

Planning Guide for Celebrating the Sacrament of Matrimony

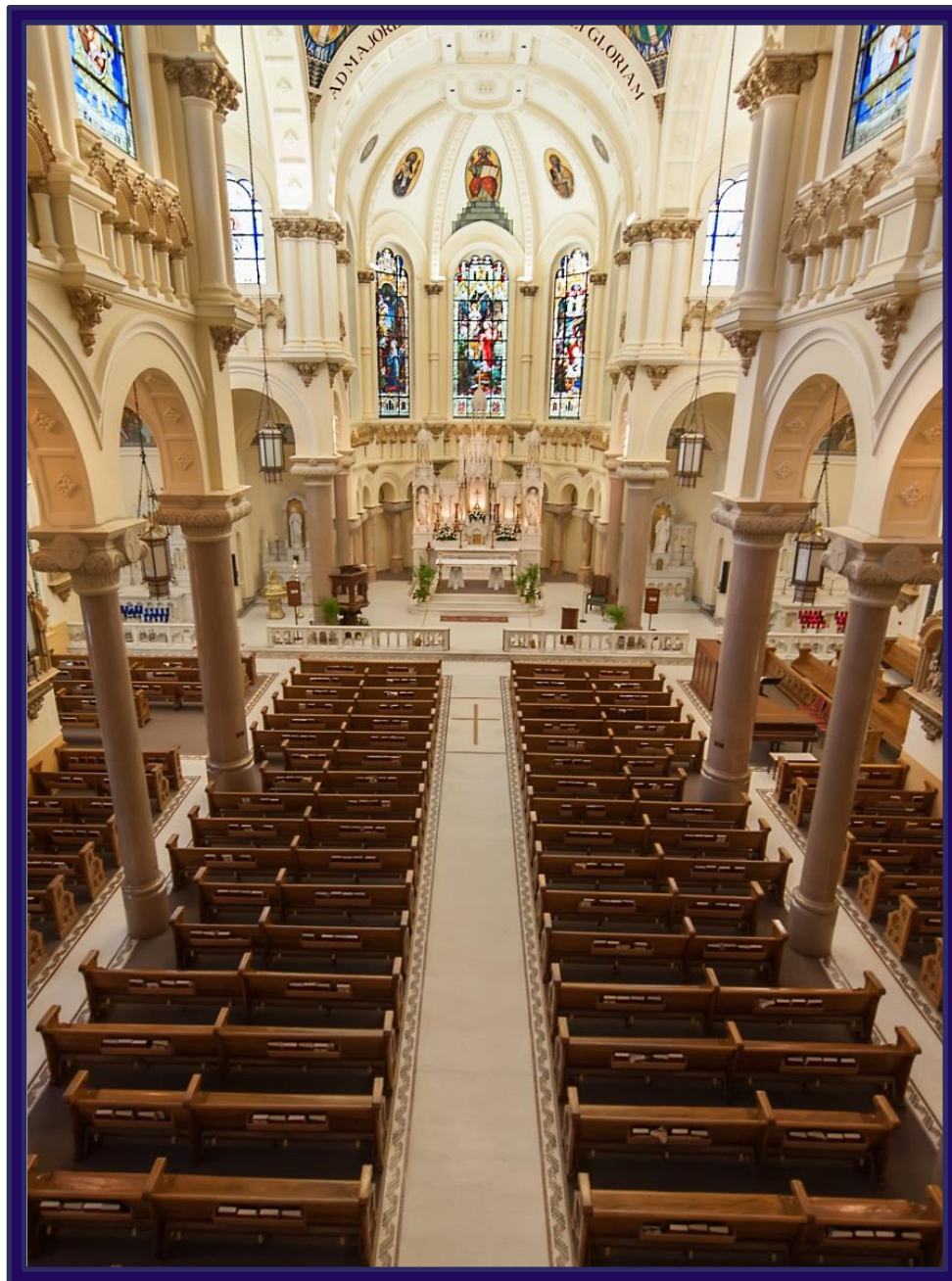


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Introduction

On behalf of the Sacred Heart community, let me extend our congratulations on your upcoming wedding celebration! This document is a guide to help you and your fiancé plan your wedding celebration here at Sacred Heart. We are honored that you have chosen to celebrate this wonderful sacrament with our parish family.

