

The Sacrament of Matrimony

Holy Rosary Church

Although liturgical guidelines for celebrating the Sacrament of Matrimony are determined by the Church, specific policies may differ from parish to parish. This pamphlet is a brief overview of policies and procedures specific to this parish.

Parish Sacramental Preparation includes:

1. Two meetings with the priest who will witness your vows and celebrate the Rite of Matrimony. Outside priests may be invited with approval.
2. Sacramental preparation and counseling with the Director of Parish Education
3. Completion of Freedom to Marry paperwork
4. Rehearsal and ceremony coordination
5. Consultation with the Director of Music
6. Natural Family Planning overview; see nwfs.org for online and class schedules
7. A copy of the revised edition of *Together for Life*. As of December 31, 2016, there are three specific Rites for celebration of Matrimony within the Church; this booklet not only outlines these liturgical changes, is useful as you choose readings and plan for the ceremony.

Couples are encouraged to consider additional preparation through the Northwest Family Services Counseling Center (nwfs.org) or The Northwest Catholic Counseling Center (nwcounseling.org); online classes are also available.

According to Canon Law, “marriage between Catholics or between a Catholic and a baptized non-Catholic is to be celebrated in a parish church;” most weddings celebrated at Holy Rosary are parishioner weddings. If you regularly attend Holy Rosary but are not sure if you are registered, please check at the office.

Non-parishioners, which includes adult children of parents who attend Holy Rosary, need the approval of our pastor and written permission of your parish priest to receive the Sacrament outside your parish church. If you are completing your paperwork and marriage preparation at another parish, the prenuptial file (Freedom to Marry and Witness Testimonies; applicable permissions and delegations; recently issued Baptism certificates; and verification of marriage preparation or engaged counseling) must be completed there and sent to your local (Arch)diocese. It will then be forwarded to the Archdiocese of Portland for approval before it can be sent to Holy Rosary Church. If this is your situation, please bear in mind that this completed file must be received by us at least one month before the wedding date.

If either of you has been divorced and not granted a Decree of Nullity or permission to marry due to Lack of Form, please make an appointment to speak with our pastor or the Director of Education. We are unable to schedule the ceremony until your freedom to marry in the Catholic Church has been established by a Tribunal.

Catholics who wish to have a civil marriage recognized by the Church should make an appointment to discuss the steps necessary to schedule a Catholic convalidation.

Ceremony

There are three distinct forms for the Rite of Matrimony in the Catholic Church. Consent and vows between two Catholics are exchanged at a Nuptial Mass. When a Catholic marries a non-Catholic Christian, or enters into matrimony with a person who has not been baptized, the Rite of Marriage is celebrated outside of Mass; the form for these last two rites will be explained more fully when you begin preparation.

Dates, Times and Schedules

- Weddings are generally on weeknights or during the day on Saturdays. Saturday weddings begin between 11 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.
- Convalidations are usually scheduled on a weekday mornings or early evening.
- The Sacrament of Matrimony is not celebrated on Sunday, unless at one of the Masses; Holy Days of Obligation; or during the seasons of Advent and Lent.
- Rehearsals in the church begin after 5:30 p.m. on an available evening during the week of the wedding, or on a Thursday or Friday morning at 10:00 a.m.
- The church is open 1 hour before the wedding, with rooms in Siena Hall for the wedding party unlocked 2 hours prior to the ceremony. If access is needed outside this time frame, please call the office to see if arrangements are possible.

The Wedding Party

For the sake of non-Catholic members of your wedding party, please share in advance what will be expected at the ceremony; this is especially important if yours will be Nuptial Mass. The Best Man and Maid of Honor need not be Catholic, although both must be at least 18 years of age. Lectors at Mass must be Catholic, although non-Catholics may serve as readers when the marriage is celebrated outside of Mass.

There is no rule governing the size of your wedding party, but due to space in the Sanctuary you are encouraged to keep the total number of attendants to no more than 6 on each side. Children under three are generally too young to be included in the wedding party; be mindful of this when asking toddlers to participate as flower girls or ring bearers.

License

All couples must apply for an **Oregon** license issued from any county office and valid throughout the state. For convenience, the closest location to Holy Rosary is at the corner of N.E. Grand Avenue and Hawthorne. There is a three-day waiting period before a validly issued license can be used. Keep yours in a safe place, and bring it to the rehearsal. If you are applying in Multnomah County, you may access the application at www4.multco.us/OnlineMarriage/home.aspx; it needs to be submitted, however, in person by the couple.

Music

Liturgical music is prayer, so the selections you choose for your liturgy must be reverent and reflect the faith of the Church. In accordance with the *U.S. Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy*, all texts must be "sacred, theologically sound, and liturgically and Scripturally inspired. Movie sound tracks and songs and pop music are out of place within the liturgy."

