

The Celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage



Cathedral Parish of Saint Patrick
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“Married Christians, in virtue of the sacrament of Matrimony, signify and share in the mystery of that unity and fruitful love which exists between Christ and his Church; they help each other to attain holiness in their married life and in the rearing and education of their children; and they have their own special gift among the people of God.” -Introduction to the Rite of Marriage, #1

INTRODUCTION

Congratulations on your desire to enter into the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony. May the Lord bless your lives together with much happiness and joy. The Cathedral Parish community welcomes this opportunity to assist you as you prepare to enter into this sacrament of your vocation - your marriage in the Lord. In our Catholic spiritual tradition, we recognize that the marriage celebration takes place not only in a *church*, but also in *The Church* - the community of Christian faith which includes not only you, your family and your friends, but also the whole Church - your brothers and sisters in Christ. We offer the following information and guidelines to help your preparations for this most important commitment of life and faith.

SCHEDULING YOUR WEDDING

Diocesan regulations require at least a nine month preparation period before the wedding liturgy may take place. To schedule a wedding, please contact the Cathedral Parish Office. Registered parishioners of Saint Patrick Cathedral will begin their preparation by meeting with the Pastor. For non-parishioners, preparation will take place through their home parish. A wedding date cannot be secured on the Cathedral calendar until all the documentations are received in the Parish Office.

Weddings are normally scheduled on Saturdays at 11:00 a.m. or 2:00 p.m. Weddings may be scheduled on weekday afternoons and evenings upon request. Weddings are not celebrated on Sundays or during the penitential season of Lent. Weddings are not celebrated on Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, or Thanksgiving weekends.

Wedding rehearsals are normally set for 5:30 p.m. the evening before the wedding. Rehearsals will be conducted either by the Cathedral Wedding Coordinator or your priest/deacon.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

All couples must participate in a diocesan approved Marriage Preparation Program. Please contact your Pastor of your home parish for more information.

DOCUMENTATION

For non-parishioners, the following documents must be presented prior for any wedding being scheduled at the Cathedral. Please send all documents to the Parish Office.

- Application for use of Cathedral
- Letter from Diocesan Priest/Deacon *Clergy outside the Diocese of Harrisburg must also send letter of eligibility from their presiding Bishop's office
- Pastor's Letter of Permission to Marry and Testimony of Freedom to Marry
- Letter of who is Responsible for Pre-Nuptial File
- \$200 deposit

For Cathedral parishioners, the following documents must be presented prior for any wedding being scheduled at the Cathedral. Once the documents are received, your date will be secured on the Cathedral Calendar, and an appointment will be scheduled with Parish clergy.

- Application for use of Cathedral
- \$200 deposit

At the wedding rehearsal:

- A Marriage License must be obtained from the Court House prior to the wedding ceremony. The license is valid for sixty days and must be obtained within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The Marriage License must be presented to the priest/deacon the night of the rehearsal, without exception. Failure to do so may result in the cancellation of your wedding.

FEES

The fee for weddings is **\$1,200 for Cathedral parishioners** and **\$1,700 for non-parishioners**; which include the cost for use of the Cathedral building and the stipends for the Celebrant, Organist, Cantor, and Cathedral Wedding Coordinator. The date and time of the wedding is confirmed when a deposit of \$200 has been received. The remaining amount of the total wedding fee is to be received no later than one month prior to the wedding. This fee does not include any additional musicians or instrumentalists.

RESPECT FOR THE CHURCH AND SACRAMENT

Because of the sacred space, the Church, and the sacred nature of the activity, the Sacrament of Matrimony, the following is stressed:

- The consumption of alcoholic beverages by the bride or groom is absolutely forbidden before the celebration of the sacrament of Holy Matrimony. Any indication of consumption will result in the immediate cancellation of the wedding.
- At the rehearsal and wedding Liturgy, there is absolutely no smoking, drinking of alcohol or gum chewing in any of the facilities or properties of the Cathedral. A spirit of quiet respect should be maintained at all times in the Church proper.
- No beverages are allowed in the Cathedral. Water will be provided for the bride and groom.
- The re-arrangement of sanctuary and chapel furnishings is not permitted.

FLOWERS

- The Cathedral Church preparation areas will be available at 9:30 a.m. for 11:00 a.m. weddings and at 12:30 p.m. for 2:00 p.m. weddings. Flowers delivered prior to these times and left unattended, are at your own risk.
- Flowers may be placed in pedestal urns in an appropriate area of the sanctuary. Liners for these urns may be picked up at the Cathedral Parish Office one week prior to the wedding Liturgy.
- Flowers may be placed at the base in front of the Altar of Sacrifice. Containers for these must be provided by the florist.
- Nothing may ever be placed on the Main Altar.
- Pews may be decorated with bows or flowers and must be applied with rubber bands. Pew decorations may not include ferns or any other shedding plant or flower. No tape is allowed on the pews. The

decorations on the pews may be removed and taken with you or discarded.