This document offers some helpful information for planning your wedding liturgy and other recommendations that were put into place to help maintain the sanctity of your ceremony. You can find additional information on our website. Please do not hesitate to contact a member of my staff if we can be of further assistance.

pax et bonum



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Ceremony Planner

Wedding Date & Time: _____

Rehearsal Date & Time: _____

Presider: _____

Mass Ceremony

Marriage License:

BRIDE: _____

GROOM: _____

RESERVED SEATING FOR BRIDE'S FAMILY

Grandmother: _____

Escort: _____

Grandmother: _____

Escort: _____

Other: _____

Escort: _____

PROCESSION **A1** **A2** **A3**

Depending upon the procession you choose:

Bride and Groom will process together

Wedding party will process as couples

Parents will process as couples

Parents will accompany their son or daughter

Mother: _____

Escort: _____

Bridesmaids (in procession order):

RESERVED SEATING FOR GROOM'S FAMILY

Grandmother: _____

Escort: _____

Grandmother: _____

Escort: _____

Other: _____

Escort: _____

See booklet for description of the options.

Cross Bearer: _____

Yes No

Yes No

Yes No

Yes No

Mother: _____

Escort: _____

Groomsmen (in procession order):

Flower girl(s): _____

Ring Bearer: _____

Children ages 5 and older are welcome to participate in these roles.

Maid of Honor: _____

Best Man: _____

Bride accompanied by: _____

Groom accompanied by: _____

Accompaniment of the Bride and Groom are dependent upon the procession form chosen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

At least one of the readings must be one marked with an asterisk

OT	B1* B2* B3* B4* B5* B6* B7 B8* B9
NT	C1 C2 C3 C4 C5 C6 C7* C8 C9 C10* C11* C12 C13 C14
G	D1 D2 D3 D4* D5 D6* D7* D8 D9 D10

Old Testament Reading
read by: _____

B # _____

New Testament Reading
read by: _____

C # _____

Gospel *proclaimed by the Priest or Deacon*

D # _____

THE CEREMONY

Exchange of Vows: **E #** _____ memorized repeated question form

Universal Prayer: **F #** _____
read by: _____

Please inform the celebrant if there are family members you would like to mention in the Universal Prayer or other special intentions.

Couple process offertory gifts: Yes No Or gifts processed by: _____

MISCELLANEOUS

Will the Church's silk flower arrangements be used? Yes No

Are groomsmen serving as ushers? Yes No

Number of guests expected: _____

Arrival time of bride/bridesmaids: _____

Arrival time of groom/groomsmen: _____



Procession

Introduction

There are two basic elements of processions for celebrating a wedding within the celebration of the Mass that give rise to three basic forms. One element has the entire wedding party join the priest in the procession that is part of the opening rite of the Mass; or the priest is waiting in the sanctuary to greet the wedding party as they process to the front of the church. The other element is when the priest greets the couple – as a couple – which is dependent upon the first element. Once welcomed by the priest, the couple remains together.

When the expression “the entire wedding party” is used it refers to (in this order) the bridesmaids and groomsmen arm-in-arm, flower girl, ring bearer, the maid of honor and best man, parents of the couple, and the couple themselves.

Form A1 – Priest greets the couple at the doors of the church

The entire wedding party gathers at the doors (inside) of the church. The priest (with cross bearer and altar servers) go there to warmly greet and welcome everyone. After the greeting, a simple procession starts up the aisle with the priest and servers leading the way. They are followed by the entire wedding party. Since the couple has been greeted, the final part of the procession is: parents of the groom, parents of the bride, followed by the bride and groom together.

