

MARRIAGE POLICY FOR HOLY ROSARY CATHOLIC CHURCH



The Wedding Feast of Cana - Gerard David - 1500

THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*)

§1601 “The matrimonial covenant, by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership of the whole of life, is by its nature ordered toward the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of offspring; this covenant between baptized persons has been raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a sacrament.”

PREPARATION FOR MARRIAGE AT HOLY ROSARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

THE Celebration of the Sacrament is a most joyous yet solemn occasion for the bride and groom as well as the whole Church. By its very nature, marriage is a holy institution. To help couples preparing for the Sacrament of Matrimony in our parish, the following information is offered. This is an important moment in a couple's life and in the life of the Church. While we want the wedding day to be a beautiful and special day of great memories, we also want to take time to do proximate preparation for the lifetime vocation to which Almighty God is calling you.

What is Marriage?

The marriage covenant, by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership of their whole life, and which of its own very nature is ordered to the well-being of the spouses and to the procreation and upbringing of children, has, between the baptized, been raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a sacrament" (Code of Canon Law, CCL n. 1055). "The essential properties of marriage are unity and indissolubility; in Christian marriage they acquire a distinctive firmness by reason of the sacraments" (CCL n. 1056).

The Three Intentions of the Will Necessary for Marriage

- Permanence.
- Fidelity.
- Openness to the procreation of children.

Documents You Will Need

- Baptismal certificates with Confirmation notation issued within the last six months before the marriage. These are obtained from the parish in which you were baptized.
- Two (2) *Affidavits of Freedom for Marriage* attesting to the bride's eligibility and two (2) *Affidavits of Freedom for Marriage* attesting to the groom's eligibility to marriage in the Church must be received from individuals who have known the bride or groom since they were of legal age of marriage, unless they are already known by the priest.
- The Archdiocese of Indianapolis' **Preparation for Marriage Forms**. These forms will be filled out by the priest, deacon or parish representative with the prospective bride and groom.
- If either is under 18 years of age, the consent of one of the parents is required.
- An Indiana marriage license must be presented to the priest at the time of the rehearsal or before. It is valid for 30 days. If the bride or groom is a resident of Marion County, or if both the bride and groom live outside of Indiana, the license should be obtained in Marion County. If residence is in another Indiana county, the license should be obtained in that county. Couples can consult the local Clerk of Courts website for details, <http://www.indy.gov/clerk>.

Who May Be Married in the Catholic Church

- “A marriage is brought into being by the lawfully manifested consent of persons who are legally capable. ... Matrimonial consent is an act of will by which a man and a woman by an irrevocable covenant mutually give and accept one another for the purpose of establishing a marriage” (CCL n. 1057).
- “All can contract marriage who are not prohibited by law” (CCL n. 1058). “The marriage of Catholics, even if only one party is a Catholic, is governed not only by divine law but also by canon law...” (CCL n. 1059).
- Those who are free to enter into marriage, who are prepared to enter it and are capable of making the act of the will can be married. In practical terms, Catholics should not date those who have been married before unless that previous marriage can be proven to be an invalid marriage. Catholics may not marry anyone who has been previously married validly.

The “Catholic Form” of Marriage

- A validly ordained and authorized priest or deacon and two witnesses. A Catholic is not validly married without the “Catholic Form” of marriage (unless a dispensation is granted for serious reason). A Catholic married by a civil servant is not validly married and cannot receive the sacraments until the marriage is convalidated by the Church. A Catholic married in a non-Catholic Church without a dispensation is not validly married and cannot receive the sacraments until the marriage is convalidated by the Church.

Who May Celebrate Weddings at the Parish

- “... the local Ordinary (Bishop) or parish priest (pastor) or ... the priest or deacon delegated by either of them...” (CCL n. 1108). Two witnesses must be present. If you have a blood relative who wishes to preside at your marriage, he may do so with the permission of the pastor, provided he is a validly, licitly ordained priest or deacon and agrees to follow the parish marriage and wedding policies. If the officiating clergyman is from outside the Indianapolis Archdiocese, he will need to provide his credentials.

