

*My
Wedding
Mass
Guide*



St Francis de Sales Church

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Hazel Green, WI 53811*

St Joseph Church

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HGSCchurches.com

So you want to get married...

The Sacrament of Christian Marriage



Marriage in the Church is a sacred event - a sign of God's active love within the Christian community. This love is made visible in the Sacrament of Matrimony: a man and woman promising to be faithful to each other through life as husband and wife. The expression of this mutual love is a source of joy to the entire

Christian community.

We look forward to celebrate your love on the day of your wedding. May you find true joy as husband and wife on your wedding day and all the days of your life.

Where will the preparation take place?

Marriage preparation does not have to take place in the Church where the wedding takes place. Rather: when you and your fiancé live in the same parish - you go to the local Catholic Church where you are registered and begin the marriage preparation process there. If you and your fiancé live in two different parishes, you have a choice of marriage preparation - either the Catholic Church where you live or where your fiancé lives. If your future spouse is not Catholic, then it will take place in your Cath. Church.

Necessary Documents

Baptismal Certificate - an updated baptismal certificate must be submitted for each baptized party. For Catholics the certificate must be dated within the past six months. Just call up the Church of baptism and request an updated baptismal certificate.

First Holy Communion & Confirmation Certificates - If the Sacrament of Confirmation has not been received, steps should be taken so as to receive this Sacrament as soon as possible, even before the wedding.

If you were married before, a copy of your previous marriage license, as well as a copy of the declaration of the annulment (issued by the Catholic Church) or a copy of your former spouse's death certificate is needed.

A civil marriage license must be submitted 2 weeks prior to your wedding date; please include the envelope that comes with it from the Registrar's Office.



What the Diocese of Madison asks of you:

In an effort to help couples prepare for their commitment of love and the sacrament of Marriage, the Catholic Church requires them to participate in a marriage preparation program. It is Diocesan Policy for all engaged couples to attend the **Real Life, Real Love seminar, God's Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage** seminar and an **NFP** training course.

1. Meet with your parish priest or deacon

As soon as you have plans to get married contact your parish priest. This should be at least 6 months before your wedding date, preferably one year or longer before your wedding date.

You will meet with the priest or deacon to discuss the marriage preparation process, schedule the various things that need to be done, determine canonical and civil eligibility for marriage, and explore the possibility for the Sacrament of Confirmation if needed.

You will be given an opportunity to discuss any questions or concerns that you may have. For example, you may have questions about a prior marriage, differences in faith (Catholic, non-Catholic or no belief at all), or one of you may be from a different diocese.

Your relationship as a couple and your readiness for marriage will be explored through a premarital inventory (FOCCUS).

Please remember, it is essential to have this meeting as early as possible to have enough time to resolve any particular issues, obtain necessary documents and attend the marriage preparation programs offered.



2. Attend the Marriage Prep. Seminars hosted by the Diocese

The Diocese of Madison provides two programs for you for reflection and retreat. Register online or by sending in the Marriage Prep brochure. Here is the Diocesan web page: <https://www.madisondiocese.org/mp>

Real Life, Real Love Seminar

This seminar involves married couples sharing their marital experiences on issues important to long-lasting marriages, self-awareness, communication in marriage, married sexuality, and faith. Each couple is provided significant time for personal reflection and couple dialogue.

God's Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage Seminar

offers engaged couples an understanding of God's glorious plan for marriage and

sexuality. Based on Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body, this program explores Church teachings on marriage and what it means to live out the vows of matrimony: free, total, faithful and fruitful.

Natural Family Planning

Want to ensure a life-long marriage? Go Natural! What are God's plans for every engaged couple to enter into a life and love giving marriage. For more information and class times, go to Natural Family Planning or contact the Family Planning Coordinator NFP@madisondiocese.org or call 608-821-3134. <https://www.madisondiocese.org/marriage-and-family>

3. Meet with priest or deacon for final preparation

After you've completed the marriage preparation seminars and other parish requirements, you should have additional meetings with the priest or deacon that will witness your marriage. You'll have an opportunity to discuss the seminars, finalize liturgical plans and address any additional needs that you have.