The wedding party moves into their assigned pews, the best man escorts the maid of honor to her place in the sanctuary, followed by the groom escorting the bride to her place in the sanctuary.

Form A2 – Priest greets the couple and the entire wedding party at the sanctuary/altar rail

The entire wedding party assembles at the doors (inside) of the church. They process down the aisle as above, except the groom processes with his parents, followed by the bride with her parents.

The groomsmen and bridesmaids move into their assigned pews; the best man escorts the maid of honor to her place in the sanctuary; and the flower girl/ring bearer take their places in the pew.

The parents of the groom move into their pew while the groom waits at altar rail. The groom meets the bride and her father and mother. The parents of the bride kiss her and place her hand in the hand of the groom who escorts her into the sanctuary.

Once the entire wedding party has taken their places, the priest (already in the sanctuary) warmly greets and welcomes the couple.

Form A3 – Priest and groom greet the bride at the sanctuary/altar rail after a procession

In this form, the entire wedding party is not assembled together. Here the priest, groom, and groomsmen process from the sacristy. The groom and groomsmen take their places in front of the first pew and await the procession. The procession order is: bridesmaids, maid of honor, flower girl, ring bearer, bride escorted by her father (or father and mother). The groomsmen meet the bridesmaids after which they move into their pews. The best man meets the maid of honor and escorts her to her place in the sanctuary. The flower girl/ring bearer take their places in the pew. The groom meets the bride and her father (and mother). The parent(s) of the bride kiss her and place her hand in the hand of the groom who escorts her into the sanctuary.

Once the entire wedding party has taken their places, the priest (already in the sanctuary) warmly greets and welcomes the couple.

Introduction to the Readings

We invite the bride and groom to prayerfully select the readings from Sacred Scripture as part of the planning for their wedding day.

Please see the Sacred Heart website for the wide selection of readings from the Old Testament, New Testament, and Gospels. It is usual to select one from each section. The individual readings and brief commentaries about each reading are on the website.

It is also a great opportunity to invite Catholic family members/guests to participate in the celebration as a reader.

On the Ceremony Planner, you will find a matrix. That matrix is intended to help guide you in one aspect of choosing your readings. At least one of your selections of the three readings must be marked with an asterisk (*). This is to ensure at least one of the readings specifically speaks to marriage.

There are some days in which you may not have a choice of the readings – these are not days on which people normally celebrate weddings – e.g., Sundays of Advent, Lent, and Easter (or the following eight days), on Solemnities such as the Feast of the Sacred Heart, on All Souls' Day, on Ash Wednesday, and during Holy Week, and on Holy Days of Obligation. It is still permissible to celebrate Marriages on these days (except on Good Friday and Holy Saturday), but the assigned prayers and readings of the day's Mass must be used.

Exchange of Vows

Please indicate your selection on your Ceremony Planner.

E1 I, _____, take you, _____, to be my wife.
I promise to be faithful to you,
in good times and bad,
in sickness and in health,
to love you and to honor you
all the days of my life.

I, _____, take you, _____, to be my husband.
I promise to be faithful to you,
in good times and bad,
in sickness and in health,
to love you and to honor you
all the days of my life.

E2 I, _____, take you, _____, for my lawful wife,
to have and to hold, from this day forward,
for better or worse,
for richer, for poorer,
in sickness and in health,
to love and to cherish
until death do us part.

I, _____, take you, _____, for my lawful husband,
to have and to hold, from this day forward,
for better or worse,
for richer, for poorer,
in sickness and in health,
to love and to cherish
until death do us part.

Once you've chosen which form of the vows to use in your celebration, you then pick the manner in which you will exchange your vows:

1. The couple have memorized their vows;
2. The priest (with mic turned off) leads them through the vows, as the couple repeat after the priest;
3. The vow becomes a question with a response from the couple of "I do."

