



A Guide
to
Marriage
at
Holy Cross
Church

Holy Cross Catholic Church

Dear Friends,

Congratulations! We welcome your inquiry about marrying in Holy Cross Church. It is a privilege to assist you as you prepare to celebrate the Sacrament of Matrimony in our Church.

The Catholic Church esteems marriage as very sacred—one of the seven sacraments of the real presence of Christ among us. Sacred Scripture compares marriage to the covenant relationship of God with us. Saint Paul says the union of husband and wife is a sign of the union of Christ and the Church.

In witnessing your marriage, our Church community wants to uphold and support you faithfully for the rest of your lives as you grow together in God who is Love. We undertake this ministry with you now as you begin preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage. In this document, we want to outline the procedure we need to follow. I look forward to serving you as we share our faith together.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Dwayne McNew

Pastor – Holy Cross Church

Introduction

We at Holy Cross want your wedding to be a beautiful, memorable, and faith-filled occasion. These guidelines are designed to assist you in preparing your wedding liturgy in our parish. Please read these carefully. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Who May Be Married at Holy Cross?

1. Any unmarried adult who is registered and active in the parish.
2. A Catholic adult from another parish who has a letter of permission from his or her parish pastor to marry here.

Setting the Date and Time of the Wedding

Normally, weddings will be celebrated on Saturday (between 1:30 and 6:30 p.m.). The rehearsal is the night before the wedding and is to be scheduled between 5:30 and 7:00 p.m. (and before 6:00 p.m. on a First Friday).

Appointment with the Pastor

The couple should make an appointment with the pastor *at least eight months* prior to the anticipated wedding date. Due to the number of weddings in our parish, it is advisable to contact the pastor as soon as possible to ensure the desired date and time of your wedding. If either party has been married previously, an annulment is required. This process may take a year to complete. No date may be scheduled until the annulment is obtained.

A date may be placed on the parish calendar after an interview with the pastor and payment of a deposit.

Prerequisites

1. Baptism

A certified *baptismal certificate* issued from your parish office is required for all Catholics. *The baptismal certificate(s) should be provided to the parish office **immediately**.* The procurement of the certificate by a non-Catholic party is encouraged but not necessary.

2. Confirmation

If you have not yet been confirmed, please arrange to receive this sacrament as soon as possible.

3. Pre-Cana or Engaged Encounter Weekends

Pre-Cana or Engaged Encounter weekends are available through the Family Life Office of the Diocese. Information will be provided in your initial interview with the pastor.

4. Mixed Marriage Permission

If this will be a marriage between a Catholic and a non-Catholic, please let us know at the time of the initial meeting with the pastor. He must complete a dispensation form for the wedding to take place.

5. Delegation

If the Catholic party is registered in another parish, he or she will have to contact the pastor at his or her current parish and request written permission from him to be married at Holy Cross. The pastor can mail the permission letter directly to the pastor at Holy Cross. *The letter of permission should be provided to the parish office **immediately**.*

6. "Beloved" Video Series

The web site Formed.org has a series of 12 videos called "Beloved." A couple is encouraged to watch 6 of the 12 videos and then write a paragraph about their individual responses to each video's message.

7. Marriage License

The civil license for the marriage is to be presented to the officiating clergy at the time of the rehearsal. Application for license must be made under oath by BOTH parties to the **Probate Court of the county in which either resides.**

Franklin County Court of Common Pleas, Marriage Licensing Dept.,

373 S. High Street, Columbus, OH 43215 – 23rd Floor

Monday through Friday, Hours 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Telephone: (614) 525-3108 (as of 30 March 2017)

Planning the Liturgy

A Church wedding is not only a personal event—it is a Sacrament of the Church. As such, the religious nature of the ceremony must be carefully preserved.

Your wedding is a part of the faith life of our parish. You, as ministers of the Sacrament, have chosen to express freely your love and commitment to each other. The Rite of Marriage, highlighted by the exchange of vows and the blessing and exchange of rings, best conveys the Church's desire to witness your vows, to strengthen your fidelity to them, and to support you prayerfully in your life together. As with all liturgical celebrations, the full and active participation of those present is desirable. Ordinarily, the Rite of Marriage takes place in one of two contexts: within Mass for two Catholics or outside Mass if either the bride or the groom is not Catholic.

Readings

The Rite of Marriage includes selected scriptural readings and prayers from which you may choose those that are most expressive of your understanding of marriage. You will find these selections in a special booklet that you will receive at Pre-Cana or from the pastor. *Please choose only the First and Second Reading.*

Music for the Liturgy

Only liturgically appropriate music may be used at weddings. All music, sacred or of a classical nature, is planned with our parish organist who will ordinarily play at the wedding.

Popular and secular music, such as Broadway film music and Top 40 songs are not appropriate liturgical music for use in the Church.

Please contact our parish organist as soon as possible to arrange the music for your wedding.

People Involved in the Liturgy

Parish Presiders and Visiting Clergy

Normally, the pastor presides at parish weddings. Visiting clergy are welcome to participate. Please contact the Secretary of State for information pertaining to the civil license necessary for an out-of-state priest or deacon to witness your marriage.