Timeline for marriage preparation:

- Give thanks to God for the love He has given to you as a couple! together for God's grace throughout your engagement and make weekly Mass a priority. your priest for an engagement blessing!
- Meet with your priest (start paper work, get certificates, FOCCUS).
- Meet with your priest/deacon a few more times .
- Attend diocesan Real Life Seminar (Diocese).
- Attend diocesan God's Plan for a Joy-filled Marriage (Diocese).
- Complete the NFP class (Diocese).
- Prepare yourself spiritually through the Sacrament of Reconciliation often.
- Meet with your priest to prepare the wedding liturgy.
- Get marriage license.
- Wedding rehearsal.
- Wedding date.



The Wedding Liturgy

The Catholic wedding liturgy (or ceremony) presents engaged couples with both: choices and structure. The structure is provided by the Rite of Marriage, the ritual book that contains the prayers, readings and



liturgical forms used in Catholic weddings throughout the United States. The choices come from a variety of options provided in the Rite of Marriage as well as any cultural or other customs that may be appropriate for a Catholic wedding. Take some time as a couple to think about these choices and then discuss them with the priest or deacon at your parish.

Liturgy Within Mass or Outside of Mass?

The Rite of Marriage provides three forms for a Catholic wedding.

- 1 - A wedding within Mass is usually celebrated when two Catholics marry.
- 2 - A wedding outside of Mass is celebrated when a Catholic marries a person from another Christian denomination (who is baptized in the Trinitarian formula: "I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit").
- 3 - A third form, also outside of Mass, is usually celebrated when a Catholic marries someone who is not baptized .

When a deacon leads the liturgy, the wedding is celebrated outside of Mass even when both are Catholics.

Prayers

For most of the prayers that are used in the wedding liturgy, there are several optional texts and you are free to choose among them. You will be provided with a book or other materials that contain these various options.



Scripture Readings

The readings at a Catholic wedding liturgy are a proclamation of God's Word and of the Church's faith about marriage. For this reason, they are limited to readings from the Scriptures. There are nine options for the first reading from the Old Testament, thirteen options for the second reading from the New Testament, 7 choices for the Responsorial Psalm (if recited) and ten choices for the Gospel. You choose one from each of these categories. The reading selections are found at the end of this booklet.

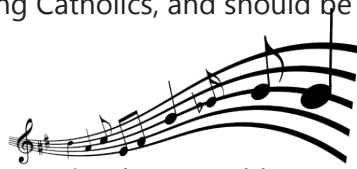
Prayer of the Faithful

The prayer of the faithful (general intercessions) at a wedding liturgy includes petitions for the couple, their families, the Church, the world and the local community. The priest or deacon can help you to compose these petitions or you can tell him about any concerns that you would like to have included, for example, the names of deceased or sick family members.

Readers

In most places, the couple is invited to select people to proclaim the first reading, second reading and prayer of the faithful. Think about family members or friends who have been readers (or lectors) at their church, who have participated in Bible study or who are used to speaking in public. Give them a copy of the reading or intercessions well in advance, and ask them to attend the rehearsal so that they have a chance to rehearse in the church with the microphone. Lectors ought to be practicing Catholics, and should be Lectors at their parish.

Music



More than any other single element, music has the power to unite the assembly. Because the liturgy has a meaning of its own over and above the Marriage Rite which takes place within it, the music used at weddings must be consistent with the sacred nature of the ceremony. Its focus is related to the Church's blessing of the marriage and the couple's vows made before God. No matter how meaningful certain music may be to the bride and groom, the guiding rule is: secular songs are not permitted during the Liturgy but should be used when most appropriate - at your reception.

All music and musicians must be approved by the Church!

In general, the following music and related types of music will not be used:

Any music which refers only to the secular nature of love and neglects the sacred union of the couple, not only to each other but to the Church.

Songs from films, musicals, or television shows.

No pre-recorded music (tapes or CD's)

Please see the booklet "My Wedding Music Guide."

Flowers and Decoration



A beautiful sanctuary requires very simple decorations and does not lead itself to elaborate decoration. In keeping with this conviction, the church has carefully developed this policy to guide you and your florist in making plans for the wedding.