Universal Prayer

Please indicate your selection on your Ceremony Planner.

F1 Priest: Introduction

Reader: The response to our prayer is: *“Loving God, hear our prayer.”*

For Pope Francis and all men, women and children who minister in God’s holy name, that through their humble example they may lead us to a deeper faith in God and a stronger love for one another. We pray to the Lord. *Loving God, hear our prayer.*

For all leaders of government, that they may be effective in achieving peace in our world and raising the consciousness of all to the common good. We pray to the Lord. *Loving God, hear our prayer.*

For the men and women who serve in our country’s military forces, that they might know of our gratitude and respect and of God’s care and protection. We pray to the Lord. *Loving God, hear our prayer.*

For _____ and _____, now beginning their life together, that they may have the gentle assistance of God at every moment, the constant support of friends, the rich blessing of children, a warm love reaching out to all and good health and much happiness for the rest of their lives. We pray to the Lord. *Loving God, hear our prayer.*

For those who are sick, discouraged or oppressed in any way, that they may be strengthened by God’s help and aided by the compassionate care of many. We pray to the Lord. *Loving God, hear our prayer.*

For all who have died, especially _____, may they rest in peace and enjoy the loving embrace of God for all eternity. We pray to the Lord. *Loving God, hear our prayer.*

Priest: Conclusion

F2 Priest: Introduction

Reader: The response to our prayer is: *“Loving God, hear our prayer.”*

For this bride and groom, and for their well-being as a family. We pray to the Lord. *Loving God, hear our prayer.*

For young people preparing to enter Marriage, and for all whom the Lord is calling to another state in life. We pray to the Lord. *Loving God, hear our prayer.*

For all families throughout the world, and for lasting peace among all people. We pray to the Lord. *Loving God, hear our prayer.*

For the Church, the holy People of God, and for unity among all Christians. We pray to the Lord. *Loving God, hear our prayer.*

For all members of our families who have passed from this world, especially _____, and for all the departed. We pray to the Lord. *Loving God, hear our prayer.*

Priest: Conclusion

F3 Priest: Introduction

Reader: The response to our prayer is: *“Loving God, hear our prayer.”*

For the Church throughout the world, may our faith in the love God has for us be expressed in our love of one another. We pray to the Lord. *Loving God, hear our prayer.*

For peace in our world: may all lands that suffer violence and injustice find peace and reconciliation. We pray to the Lord. *Loving God, hear our prayer.*

For all those preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage: may they grow in wisdom and grace, and see their vocation to married life as a sign of God’s love. We pray to the Lord. *Loving God, hear our prayer.*

For _____ and _____ who begin their married life together this day: may they experience the love of God, the support of family and friends and the blessings of children. We pray to the Lord. *Loving God, hear our prayer.*

Priest: Conclusion

The Order Celebrating Matrimony *Within the Mass*

Suggested Worship Aid Format

Prelude

The Processional

Greeting and Opening Prayer

Liturgy of the Word

 Old Testament Reading

 Responsorial Psalm

 New Testament Reading

 Gospel / Homily

Statement of Consent

Exchange of Vows

Exchange of Rings

 Giving of Arras (optional)

 Placing of the Mantilla or Lazo (optional)

Universal Prayer

Liturgy of the Eucharist

 Presentation of the Gifts

 Offertory / Eucharistic Prayer

 Our Father

 Nuptial Blessing

 Communion

Final Blessing

Recessional

The Order Celebrating Matrimony *Outside the Mass*

Suggested Worship Aid Format

Prelude

The Processional

Greeting and Opening Prayer

Liturgy of the Word

 Old Testament Reading

 Responsorial Psalm

 New Testament Reading

 Gospel / Homily

Statement of Consent

Exchange of Vows

Exchange of Rings

 Giving of Arras (optional)

 Placing of the Mantilla or Lazo (optional)

Universal Prayer

Our Father

Nuptial Blessing

Closing Prayer

Final Blessing

Recessional