *(Happiness and prosperity will be yours)*
- \* Psalm 145 *(The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth)*

### Second Reading - Epistle Suggested Readings

- \* 1 Corinthians 13:1-13
- \* Colossians 3:12-17
- \* 1 John 4:7-12
- \* Romans 8:31b-35,37-39 *(The Love of Christ)*
- \* Romans 12:1-2,9-18 *(The Life of a Christian)*
- \* 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a,17-20 *(Your Members of Temples of the Holy Spirit)*
- \* 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 *(Love is patient and kind)*
- \* Ephesians 3:14-19 *(The Father from whom every family is named)*
- \* Ephesians 5:1-2,21-33 *(The Mystery of Christian Marriage)*
- \* Colossians 3:12-17 *(Live in Love and Thanksgiving)*
- \* 1 Peter 3:1-9 *(Peace and Harmony in the Family)*
- \* 1 John 3:18-24 *(Love, Real and Active)*
- \* 1 John 4:7-12 *(God is Love)*
- \* Revelation 19:1,5-9a *(Marriage of the Lamb)*

**The Gospel Reading will be chosen by the priest celebrating the wedding**

**If the couple want a member of the family to do the reading He/She has to be an instituted reader in his/her own parish**