Neither fresh nor artificial flower petals may be strewn in the aisles. Arches are no longer permitted due to liability reasons.

There will be no alteration of the physical appearance of the church which would detract from the altar.

No tacks, pins, nails, glue or tape shall be used to fasten any decorations to the furniture of the building. Only large rubber bands, pipe stem cleaners or ribbon may be used to

fasten bows. No candles are allowed on or in the pews.

A maximum of two standing floral arrangements may be placed in the sanctuary area; one by the Lectern, the other by the Altar. These arrangements are considered an offering to the Lord and therefore are not to be removed afterwards.

Photographer

The Church remains a place of worship before, during and after the wedding. Respectful conduct must be observed at all times. We allow, to a certain extent, the use of cameras, movie cameras and video taping, but, only in as much as they do not interfere in the liturgy or become a distraction to the people.



A video camera is permitted, provided it does not distract from the prayer atmosphere of the celebration. The camera must be set or held in place without benefit of artificial lights. Photographers are not allowed in the sanctuary for any reason during the ceremony, nor should they roam around inside the Church, especially up and down the center aisle. Once the wedding procession has started, photographers are not permitted to stop the procession to take pictures. No flash photography is allowed during the ceremony. No standing on pews to take any pictures.

Even before and after the ceremony, no artificial lights or photographer' umbrellas or such devices are allowed.

Hospitality to Your Guests

Consider various ways to extend hospitality to those who will gather to celebrate your wedding. Some couples arrive at the church 30 minutes before the wedding and stand at the doors of the Church. Ask the ushers to help people find seats toward the front of the church and to introduce them to the other people with whom they will be seated. Try to fill the Church from front to back - don't you want to have your friends and family close by, especially at a moment like your wedding?

Care for the Needy

How will your wedding express the care for the needy that a Christian couple is called to reflect in marriage? Some couples prepare a large food basket that they bring forward along with the bread and wine for Mass. Other couples include a request on their wedding invitations that guests bring one or two items of non-perishable food to the Church where they are collected in a basket.



After the wedding liturgy, the food can be brought to the parish food pantry or a local food bank or delivered to a needy family. Online charitable wedding registries allow couples to designate a charity to which they request that guests donate in lieu of a wedding gift. Couples can also make a donation, from the money they may receive as gifts, to the parish's social outreach committee or food pantry.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

As part of the preparation for their marriage, we encourage Catholics to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation prior to their wedding date. Please see the schedule for Confessions at your parish or arrange a meeting with your priest. It is custom that after the rehearsal is done, there be an opportunity for confession for all coming to this rehearsal. Please let your wedding entourage know that the Sacrament of Confession will be available and is encouraged!



Above all, pray!

The wedding liturgy (whether celebrated at Mass or a Service) is an act of worship. As such, it is a time to offer praise and thanks to God for his gifts, and to seek his continued blessings and help in your lives. In particular, thank God for the gift of your spouse, and pray to the Lord to bless you and guide you together as you become witnesses of his love for each other and for the world.

Donation for the use of the Church

A donation of \$ 300.00 for registered, and practicing parishioners is suggested.

A donation of \$ 500.00 for all others.

(A registered parishioner is considered someone who has been registered at Our Lady of the Lake, was registered for at least 2 years, and is a living member of our Church [that is: giving of time / talents / treasure on a regular basis]) Exceptions are parishioners transferring in from another parish.



It is customary to give a stipend to the priest/deacon performing the marriage. The Organist, Cantor, Musicians, Altar servers... if requested to be present, receive a stipend as well.

Readings for the Wedding Mass

Old Testament

1. Male and female he created them (Genesis 1:26-28, 31a)
2. The two of them become one body (Genesis 2:18-24)
3. In his love for Rebekah, Isaac found solace after the death of his mother (Genesis 24:48-51, 58-67)
4. May the Lord of heaven prosper you both. May he grant you mercy and peace (Tobit 7:6-14)
5. Allow us to live together to a happy old age (Tobit 8:4b-8)
6. The woman who fears the Lord is to be praised (Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31)
7. Stern as death is love (Song of Songs 2:8-10, 14, 16a; 8:6-7a)
8. Like the sun rising in the Lord's heavens, the beauty of a virtuous wife is the radiance of her home (Sirach 26:1-4, 13-16)
9. I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah (Jeremiah 31:31-32a, 33-34a)



