

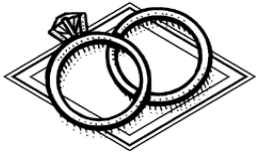


*St. Theresa of the Child
Jesus Church*



*Preparation and
Celebration of the
Sacrament of Matrimony*

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You have come to the church to plan your wedding and it is important to begin with an understanding of the sacrament of marriage.

Our tradition holds marriage as a lifelong commitment, charged with deepening the faith of the couple, their children, and their community. The grace of the sacrament of marriage is intended to perfect the couple's love and to strengthen their indissoluble unity. They help one another to attain holiness in their married life and in welcoming and educating their children.

Beginning your marriage with a memorable wedding is an important part of the sacrament of marriage. This booklet briefly describes the Church requirements and the St. Theresa Parish wedding guidelines.

General Church Law and Diocesan Regulations on Marriage:

Matrimony is a sacrament. The Catholic Church makes two basic assumptions about marriage within the church. The first is faith in Jesus. This faith should be active; it should be within the worshiping community and it should be growing in depth and maturity. This sacrament requires the couple's dynamic participation.

Catholics must be in good standing with the Church, attend Mass regularly, receive other sacraments, and contribute to the support of the Church community. If the wedding is to take place at St. Theresa's, either the bride or groom must be a registered member of the parish and attending Mass here for at least 3 months before a wedding can be scheduled.

A second assumption of the Church is the indissolubility of marriage: a man and woman promise to be for each other forever, just as Jesus promises to be for His Bride, the Church, forever. You will need a deeper knowledge of your fiancé and yourself in order to make this commitment. To help you better understand marriage, your relationship as a couple and to aid you in your spiritual growth the parish and priest will provide numerous opportunities for growth. Because this preparation is so important to the "forever" you are pledging to one another, at least six months advance notice is required before your

Other Information

Remember that our church is sacred space. Do not change any of the decorations already behind the altar. Christmas and Easter decorations must not be moved.

Available for use: white alter cloth,
white cloth for the unity candle table
white cloth for the guest-book table

The aisle is 72 feet in length.

Candles may not be placed on woodwork. Do not use scotch tape on pews since it removes the finish. Use masking tape. Be sure all paper, boxes and other materials are discarded. Remove aisle candles, bows, and carpet runner immediately after the ceremony. The couple supplies the unity candle; the large center candle as well as the two side candles.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES MAY NOT BE CONSUMED ANYWHERE ON CHURCH PROPERTY. SMOKING IS NOT ALLOWED ON PARISH PROPERTY.
THIS IS A SACRED EVENT
DISREGARDING THESE GUIDELINES COULD RESULT IN THE LATE CANCELLATION OF YOUR WEDDING.

Rice: It is the custom at St. Theresa's to NOT throw rice, confetti, flowers, or birdseed after the ceremony. If you do celebrate by throwing anything, please clean it up afterwards.

USE OF FACILITIES

St. Theresa's Parish is a large, beautiful, busy parish facility. The fees for using our facilities are modest. During your interviews with the priest or deacon before your wedding, you can discuss facility use, pricing, and rental arrangements.



You and your family will be busy on the wedding day. We encourage you to designate someone who will be responsible for the condition of facilities after your ceremony. This will ensure that there are no lost articles and that the facilities are clean when you leave.

Bathrooms are located on the lower level at the north end of the church.

Fee for Church use: The parish asks a fee of \$200 for the use of the Church. This is to cover the costs for lights, heating and/or air conditioning. This can be paid anytime before the wedding. Please make checks payable to St. Theresa Church.

Bride's Dressing Area: St. Theresa's Church has a separate brides dressing room located west of the main lower hall. The bridal party is expected to leave the room clean and orderly. Dispose of all waste paper, food, pins, bags, etc. It is helpful to assign the responsibility of cleaning up the room to a personal attendant.

This room is used as a baby-sitting room on the weekends so be extra careful about leaving it clean. **NOTE:** It would be a good idea to lock this room when leaving it unattended, especially if you have personal items in it.

Children: Supervise children at all times, in all areas of the church facility. Have someone responsible for watching children before, during, and after the ceremony.

The initial interview of yourself and your fiancée with the priest or deacon should be scheduled nine months to one year before the intended wedding date. During this interview, you and the priest or deacon will have an opportunity to get acquainted and share information.