- No glass or breakable containers may be used since the Cathedral floor is marble, and occasions a hazard.
- Any flowers placed in the sanctuary remain in the Church as a gift from the bride and groom dedicated to the honor and glory of God.
- A memorial candle may be used in dedication to the memory of a departed loved one, however, all other candles, other than those already in the sanctuary, are not permitted.
- The use of the unity candle is prohibited per Diocesan regulations. Flowers rings around the candles are permitted.
- Aisle “runners” are not permitted because of safety concerns.
- Flower petals, rice, bird seed, confetti or the like, may not be distributed in or outside the church. Bubbles, small bells, castanets, etc., may be used as the bride and groom exit the church.
- Seasonal decorations, placed by the parish, may not be moved or altered in any way.
- The Cathedral Wedding Coordinator should be contacted to arrange the delivery of flowers on the wedding day.

PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEOGRAPHY

We welcome you and ask that you observe the following guidelines out of respect for the sacred nature of the Sacrament of Marriage and the sacred space in which this Sacrament takes place. Thank you for your attention to these policies.

BEFORE THE WEDDING LITURGY

Before the wedding begins, the Wedding Coordinator will need to speak with the photographer and videographer regarding the guidelines. Please secure enough time in your schedule to talk with her.

We want to maintain a spirit of quiet meditation at this time. Therefore, photos are not allowed in the Church before a ceremony.

Access to the choir loft is at the discretion of the Wedding Coordinator.

If the photographer and videographer do not adhere to the guidelines, they will be asked not be invited to return to the Cathedral for future weddings.

DURING THE WEDDING LITURGY

The sanctuary is off limits during the marriage ceremony. The sanctuary is considered the raised area in the front of the Church.

Care should be taken not to block the view of the guests in attendance.

All filming must take place in the nave (body) of the Church and off to the side or from the back of the Church.

No free-standing microphones other than the ones provided by the church are allowed in the sanctuary.

AFTER THE WEDDING LITURGY

Pictures may be taken in the sanctuary after the ceremony.

No furniture may be moved or used as a prop in any way.

The wedding party, photographer and videographer must be out of the Church by 1:00 p.m. or 4:00 p.m.

Videographers

An audio broadcast feed is available from the Cathedral sound system. There are two XLR outputs; one near the front of the Cathedral, and one in the choir loft. If your equipment supports an XLR audio input and you wish to use our audio feed, please contact the Director of Liturgical Music for more information at (717) 232-2169 ext. 224.

ARRIVAL ON WEDDING DAY

Men of the bridal party should arrive no later than **one** hour prior to the scheduled start time to serve as ushers for wedding guests. Women of the bridal party should arrive no later than **one-half** hour prior to the scheduled start time.

Please note that there is a dressing room for the Bride only, available in the Cathedral. It is recommended that all bridal attendants arrive dressed for the wedding.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Lectors

It is permitted for a lay person to proclaim the first reading and the second reading of the Sacred Scripture, and in the absence of an assisting deacon, to announce the petitions of the Universal Prayer. Couples may invite members of the family or other close friends to serve in this capacity; the nature of the word of God requires that such persons be persons of the Christian faith and effective public speakers. Any lector should be given copies of the readings well in advance, and be present for the rehearsal.

Official Witnesses

The official witnesses (Best Man and Maid or Matron of Honor) may be of any faith. Their names must be given to the officiating priest or deacon for inclusion in the marriage records.

LITURGICAL PLANNING

The normal order of worship for a Nuptial Mass is as follows:

•Introductory Rites

- Processional Music
- Entrance Chant
- Sign of the Cross and Greeting
- Gloria
- Opening Prayer

•Liturgy of the Word

- Old Testament Reading
- Responsorial Psalm
- New Testament Reading
- Gospel Acclamation
- Gospel Reading
- Homily

•Rite of Marriage:

- Introductory Address and Statement of Intentions
- Exchange of Consent (vows)
- Blessing and Exchange of Rings
- Universal Prayer

•Liturgy of the Eucharist:

- Presentation of the Gifts (Offertory)
- Eucharistic Prayer
- Nuptial Blessing
- Communion
- Prayer After Communion
- Dedication to the Blessed Mother (Optional)
- Final Blessing
- Recessional

The normal order of worship for a Wedding Ceremony is as follows:

•Introductory Rites

- Processional Music
- Entrance Chant
- Sign of the Cross and Greeting
- Opening Prayer

•Liturgy of the Word

- Old Testament Reading
- Responsorial Psalm
- New Testament Reading
- Gospel Acclamation
- Gospel Reading
- Homily

•Rite of Marriage:

- Introductory Address and Statement of Intentions
- Exchange of Consent (vows)
- Blessing and Exchange of Rings
- Universal Prayer
- Nuptial Blessing
- The Lord's Prayer
- Dedication to the Blessed Mother (optional)
- Final Blessing
- Recessional

SCRIPTURE READINGS

It is appropriate to assist the celebrant in choosing texts from Sacred Scripture for the Wedding Liturgy. Parishioners from the Cathedral Parish will be instructed by the clergy in the course of their preparation, for the selection of the readings. Readings are chosen: one from the Old Testament, a Responsorial Psalm, one from the New Testament, and one from the Gospels. Suggested Scripture passages are listed below:

Reading I from the Old Testament

Genesis 1:26-28, 31a

Genesis 2:18-24

Genesis 24:48-51, 58-67

Tobit 7:6-14

Tobit 8:4b-8

Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

Song of Songs 2:8-10, 14, 16a; 8:6-7a

Sirach 26:1-4, 13-16

Jeremiah 31:31-32a, 33-34a

Responsorial Psalm – *always sung by the Cantor*

Psalm 33 – The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord

Psalm 34 – I will bless the Lord at all times

Psalm 34 – Taste and see the goodness of the Lord

Psalm 103 – The Lord is kind and merciful

Psalm 128 – Blessed are those who fear the Lord

Psalm 145 – The Lord is compassionate toward all his works

Psalm 148 – Let all praise the name of the Lord

Reading II from the New Testament

Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39

Romans 12:1-2, 9-18

Romans 12:1-2, 9-13*

Romans 15:1b-3a, 5-7, 13

1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20

1 Corinthians 12:31-13:8a

Ephesians 5:2a, 21-33

Ephesians 5:2a, 25-32*

Philippians 4:4-9

Colossians 3:12-17

Hebrews 13:1-4a, 5-6b

1 Peter 3:1-9

1 John 3:18-24

1 John 4:7-12

Revelation 19:1, 5-9a

Gospel Reading

Matthew 5:1-12a

Matthew 5:13-16

Matthew 7:21, 24-29

Matthew 7:21, 24-25*

Matthew 19:3-6

Matthew 22:35-40

Mark 10:6-9

John 2:1-11

John 15:9-12

John 15:12-16

John 17:20-26

John 17:20-23*

MUSIC FOR THE WEDDING

Music plays an integral part of the Liturgy of the Church. Whether you prefer to simply have an organist and cantor present or to be more elaborate with an organist, brass, strings or even a choir, the Cathedral Music Office is at your disposal. The required services of the Cathedral Principal Organist and a Cathedral Cantor will ensure that your wedding music is prepared with the utmost attention to detail and the sacred nature of the Liturgy. Should a couple express an interest in an organist and/or Cantor other than the Cathedral musicians, it must be approved by the Cathedral Music Office and the couple is obligated to cover the cost of the requested musician separately.

All musical selections and musicians must be approved by the Director of Music Ministry and follow the Diocesan guidelines listed below.

Policies on Wedding Music in the Diocese of Harrisburg *Promulgated as Particular Law, January 12, 2009*

Music brings a sense of unity and a quality of joy and enthusiasm that cannot be gained in any other way. Hence, music is integral to the marriage celebration and must be chosen carefully.

All the music chosen for the wedding liturgy (both sung and instrumental) must be sacred in nature and purpose.

There is an abundance of beautiful and appropriate music (old and new) available to help you celebrate the presence of God and Christ in your lives, and reflect the special Christian significance of your wedding.

The musical selections made for the wedding liturgy should be liturgically, pastorally, and aesthetically appropriate.

The lyrics should accurately articulate the Catholic faith and express the Sacrament of Marriage's participation in the Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ.

The following music and related types of music are not permitted at weddings in the Diocese of Harrisburg:

- Songs from musicals, movies, or television shows whose associations are secular rather than sacred.
- The traditional wedding march (“Here comes the bride...”), because it is associated with an illegal and illicit wedding in Wagner’s opera *Lohengrin*.
- The traditional wedding recessional from Mendelssohn’s *A Mid-summer Night’s Dream*, because of its association with a farcical wedding.
- Any classical pieces composed for secular purposes rather than sacred.
- Any music that refers to the secular nature of love and bears no reference to the Christian concept of love and/or marriage.

Music which appeals to you personally, and which is of a non-religious nature may be incorporated into another part of the day (e.g., the wedding reception). To be very specific, *non-religious music does not have any place before, after, or within the Church’s wedding liturgy*, since it does not express the Church’s faith — the reason for which your wedding is taking place.

The Cathedral of Saint Patrick will not honor any requests that contradict diocesan policy, diocesan law, or the universal law of the Roman Catholic Church.

WEDDING PROGRAMS AND WORSHIP AIDS

The Cathedral will provide a printed program for your wedding at no additional cost. Please contact the Director of Liturgical Music for information about the options for the Worship Aid. The couple may provide their own commemorative booklet should they desire.



*May almighty God, with his Word of blessing,
unite your hearts in the never-ending bond of pure love.*

*May your children bring you happiness,
and may your generous love for them
be returned to you many times over.*

*May the peace of Christ live always in your hearts and in your home.
May you have true friends to stand by you, both in joy and in sorrow.*

*May you be ready and willing
to help and comfort all who come to you in need.
And may the blessings promised to the compassionate
be yours in abundance.*

May you find happiness and satisfaction in your work.

*May daily problems never cause undue anxiety,
nor the desire for earthly possessions dominate your lives.*

*But may your hearts' first desire be always
the good things waiting for you in the life of heaven.*

*May the Lord bless you with many happy years together,
so that you may enjoy the rewards of a good life.
And after you have served him loyally in his kingdom on earth,
may he welcome you to his eternal kingdom in heaven.*

Blessing from the Rite of Marriage