

GUIDELINES
FOR
The Sacrament of Marriage
St. Patrick's Catholic Church
FREMONT, NEBRASKA

PROLOGUE

We are grateful that you have given St. Patrick's Parish an opportunity to share in your wedding. Our goal in providing the personnel and the setting for your celebration is to support you in your new life together, to reaffirm the sacred nature of marriage and to deepen the joy and faith of all who celebrate with you.

We will be working to make your wedding a true spiritual celebration and strive to maintain integrity in the traditions that have enriched the marriages of countless generations of people before us. We will do our best to enhance the consciousness of God's presence, both in your minds and in the minds of those who share in the liturgy.

For further information on Catholic Weddings in the Archdiocese of Omaha, please visit the Archdiocesan web site at <http://www.archomaha.org>. Under the "Ministry" tab, select the "Family Life Office" page.

SCHEDULING

All weddings must be scheduled through the Parish Office (402-721-6611). Archdiocesan policy requires a minimum of 6 months for marriage preparation. It is recommended that you contact the parish as soon as you are engaged.

Before beginning the marriage preparation process, couples must meet with one of the parish priests. Ordinarily, it is one of the parish priests or deacons who will preside at your marriage liturgy. Exceptions to this norm would include a priest or deacon who is a relative or friend of the bride or groom. Any exceptions need to be discussed with one of the parish priests very early in the preparation process.

Archdiocesan policy states that the latest time that a wedding may begin on a Saturday is 2:00 p.m. Times for Friday evening weddings may be scheduled in consultation with the priest or deacon presiding at the wedding.

Please contact the Director of Music as soon as your wedding is scheduled so that she may reserve the date on her calendar and meet with you to plan the music for the liturgy. Please do not engage other musicians until you have met with the Director of Music.

FEEES

Fee for members of the parish: The parents of the bride or groom, or the bride and groom must be registered members of this parish. The fee for the use of the church for members is \$300. Please note that this is not a stipend for the priest or a "rental fee" for the church. This fee includes the payment for the wedding coordinator, and covers other incidentals such as electricity, heating/air conditioning, and cleaning the facilities. This does not include the musicians' fees, which are detailed below. Special arrangements can be made with

the priest or deacon when there are economic difficulties.

Fee for non-members of the parish: For those who do not qualify for the member rate, the fee for the use of the church, etc. will be \$600.00, which includes the payment for the wedding coordinator. This does not include the musicians' fees, which are detailed below. Special arrangements can be made with the priest when there are economic difficulties.

Director of Music/Organist: \$175.00 Includes consultation to select music, attendance at the wedding rehearsal, one hour rehearsal time with other musicians, and playing the organ for the liturgy.

Cantor/Soloist: \$75.00

All fees should be paid to the Parish Director of Finance at least one week prior to the wedding date.

LITURGY AND MUSIC GUIDELINES

Matrimony is one of the seven sacraments of the Roman Catholic Church. As such, the marriage ceremony must maintain the norms of good sacramental liturgy. As an important aspect of good liturgy, the music should be prayerfully considered, should be an expression of faith in Jesus Christ, and should celebrate Christian love as manifest in the sacrament of marriage. Secular music (popular love songs, songs from musicals, etc.) is not appropriate for such an occasion.

Please note the following guidelines when planning your wedding music:

- The marriage celebration involves not only the bride and groom, but family, friends and the entire church community. Musical choices should reflect this, and encourage the full participation of all who will be present at the wedding.
- The use of St. Patrick's organist and cantors is encouraged
- If music is to be worship it must be performed live. Pre-recorded music is not allowed during wedding liturgies at St. Patrick's.
- You are encouraged to use the enclosed sample programs as models for your own wedding liturgy guide to assist those in attendance to participate fully.

FACILITY ACCESS AND CARE

The time of the rehearsal will be scheduled when you meet with the priest or deacon presiding at your wedding. At times wake services may, out of necessity, be scheduled on the evening of your rehearsal. We appreciate your flexibility in accommodating a wake, should one be scheduled. The parish office will inform you of the rehearsal time should need to be adjusted.

Friday evening weddings take precedence over wakes and nothing will be scheduled which would conflict with a Friday evening wedding.

