

Place Of Celebration

The Sacrament of Marriage is to be celebrated in the parish Church. Couples are reminded that their marriage is an act of **public** worship (from which we get the word Liturgy), and as such should be celebrated in the place where the parish community (assembly) gathers to celebrate.

The place where the sacrament is celebrated should reflect the fact that one of the Church's Sacraments is being celebrated, and that this is truly an act of worship of the Christian community.

Do I have to take a Marriage Preparation Course?

It is required that all couples preparing for marriage in the Archdiocese of St. John's to take some form of marriage preparation course prior to their wedding. Please call 709-726-3660 (St. John's) 709-279-1625 (Marystown) to register for one of the courses offered by the Archdiocese. **If you are living outside the archdiocese you will have to contact your local parish.**

Selection Of Music

As noted, a wedding is principally a time of worship and as such the music that is selected ought to reflect this reality.

Therefore only certain hymns and musical settings are appropriate for a Catholic wedding. Please ask the Priest or the parish secretary for the name and contact

a parish music minister. To ensure that no one's feelings are hurt and to safeguard against any unnecessary embarrassment, please consult with the parish priest or parish music minister prior to the selection of **any** music.

Couples are responsible for any contract/financial arrangement made with musicians.

Are Cameras And Video Equipment Permitted In The Church?

An official photographer and/or a videographer are permitted for weddings. He or she should consult the priest prior to the wedding about location etc. Devices and units for telecasting/broadcasting are not permitted in the Church. **Couples are responsible for any contract/financial arrangement made with photographers and /or videographers.**

"Unity Candles"

Unity candles, while acceptable in other Christian Traditions and even in some other Catholic parishes are not to be used in our parishes. The Catholic Marriage Ritual has an integral beauty which must be maintained. The current Roman Catholic Ritual makes no provision for any candle ceremony, if you wish to use one please speak to the parish priest. You may wish to incorporate the use of Unity Candles into your reception.

What If My Fiancé(e) Is Not Catholic?

If one of the parties is not a Roman Catholic, there is a special liturgy that is celebrated outside the context of a Mass. The structure of the liturgy is identical to that with a Mass, only there is no celebration of the Eucharist.

The foundational experience of the wedding liturgy is the celebration of unity, that 2 become 1 flesh. If the marriage is a "mixed marriage", and the Eucharist was celebrated, then disunity, confusion, and a lack of hospitality would be emphasized in that a number of the guests attending would be uncertain of responses and ritual actions particular to a Catholic celebration of the Eucharist.

Selection Of Readings

All of the readings, with the exception of the Gospel, are chosen by the couple. Outside the Easter Season, the 1st reading is to be from the Hebrew Scriptures ("Old Testament"), followed by a Psalm, and then a reading from the New Testament, **which is not a Gospel.** During the Easter Season, both the 1st and the 2nd reading are taken from the New Testament.

A sample copy of these readings is available for you to take home and discuss with one another, to make choices which are appropriate for you. Once you have selected these readings, you should inform the Priest as soon as possible.

Orders Of Service Or “Programs”

Orders of Service, or “programs” as they are commonly called, are encouraged, but not required. They provide your guests with a nice memento of your celebration and they allow those who are not familiar with the Catholic Marriage Rite an opportunity to participate more fully in the celebration.

However, the printing and the distribution of such materials is the sole responsibility of the couple.

What About Decorations?

Any and all decorations should be modest and convoke a sense of beauty and they **must** be discussed with the Priest, **prior** to being purchased.

The throwing of confetti, rice, and the ‘dropping’ of flower pedals is not to be done on Church property. **The couple is responsible for all setup and removal of decorations.**

Can We Write Our Own Vows?

In short, the couple is not permitted to write their own vows. The principle and over-riding reason is a Canonical (Church Law) issue. Since the primary role of the celebrating Priest is to ensure that the marriage is valid, and altering the words of the prescribed text jeopardizes this validity, the couple is not permitted to write their own vows.

What is the fee for my wedding?

The fee for a wedding outside of Mass (i.e. a Wedding Service) is \$150.00, which includes the offering to the priest and the contribution to the parish. **The fee for a Wedding Mass is \$150.00** which includes the offering to the priest and the contribution to the parish.

What documentation do I need to provide?

(If you are residing outside of the parish you will have to contact your local parish to set up an appointment to see the priest ASAP.)

At the initial meeting with the Priest, you will need to provide a recent copy of your **Baptismal** certificate (issued within six months of your wedding), as well as the names and the addresses of your witnesses (i.e. the Best Man and the Maid/Matron of Honor). **Within 30 days of your marriage will need to provide the parish office a Province of NL marriage license.** You will need to provide the certificate that you were issued upon the completion of the Marriage Preparation program, as well as any other supporting documentation that the Priest or parish may require. **If you or your spouse were previously married you will need to provide a copy of your annulment certificate. If you do not have one please speak to the parish priest ASAP!**

*“May The Lord Bless Us
All The Days Of Our
Lives”*

***Some Considerations For The Preparation
Of The Wedding Liturgy***

The parish family of:

***St. Patrick’s
&
Sacred Heart***

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