Who May Be Married at Holy Rosary Parish

- Any unmarried Catholic in good standing with the Church.
- Both parties must have a regular routine of prayer and spiritual development in addition to Sunday and Holy Day Masses and regular Confession.
- The couple should be seeking to follow the Church’s teaching on chastity and may not be in a state of cohabitation.¹

¹ Cohabitation (living together before marriage) is considered a serious (grave) sin against marriage. Those who publicly manifest grave sin need to repent from those sins and reconcile themselves to God and the Church in the Sacrament of Penance before they receive other Sacraments.

Instructions You Will Need

- The Archdiocesan “One in Christ” marriage preparation program, parts one and two. (A fee will be charged for this program).
- Completion of the **Financial Peace University** program. (A fee may be charged for this program).
- Take a pre-marriage survey and have the experience of meeting with a sponsor couple.
- Read:
 - A. *Good News about Sex and Marriage*, by Christopher West;
 - B. *Marriage is for Keeps*, by John Kipley;
 - C. *Familiaris Consortio*, by Pope St. John Paul II or *Three to Get Married*, by Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen.
- Meet with the parish priest or deacon to discuss the above books and the theology and Sacrament of Marriage in general.

The Wedding Ceremony

- Wait to plan the wedding ceremony until you speak to the parish priest or deacon about the requirements.
- **No dates will be set until you have met in person with the priest or deacon, all pertinent documentation has been received, a minimum amount of Marriage Preparation has been completed, and all pertinent fees have been received.**
- The Catholic Liturgy has a set pattern and is a reverent praise to God for the gift of the Sacrament of Matrimony as well as a prayer for the couple and the whole Church.
- All activities ought to remain centered around the solemnity of the occasion: rehearsal, parties, ceremony and reception.
- Marriage belongs to the whole Communion of the Faithful.
- Music must be religious and appropriate to the specific parts of the Liturgy.
- Readings are always from Sacred Scripture.
- Readers must be practicing Catholics in good standing with the Church.
- The priest or deacon will help you with a liturgy planning sheet for the ceremony.
- The parish music director will assist you with choosing and planning the music for the ceremony. No other music is permitted than that approved by the pastor.
- The parish will contract altar servers for you.
- Unity Candles are **not** permitted as part of the ceremony.

Times for Weddings

- 7:30 PM on Friday.
- 11:00 AM on Saturday.
- 1:30 PM on Saturday.
- 6:30 PM on Saturday.
- The rehearsal for the first wedding scheduled for any given Saturday generally will be set for 6:45 PM on Friday, unless established otherwise by the priest with the couple.

The rehearsal for a second wedding scheduled on a given Saturday generally will be set for 7:45 PM.

- Weddings are not permitted on the first Saturday of the month, or the first Friday of the month and the following Saturday.
- Weddings are not permitted during Lent.
- Weddings may be held on other days of the week with the special permission of the pastor.

Cost of a Wedding at Holy Rosary

- This will be discussed with a parish priest. A fee schedule will be given to you at that time.

The Bridal Party

- The bridal party is limited to a total of 5 groomsmen, 5 bridesmaids, a single ring bearer, and a single flower girl. Thus, the total number in the bridal party, including the bride and groom, may not exceed 14. [Exception: if the total numbers of siblings of the bride and groom exceed the allotted number for the bridal party, and the bridal party is made up exclusively of siblings, they will be accommodated.]

Wedding Apparel

- Should be of modest and appropriate design with the emphasis on “modest.” This applies to all persons in the wedding party, including the Bride and the Groom. Remember, this is a Christian wedding.

Size of the Church

- The church will comfortably seat 352 people. If guests are seated “shoulder to shoulder,” capacity increases to 450.
- There are 16 pews on either side of the center aisle, 10 pews along the east wall/side aisle, and 13 pews along the west wall/side aisle. (A total of 55 pews).

Invitations

- Should be written to express that this is a Catholic ceremony.
- Let your guests know if it will be within the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.
- If both parties are baptized, you will want to use the words; “Sacrament of Matrimony” or the “Sacrament of Marriage.”
- If one is not baptized, you will want to use the words; “Celebration of Matrimony” or “Celebration of Marriage.”

Photographs

- Make sure to notify the parish of the name of the photographer.