A wedding coordinator from the parish will be present at the rehearsal and the day of the wedding to assist you, answer any questions, and prepare the church for the wedding liturgy. Depending on the availability of the priest or deacon for the rehearsal, the wedding coordinator may also conduct the wedding rehearsal.

Please do not leave items, such as decorations, attire, programs, etc. at the church after the rehearsal. While the building is secured at night, we cannot guarantee the safety of your items. It is best to bring everything the day of the wedding.

In most cases, you have access to the church, narthex, family room and bride's room starting at 11:00 a.m. the

morning of your wedding day. Should a Saturday morning funeral be scheduled, the Wedding Coordinator will inform you as soon as possible. A funeral may affect your access to the facility the morning of the wedding.

Confessions for the Parish begin at 4:00 p.m. The facility must be cleared prior to that time of decorations, supplies and guests. Ushers for the wedding are asked to remove programs, Kleenex and other items from the church after the wedding so the environment is prepared for the next liturgy.

All food and drink are to be kept in the Bride's Room or Family Room. No food or drink is allowed in the Narthex or church.

No form of alcohol or illegal drugs will be tolerated before the wedding. If any of the wedding party smells of alcohol, they will not be allowed to participate in the wedding. If the bride or groom has been drinking before the wedding, the wedding will be postponed.

LITURGICAL ENVIRONMENT

St. Patrick's is decorated to provide an appropriate environment based on the Church's liturgical year. The liturgical season dictates the color of banners, fabric, and decoration of the church. The liturgies for the Sacrament of Marriage are held within the context of this structure. Therefore, decorations placed by St. Patrick's Environment Committee must not be removed or rearranged.

The area immediately around, under and on top of the altar may not to be used for decorations.

Flowers are permitted in the sanctuary. Please inform your florist of the above policy regarding the environment at St. Patrick's. Flower stands are available for use which match the candle stands.

The four pillar candles may be decorated and lit for the wedding. There are to be absolutely no pew candles. The parish also owns 2 wrought iron candelabras, which may also be used. These also may be decorated.

A Unity Candle stand is available for your use. Aisle runners are not allowed. No flowers or objects of any sort are to be thrown in the aisle.

Bows or ribbon or flowers may be attached to the pews. Please do not use tape or any type of adhesive. Clips which will not scratch the pews are permitted. No bunting may be hung from pew to pew which blocks access to the pew.

Nothing whatsoever is to be thrown when the couple leaves the church or at any other time, including rice, confetti, and birdseed. The use of bubbles is allowed.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEO

Please share this policy with your photographer and/or videographer. Please ask them to talk to the Wedding Coordinator on the day of the ceremony if there are questions.

Please remember to respect the fact that the church is a worship space. The Eucharist is reserved in the tabernacle and therefore the actions of those in the church proper should be appropriately reverent.

Pictures are to be finished at least 30 minutes prior to the liturgy. If photos are taken after the liturgy, they must be finished by 3:45 and all equipment immediately taken from the church.

Movement of cameras is to be kept to a minimum. Only one camera is allowed—not several camera

videographers—unless remote control cameras are used. After the videographer has videoed the entrance, the video camera is to be placed on a tripod and not moved again until the end of the service for the recessional. The Wedding Coordinator can inform the videographer where the camera can be placed and how the ceremony is performed so that they can get a good angle. No cameras are allowed in the musicians' area.

No items may be moved in order to take pictures. The altar and ambo are permanent. The use of flash photography during the ceremony is prohibited. No photographers or videographers are allowed in the sanctuary or center aisle area during the liturgy. Placement of the video camera can be very distracting to the service.

CONCLUSION

The Wedding celebration is an important moment in the lives of a husband and wife. The true celebration of Marriage unfolds with every new day. May your lives be blessed with God's abundant love, and may you always know, that the people of Saint Patrick's are here to support you with our prayers.

The *Nuptial Blessing* of the Celebration of Marriage summarizes the reality of your new vocation:

*In happiness may they praise you, O Lord,
in sorrow may they seek you out;
may they have the joy of your presence
to assist them in their toil,
and know that you are near
to comfort them in their need;
let them pray to you in the holy assembly
and bear witness to you in the world,
and after a happy old age,
together with the circle of friends that surrounds them,
may they come to the Kingdom of Heaven.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen!*

St. Patrick's Catholic Church

Contact Information

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