

St. Mary Catholic Church and School





Welcome to St. Mary Catholic Church and School

Congratulations on your engagement and on your forthcoming wedding. We are pleased to help you prepare for your wedding and for your married life together.

This booklet covers the more practical arrangements and preparation necessary for marriage in the Church.



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"Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; It is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."
1 Corinthians 13:4-7.



"With all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." Ephesians 4:2-3

FIRST STEP - INITIAL INTERVIEW

To begin the wedding planning and preparation for married life, you will need to meet with the parish priest or pastoral minister. This should take place between eight to twelve months prior to the anticipated wedding date. Please note that it will be important to secure the wedding date on the parish calendar before making a reservation of reception venue or any other wedding arrangements. In the initial meeting, the pastoral minister will provide an explanation of the Guidelines for Catholic marriage.

Please be prepared to discuss:

1. One or both are under the age of nineteen;
2. There is pregnancy involved;
3. You are presently living together;
4. One of the engaged is not Catholic;
5. One or both have been married before in any type of ceremony or common law union;
6. You are now civilly married and wish to have your marriage validated by the Catholic Church.

SECOND STEP - ASSESSMENT FOR DETERMINING READINESS

The pastoral minister will use a variety of methods to assist in determining the maturity of the couple and their readiness for marriage. A premarital inventory (Fully Engaged) will be administered and the diocesan forms A & B will be completed.

THIRD STEP - SETTING THE DATE

The final date for the wedding is not to be set until the entire assessment process, including forms A&B(these will be given to you), are completed and a decision to proceed is made.



"Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh." Genesis 2:24

FORMATION PROCESS

What is a Catholic Marriage?

Marriage is one of the seven sacraments of the Catholic Church. In the book of Genesis, we hear that God created man and woman in His own likeness and image (Gen. 1:26). Specifically, the Lord says Eve is a “suitable helpmate for the man” (Gen 2:20). St. John Paul II reminds us that this “help” to which Adam and Eve are called is a responsibility to sanctify one another. In other words, the ultimate goal of marriage as a sacrament is to help your spouse become a saint and to be a symbol of God’s love in the world. The formation our parish team provides is focused on forming the couple so as to fulfill this beautiful vocation.

Fully Engaged

Fully Engaged is a marriage preparation program designed to help you strengthen the foundation upon which you will build your life together.

The first step in celebrating your marriage is to meet with our director of Fully Engaged(See Contact info page) . Please call 8 -12 months prior to the anticipated date of the wedding to set up a meeting.



COMMON QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What does 'freedom to marry' mean?

To be married in a Catholic Church at least one of the persons to be married must be a Catholic, and both persons must be free to marry, that is, neither has been through any form of marriage ceremony either religious or civil. If either of person has been previously married religiously or civilly, the previous marriage must be declared null by the Church. For clarification or further information please speak to the pastoral minister overseeing your marriage formation.

Do we need to provide any documents?

You will need to provide several documents:

- A copy of baptismal record. Please contact the priest of the parish where you were baptized within six months prior to the date of your wedding to ask for this.
- Non-Catholics will need to bring their record of baptism or christening. (In some cases this is a letter from the pastor, or parents confirming that it has indeed taken place.) Please state the denomination, at which church, and on what date.
- You will need a civil license. Please contact the county Clerk to get this form and bring it to the Wedding Ceremony.
- If either of you has been married you will need to provide additional documents.

What is convalidation?

A convalidation is the Church's way of validating a bond that already exists but which has not been recognized in the eyes of God or the Church. This would apply, for example, to a couple where at least one of the parties is a Catholic but the marriage was contracted outside the Church.

Wedding service or Nuptial Mass?

There are two forms of marriage ceremony: the Wedding Service and the Nuptial Mass.

The Wedding Service is shorter and consists of up to three hymns, three readings, the vows, blessing and signing of the register. This takes about 45 minutes. The Nuptial Mass contains all the parts of a Mass. The Gloria, readings, hymns, and Eucharistic prayers. The vows are taken after the Gospel and the homily. This takes around an hour to an hour and 15 minutes.