- Pictures may be taken before, during and for **one-half hour** after the wedding ceremony.
- No photographers are permitted in the Sanctuary (altar area) of the Church during the ceremony out of respect for the holy and solemn nature of the Sacrament of Matrimony.
- No furniture should be moved at any time except for the kneelers.
- **Nothing should ever be set on the altar.**
- No flash or floodlights, no cameras or video recorders are permitted in the Sanctuary during the ceremony.
- Pictures are best taken from the side aisles, from the rear of the main aisle in the church, and from the balcony.
- If you desire a picture with the priest who presided at your wedding, this should occur when you first begin to take pictures after the wedding.

Flowers and Decorations

- Flowers can be placed in vases by the statues of Mary and Joseph, and immediately in front of the side altars and ambo (pulpit).
- Florists should deliver these vases and place them in their specific places.
- Flowers for the bridal party should be delivered to the back of the Church, and boxes should be removed after the wedding.
- No statues or other church decorations, including seasonal decorations at Christmas or Easter, may be moved, removed or replaced.
- No tape or wire can be used to attach decorations to pews or walls.
- **Never set anything on the top of the altars.**

Music

- If you would like music at your wedding, the parish music director **must be contacted** (the sooner the better). The music director will assist you in planning the music for your wedding ceremony.
- Secular [non-church] music **cannot** be used in the church.
- **All musical selections are subject to the approval of the music director.**
- **See Appendix for more about the music policy.**

Aisle Runner

- These are not allowed due to the tripping danger they present.

Rice, Confetti and Bird Seed

- Please do not use these in or outside of the church.

Care of the Church

- The wedding party is responsible for leaving the church, the school and the parish hall clean following the actual ceremony and any subsequent photographs.
- If excessive cleaning is required, the wedding party will be billed at the rate of \$50 per hour.

Food, Drink, Gum, Tobacco, etc.

- These are absolutely, under no circumstances permitted in the church at any time, ever. If necessary, because of heat, plain bottled water is permitted in the church, but special care should be taken that none is spilled and that bottles are properly disposed.

Alcohol

- The presence of open alcohol in the church or on the parish grounds before or during the wedding will result in the immediate cancellation of the wedding to be rescheduled at the priest's convenience. Members of the wedding party suspected of having alcohol in their system at the time of the wedding will be dismissed from the wedding party.

Parish Hall

- If you wish to use the parish hall (Priori Hall) for your wedding reception, please contact the parish office to make sure it is available, to reserve the date and to acquire a Facility Use Agreement which must be signed prior to the wedding date. The fee is \$200, which does not include cleaning (if the contracting party can provide proof of outside insurance, the fee is \$100).

ALL of these policies and guidelines are subject to change by the pastor and/or parish council. For clarification of policies and the most up-to-date copy of the policies, please contact the parish office.

Contact information:

Sally Kaufman, executive assistant to the pastor.....sally@holyrosaryindy.org
or 317-636-4478, ext 104
Elizabeth Welch, music director.....liz@holyrosaryindy.org
Parish Office.....317-636-4478
“One in Christ” marriage preparation program.....www.oicindy.com
or 317-600-5629

Appendix: Holy Rosary Wedding Music Policy

- The music fee secures the services of the parish music director as coordinator and cantor for the wedding ceremony. It also secures the services of the parish organist.
- In the event that you wish to provide musicians for the ceremony, all musical selections and the coordination of guest musicians must take place through the parish music director and are subject to approval. A coordination fee will apply.
- Music for the ceremony is to be selected from the Holy Rosary Wedding Repertoire list, which will be provided by the music director. Please select your preferences from the list and fill in the selections where appropriate in the Order of Wedding Music form.
- The music fee and the completed Order of Wedding Music form must be submitted to parish office one month prior to the date of the ceremony.
- When not in use, the choir loft remains locked. No one will be admitted to the loft without the permission of the music director.

As a pre-requisite for beginning the marriage preparation and discernment process, the potential groom and bride are to sign the attached form acknowledging their receipt of the Holy Rosary Marriage Policy, the fee schedule, and their agreement to follow the aforementioned policy.

We have received a copy of the Holy Rosary Marriage Policies and have read and discussed the policy with a parish representative. We agree to abide by all of the policies and understand that failure to follow all of the policies could result in the delay or cancellation of our Wedding at Holy Rosary.

Signature of Groom

Printed Name

Date

Signature of Bride

Printed Name

Date