Secretary of State – Elections Division

180 East Broad Street, 16th Floor

Columbus, OH 43215

(614) 728-9200 (as of 30 March 2017)

Parish Wedding Hostess

A source of help for the couple, she is familiar with the wedding procedure and responsible for seeing that the guidelines are carried out.

Choosing Other Ministers for the Celebration

Friends and relatives of the couple may participate in the liturgy in various ministries. You may wish to select Readers, Servers, Eucharistic Ministers, and Gift Bearers for the liturgy. Individuals chosen should be regularly serving in these ministries in their home parish. Decisions about ministers may be made when the liturgy is planned with the pastor.

You may wish to select children to take part in the ceremony. Children must be at least five years old. Very young children can be a distraction.

Elements Involved in the Liturgy

Environment

Very few decorations are needed to enhance the beautiful liturgical space of Holy Cross Church. Normally, two flower arrangements – 18” to 24” high and wide, placed on pedestals near the altar – are sufficient. Seasonal decorations (Christmas and Easter) provide a beautiful environment for all weddings during those seasons. No decorations are to be placed on the altar itself.

For safety and aesthetic reasons, the use of candelabra, sparklers, lamps, floral petals, rice, bird seed, balloons, and floral displays with candles are prohibited.

Unity Candle

The unity candle is not a recognized part of the Catholic wedding liturgy and is more appropriately used at the reception.

Aisle Runner

Due to safety concerns, aisle runners are not permitted.

Receiving Line and Guest Book

Due to time and space considerations, the receiving line and guest book are appropriate at the reception only—not at the church. Please relay this information to your invited guests.

Photography

Photographers are welcome to take pictures before and during the ceremony. If you wish to have posed pictures taken after the ceremony, please complete them within a reasonable time. In order to avoid distractions, those taking pictures and/or video recordings are asked to check with the pastor or wedding hostess at least 30 minutes before the celebration to arrange for locations for pictures. Specific guidelines are listed on another page.

Church Etiquette

Sacred Space

Holy Cross Church is a holy and historic place of worship. The quiet and prayerful environment is to be respected and cherished.

Food/Beverages

No alcoholic beverages are permitted on the Church property before or after the wedding. We request that food and beverages not be brought onto the Church grounds or into the Church.

Furniture in the Church

All furniture in the Church should be left in place.

Smoking

Smoking is not permitted anywhere in the Church.

Dress Code

Due to the sacred nature of the wedding liturgy and the church building, dress needs to be dignified and modest. Bridal gowns and attendants dresses should be appropriate for the sacred occasion. Gentlemen normally wear suits and ties.

Donations and Stipends

For parishioners who are *registered and active in the parish for at least one year prior to scheduling the wedding*, the fee is \$750. An active parishioner is one who is participating through his or her stewardship of time, talent, or treasure. A *non-refundable* \$200 deposit reserves the date. The balance of \$550 is due 21 days prior to the wedding.

For non-parishioners, the minimum of a \$1,200 donation is requested to cover facility use and stipends for the priest, organist, and cantor. A *non-refundable* \$200 deposit reserves the date. The balance of \$1000 is due 21 days prior to the wedding.

Church Policy for Photographers & Videographers

We welcome photographers and videographers - both professional and amateur - for the making of still pictures and videos. We ask, however, that the following directives be observed. The Church itself is not a studio but a sacred place in which a community of believers celebrates common worship. The photographer and videographer should keep this in mind as they envision their work before, during, and after the celebration of Marriage.

1. **All photography must be finished within a reasonable time after the wedding.**
2. Wedding photographs may precede the wedding ceremony.
3. Photographers and videographers may not enter the sanctuary. They may photograph or film from the side or rear of the Church.
4. Formal portraits with studio equipment such as screens, props, etc., are to be done at home, the studio, or the reception hall—not at the Church.
5. No Church furnishings are to be moved for the taking of pictures or videos.
6. Flash photography may be taken during the processional and recessional only—*not during the ceremony itself*. Center aisle photographs are taken from the middle of the church near the Baptismal Font.
7. The photographer is not allowed to stop or slow the progress of the liturgy.
8. Photographers should be prepared to begin taking formal pictures immediately after the wedding party leaves in the recessional.

Please print your name indicating your agreement with the above guidelines.

Photographer _____

Videographer _____

Date _____

Company Name _____

Phone _____

Name of Engaged Couple _____

Policies for Florists

Holy Cross does not provide janitorial services. It is therefore the responsibility of the florist or of the wedding party to remove all flowers, bows, and potted plants within 30 minutes after the wedding. Ordinarily, the altar flowers remain for the upcoming parish Masses.

1. Florists are not to move the altar furnishings or existing sanctuary arrangements to accommodate floral arrangements and are never to place anything on the altar.
2. Two (2) floral arrangements, no higher or wider than 24" are placed on the church stands to the right and left sides of the altar. Pew bows (but no candles) may be placed on some pews, but without adhesives or wires that would scratch or harm the pew's surface.
3. No additional candelabra from the florist is permitted.
4. No floral arches are permitted.
5. Decorating may begin after 12:30 p.m., or one hour prior to the wedding.
6. Holy Cross is not responsible for items left in the Church.

Please print your name indicating your agreement with the above guidelines.

Florist _____

Date _____

Company Name _____

Phone Number _____

Name of Engaged Couple _____