Music is arranged through the Parish Director of Music, Dean Applegate; please call him at the parish office before finalizing any selections or arranging for outside musicians. Blake Applegate, Cantor for Holy Rosary Church, is also the director of *Cantores in Ecclesia* (www.cantoresinecclesia.org); speak with him directly if you interested in a cantor or the choir (503-740-2019.) Music in church, whether by cantor, choir, soloist or congregation, is not performance but worship: a living offering, lifted to God. In keeping with this, prerecorded music is not permitted.

Photographs

Formal photographs in the church before and after the ceremony are limited to those of the couple, two witnesses, and celebrant. Wedding party and family pictures may be taken in the Siena Hall or, weather permitting, outdoors. During the liturgy, photographers are asked to remain outside the sanctuary, avoid crossing in front of the altar, take all photographs as discreetly as possible, and remain on the main floor. Access to the rear balcony is not permitted during the ceremony.

Flowers, Candles and Decorations

It is not necessary to "decorate the church" for a wedding ceremony or Nuptial Mass. If you do choose to bring floral arrangements, they are to be placed at the sides of tabernacle and/or the bases of statues. Decorations and flower arrangements should not be placed on or in front of the altar, on the Communion rail, in the aisles or beside the free standing kneelers.

In addition:

- ❑ Seasonal arrangements may already be in place at Christmas, Easter, and on Holy Days; please ask if your ceremony falls during these periods.
- ❑ Do not decorate pillars, rear balcony, the outside staircase, or any doors.
- ❑ Flower girls are not to distribute fresh or artificial petals during the procession or recessional; there are other beautiful traditions here at Holy Rosary if you are including flower girls in your processional.
- ❑ Guests may not throw rice, petals, confetti or birdseed at the conclusion of the ceremony, or in any way impede the entrance and exit to the church.
- ❑ If pew bows are used to designate reserved seating, they should be attached with florist tape or clips designed for that purpose; other tapes and adhesives are difficult to remove and mar the surface of the wood.
- ❑ Do not bring plant stands, plants, additional candles or candelabras to the church.
- ❑ The unity candle is not part of the Catholic wedding liturgy.

Reconciliation

Marriage in the Church, a guidebook from the Archdiocese of Portland, reminds couples that “the decision to marry is a noble and serious one. An important part of your immediate marriage preparation is your readiness to receive the sacrament in the state of grace and to fully understand what it means to marry in the Church.” Please prayerfully consider reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation close to the wedding date.

Fees

PARISHIONERS

\$650.00, which includes a non-refundable deposit of **\$100**.

The balance after deposit is due TWO WEEKS before the rehearsal.

NON-PARISHIONERS

\$950.00, which includes a non-refundable deposit of **\$100**.

The balance after deposit is due TWO WEEKS before the rehearsal. Parish fees include the services of a parish organist and our wedding coordinator. Rehearsal and ceremony dates are entered into the parish calendar upon receipt of your initial deposit.

Please keep this pamphlet with your other information as you plan for your wedding day, and refer to it when meeting with your photographer and other professionals.

All outside professionals hired for your wedding, especially those who have not previously worked at Holy Rosary Church, are invited to call and set up an appointment to visit the church.

Other Considerations

- It is customary to give a stipend to the priest who celebrates your wedding.
- If yours is a Nuptial Mass and you wish for the parish to provide acolytes, please contact us at least 6 weeks before the wedding date. Servers are generally given a “tip” on the day of the ceremony, usually \$20.00.
- The Director of Parish Education will coordinate and attend your rehearsal, assisting you and your wedding party from your arrival at the church until the civil license is signed after the ceremony. This service is included in your fee; please do not provide an outside coordinator for the liturgy.
- The services of our Church organist fee are included in your basic fee. Any additional musicians must be approved and arranged through the Director of Music, and paid separately no later than the date of your rehearsal. Holy Rosary does not have a piano.
- The civil license fee is payable to the county, not the parish. Please be advised that we cannot marry a couple without a valid Oregon license.
- Visiting clergy may witness your vows with permission of our pastor. Please let us know as soon as possible if you plan to invite a priest from outside the parish, as arrangements need to be made well in advance.
- Holy Rosary enforces a strict non-smoking policy in any indoor facility, including restrooms.
- Personal property should be collected after the ceremony, as we cannot take responsibility for items left behind.
- A suitable time to “toast the bride and groom” is the rehearsal dinner or wedding reception. Please do not bring alcohol onto Church property unless you have made prior arrangements with staff for an onsite reception.
- If you are interested in renting any of our parish facilities for your reception please contact our parish event coordinator.

Call the parish office if you wish to make an appointment with the pastor, or speak Janine Applegate, Director of Education (janineapplegate@hotmail.com), who will work with you both over the coming months and on the days of your rehearsal and ceremony. Specific questions or concerns related to these guidelines or our initial letter to your inquiry should be directed to the pastor.

All pre-marriage preparation is private and confidential.

*Holy Rosary Church is located at 375 NE Clackamas Street, Portland OR, 97232
PHONE: 503 235-3163
FAX: 503 235-3164
WEBSITE: holyrosarypdx.org*

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