At this meeting, you will set the time and date for the wedding and rehearsal. Saturday weddings can be scheduled up until 1:30PM. The church must be vacated by 3:00PM to accommodate the 4:30PM Mass.

To cover the expenses of the FOCCUS and other materials we ask you to pay \$30.00.

The FOCCUS questionnaire will be explained and completed. Later, a sponsor couple will contact you to set up a meeting to explain the FOCCUS results and the marriage sponsor program. Subsequent meetings will be planned, usually two weeks apart. The marriage sponsor program will be finished in about two months.

Required Documents

During the time of preparation, several documents will be required to verify your freedom to marry within the church. These documents will be more fully explained to you by the priest or deacon. The priest or deacon will assist you with the church paperwork and wedding preparations.

All Catholics will be asked to get a recent (within 6 months) copy of your Baptismal Certificate. A baptized non-Catholic must also present a Baptism certificate in order to obtain the dispensation for a mixed religion marriage.

A premarital investigation form will be completed by the priest or deacon, at your first interview. This is background information, your names, religious attitudes, and family background data. If a partner is Catholic and has been previously married in a Church-approved ceremony-Catholic or non-Catholic an annulment will be necessary. An annulment usually takes time to acquire. You need to contact the priest well in advance of the intended wedding date.

Special circumstances require assessment by the Family Life Office of the diocese. The phone number is 237-5056. These include, but are not limited to, these situations:

- Either or both parties are under the age of twenty.
- The bride to be is pregnant.
- Either participant has been married before.

After you have completed your meetings with your sponsor couple and, if necessary, the Family Life Office, contact the priest or deacon with whom you first visited. Bring the baptismal certificates (and death certificate if applicable) to this meeting. The priest or deacon will review the process with you; discuss areas suggested by the sponsor couple and/or Family Life Office and fill out the pre-nuptial review with you.

The sacrament of marriage is ideally celebrated within the liturgy of the Eucharist (mass) when both parties are Catholic. When only one party is Catholic, mass is not customary. The parish priest may approve changes from the norm.

When a Catholic is married in a non-Catholic church, a special dispensation must be obtained from the bishop of the diocese.

Participants

Presider: The parish priest or one of the deacons usually presides at parish weddings. If another presider is involved, please get advanced approval from the parish priest.

Musicians: Parish musicians or people familiar with St. Theresa's are recommended. The parish office can give you names to contact.

Special ministers: You will want to choose your own lectors. Make sure the reader is given a copy of the passage ahead of time. You will want to invite your readers to the rehearsal so they can practice their selections in the church with the sound system.

Gift bearers and Eucharistic Ministers: need to be chosen if Mass is celebrated. Let the presider know how many will be in the procession. He can arrange for the appropriate number of articles to be brought up. You may also need to have special ministers of the Eucharist to assist the priest. This will the wedding party and your guests a greater opportunity to participate in the celebration.

Servers are optional.

THE CEREMONY

The sacrament of marriage celebrates the union of the couple in God's love, witnessed by the Church community. In planning the liturgical celebration itself, you as a couple are invited to make a personal statement of faith and belief in the Lord and each other. This will require thought, prayer, and discussion with one another.

All things— music, decoration, reading, etc. - should point to and enhance the central meaning you desire to proclaim to each other and the community through your vows. The presider will help you in your selections and assure that they are liturgically appropriate.

Music and Songs: The priest, deacon and parish music coordinator should be consulted from the beginning stages of your music planning. All music must be appropriate for worship and the wedding ceremony. Secular music may be appropriate as a prelude. Service music and congregational participation in singing is encouraged, particularly if Mass is to be celebrated.

Reading: You may choose any Scripture readings or the presider will provide you with suggested readings.



REHEARSAL

It is vital that all members of the bridal party, ushers, and the parents of the bride and groom rehearse before the ceremony. The presider will arrange a rehearsal time with you.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photos taken during the ceremony should not detract from the ceremony. Weddings scheduled for afternoons must have their photo sessions before the wedding to avoid conflict with the Saturday evening Mass. Morning weddings may take photos after the ceremony UNLESS there is another wedding or scheduled parish function scheduled afterwards.



Let your photographer and videographer know that during the ceremony movement is the sanctuary and flashes are not permitted.