Responsorial Psalm

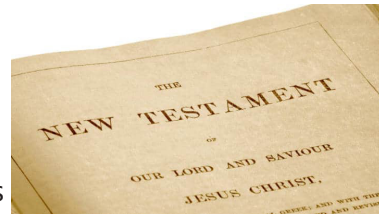
1. The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord (Psalm 33)
2. I will bless the Lord at all times (Psalm 34)
3. The Lord is kind and merciful (Psalm 103)
4. Blessed the man who greatly delights in the
Lord's commands (Psalm 112)
1. Blessed are those who fear the Lord (Psalm 128)
2. How good is the Lord to all (Psalm 145)
3. Let all praise the name of the Lord (Psalm 148)



4.

New Testament

1. What will separate us from the love of Christ? (Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39)
2. Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God (Romans 12:1-2, 9-18)
3. Welcome one another as Christ welcomed you (Romans 15:1b-3a, 5-7, 13)
4. Your body is a temple of the Spirit (Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20)
5. If I do not have love, I gain nothing (Corinthians 12:31-13:8a)
6. One Body and one Spirit (Ephesians 4:1-6)
7. This is a great mystery, but I speak in reference to Christ and the Church (Ephesians 5:2a, 21-33)
8. The God of peace will be with you (Philippians 4:4-9)
9. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection (Colossians 3:12-17)
10. Let marriage be held in honor by all (Hebrews 13:1-4a, 5-6b)
11. Be of one mind, sympathetic, loving toward one another (1 Peter 3:1-9)
12. Love in deed and in truth (1 John 3:18-24)
13. God is love (1 John 4:7-12)
14. Blessed are those who have been called to the wedding feast of the Lamb (Revelation 19:1, 5-9a)



Gospel

1. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven (Matthew 5:1-12a)
2. You are the light of the world (Matthew 5:13-16)
3. A wise man built his house on rock (Matthew 7:21, 24-29)
4. What God has united, man must not separate (Matthew 19:3-6)
5. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it. (Matthew 22:35-40)
6. They are no longer two, but one flesh (Mark 10:6-9)
7. Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs in Cana in Galilee (John 2:1-11)
8. Remain in my love (John 15:9-12)
9. This is my commandment: love one another (John 15:12-16)
10. That they may be brought to perfection as one (John 17:20-26)



Marriage as a Natural Institution

Marriage is a practice common to all cultures in all ages. It is, therefore, a natural institution, something common to all mankind. At its most basic level, marriage is a union between a man and a woman for the purpose of procreation and mutual support, or love. Each spouse in a marriage gives up some rights over his or her life in exchange for rights over the life of the other spouse.

The Elements of a Natural Marriage

As Fr. John Hardon explains in his Pocket Catholic Dictionary the four elements:

It is a union of opposite sexes.

It is a lifelong union, ending only with the death of one spouse.

It excludes a union with any other person so long as the marriage exists.

Its lifelong nature and exclusiveness are guaranteed by contract.

Marriage as a Supernatural Institution

Marriage is more than a natural institution; it was elevated by Christ Himself (John 2:1-11), to be one of the seven Sacraments. A marriage between two Christians, therefore, has a supernatural element as well as a natural one.

The Ministers of the Sacrament

The ministers of the Sacrament are the spouses themselves.

The Mark and Effect of the Sacrament

The external sign of the sacrament is not the wedding Mass but the "I DO" of the spouses. The effect of the sacrament is an increase in sanctifying grace for the spouses, a participation in the divine life of God Himself.

The Union of Christ and His Church

This sanctifying grace helps each spouse to help the other advance in holiness, and it helps them together to cooperate in God's plan of redemption by raising up children in the Faith.

Sacramental Marriage

Sacramental marriage is more than a union of a man and a woman; it is a type and symbol of the divine union between Christ and His Church. This is why married Christians must be open to the creation of new life and committed to our mutual salvation. We become participants not only in God's creative act but in the redemptive act of Christ.

Notes

