

MARRIAGE POLICY for HOLY ROSARY CHURCH



The Wedding Feast of Cana - Gerard David - 1500

THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY (CCC)

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 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. You should call the parish priest at least six months in advance of any proposed date for a wedding. Actually, it is good to call as soon as you are engaged or even better when you begin thinking about getting engaged.

What about Engagement?

When a couple decides to become engaged to marry, they should call the parish priest. **No one should make any arrangements or set a date for a wedding until the couple has spoken with the parish priest.** At this time the parish priest or deacon will want to congratulate the couple and pray with them, and offer the engagement blessing of the Church as they begin together to prepare for the marriage.

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)

What Are the Three Intentions of the Will Necessary for Marriage?

Permanence

Fidelity

Openness to the procreation of children

What Documents Will You 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.

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.

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.”

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.

What is 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 agrees to follow the parish marriage and wedding policies.

Who May Be Married at Holy Rosary Parish?

At least one party must be registered, supporting and active at the parish. 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

What Instructions Will You Need?

- The Archdiocesan One in Christ marriage preparation program, parts one and two. (A fee will be charged for this program.)
- The experience of meeting with a sponsor couple.
- Read *Good News about Sex and Marriage* by Christopher West .
- Read *Marriage is for Keeps* by John Kipley.
- Read *Familiaris Consortio* by Pope 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.

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.

What about the Wedding Ceremony?

Wait to plan the wedding ceremony until you speak to the parish priest or deacon about the requirements.

Plan on meeting with the parish priest or deacon at least 6 months before you propose to be married.

No dates will be set until you have met in person with the priest or deacon, all pertinent documentation has been received, and a minimum amount of Marriage Preparation has been completed.

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 must 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.

You are responsible for contracting altar servers for your wedding. Only males may serve at Holy Rosary. If requested, the parish will contract altar servers for you at a stipend of \$20 per server.

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 will be set for 6:45 PM on Friday, unless established otherwise by the priest or the couple. The rehearsal for a second wedding scheduled on a given Saturday will be set for 7:45 PM, unless established otherwise

by the priest or the couple.
Weddings are not permitted on the first Friday or Saturday of the month.
Weddings are not permitted during Lent.
Weddings may be held on other days of the week with the special permission of the pastor.

What Is the Cost of Wedding at Holy Rosary?

While a stipend is not strictly required of parishioners, it is always a good idea to make a gift to the parish at the time of your wedding. This shows your appreciation for all the parish has done for you in preparing you and in celebrating with you this gift of Matrimony. It also helps offset the expenses incurred by the parish as a result of your wedding.

It is customary to remember the priest with a monetary gift.

If there is music at your wedding, the required fee for the music director is \$200.00 (\$300.00 if he is needed at the rehearsal). Other music fees may apply depending on your needs.

There is a mandatory fee of \$100.00 for the parish wedding coordinator.

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.

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?

Let the Priest or Deacon know 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.

Again, no one should ever set anything 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 altar 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.

No one should ever set anything on the top of the Altars.

Aisle Runner?

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

Musicians?

The parish music director and/or parish organist will assist you for the wedding ceremony.

No secular [non-church] music should be used at the ceremony.

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 \$25 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. Special Event Insurance is required in order to use the hall; this often can be obtained through your homeowner's insurance, or can be purchased for \$125 through the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

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 or the wedding coordinators.

Contact information:

Fr McCarthy, Pastor (317) 636-4478
Luke Reese, M.M., music director luke@holyrosaryindy.org
or (317) 636-4478, ext. 107
Parish Office (317) 636-4478
One in Christ marriage preparation program www.oicindy.com

*As a pre-requisite for beginning the marriage preparation and discernment process the potential bride and groom should please both sign the attached form acknowledging their receipt of the **HOLY ROSARY MARRIAGE POLICIES** and their agreement to follow the aforementioned policies.*

We have received a copy of the Holy Rosary Marriage Policies and have read and discussed the policy with the pastor. 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.

Name _____ Date _____

and

Name _____ Date _____