Where both parties (and a good portion of the guests) are regular, practicing Catholics, a Nuptial Mass is highly recommended. It is not possible when one of the parties has not been baptized.

In all other cases the Wedding service is recommended. Their service does not include Holy Communion - those who would be unable to consume would be excluded.

The readings chosen for the wedding are from the Catholic lectionary. You will be given options from which to pick (there are exceptions for Solemnities, Christmas and Easter season). Please ensure the readers know the form at the beginning and ending of the readings. The director of music will provide a list of recommended hymns and which ones suit weddings. Please note that the music can not be secular of character, and no recordings can be played.

What about flowers?

Please provide your own flowers for the wedding. You should provide at least one arrangement for the front of the altar. It is also possible to have flowers elsewhere in the church, at the back, in front of the ambo, or on the ends of pews. Please have someone ready to remove all the flowers immediately after the wedding. Speak to the pastoral minister overseeing your formation for further information.

Be mindful the church is in constant use. Shortly before the ceremony please have the florist ready to make arrangements.

May our guests use confetti?

Please ask guests not to scatter confetti or rice.

How much will it cost?

In order to help maintain the facilities, we ask for a donation of \$200 to be made for St. Mary Catholic Church & School. This is for the use of the Church building and utilities. Fees for music and flowers are separate contracts.

Who can we talk to about our choice of music?

The music used in the wedding service must be appropriate for the sacred liturgy. You will need to work with the Music Director to pick hymns and music as well as setting up a contract with him for the wedding. If you are bringing your own musicians please contact the music director. All inquiries should be sent to the Music Director

Can we take photographs or a video?

Yes, all photography must be respectful of sacred space and discreet.

Please ask the photographer or videographer to meet with the celebrating priest before the service.

Will there be a wedding rehearsal?

Yes. Please arrange with the parish wedding coordinator. The following people are required to attend: bride and groom, best man and maid of honor, bridal party and groomsmen, readers, and anyone else who will be in the opening procession. Please note the hired musicians will not be at the rehearsal.

What should we include in our program?

The wedding party is responsible for printing the program. The priest who is marrying can guide you as to what needs to be in it. It is VERY important to show the priest your wedding program BEFORE printing it. The program should include a request that silence be maintained within the church.

Unavailable dates

There are certain days and times of year that are consecrated for sacred worship. In addition to Sundays, weddings are not able to be celebrated during the following high Holy Days.

- January 1st,
- February 2nd
- Ash Wednesday thru the Lenten season
- March 19th
- March 25th
- Easter Octave
- Ascension of the Lord
- June 19th Sacred Heart of Jesus
- June 24th
- June 29th
- August 6th
- August 15th
- September 14th
- October 7th
- November 1st
- November 2nd
- Thanksgiving Day
- December 8th
- December 12th
- Christmas Eve thru the Octave of Christmas



Contact Information

Director of Liturgy: Sandy Dilago

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Director of Fully Engaged: Sharon Taylor

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Director of Music: Jose Velez

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Notes

Notes

Check List

- ☐ Obtain all canonical permission to marry inside the Church
- ☐ Complete Form A & B , as well as Fully Engaged
- ☐ Confirm whether it will be a Nuptial Mass or Wedding Service
- ☐ Confirm the date and time of the wedding
- ☐ Confirm the date & time of the rehearsal
- ☐ Obtain a copy of your sacramental record for both parties
- ☐ Attend Pre-Cana Retreat
- ☐ Choose Readings and readers.

First Reading:	First reader:
Psalm:	Psalm reader/singer:
Second Reading:	Second reader:
Gospel:	
- ☐ Contact the Music Director
- ☐ Choose the music/hymns
- ☐ Draft a program for the ceremony
- ☐ Contact florist

- ☐ Obtain Civil Marriage liscense from county clerk
- ☐ Arrange a time for the florist to deliver/arrange the flowers
- ☐ Arrange for someone to remove the decorations after the ceremony
- ☐ Ask your guests:
 - ☐ To respect the prayerful quiet of the church
 - ☐ Not to bring food or drinks in the church
- ☐ Pay
 - ☐ The church donation
 - ☐ The musicians and acompaniest



