

Wedding Ceremonies at Holy Rosary Church

Canon Law states that “marriage between Catholics or between a Catholic and a baptized non-Catholic is to be celebrated in a parish church.” Although the Rite of Marriage is much the same in every parish, you may find that parishes differ in marriage preparation requirements, liturgical style and ceremony guidelines. The following should help clarify our policies and procedures at Holy Rosary.

Holy rosary Parish Marriage Preparation consists of:

1. A meeting with the priest who will witness your vows
2. *Together for Life*, a liturgical guide, and staff assistance planning the ceremony
3. Completion of Archdiocesan *Freedom to Marry* and *Witness* forms
4. Parish marriage preparation. *Always Faithful, Engaged Encounter* and other recommended programs are laudable, but do not replace the parish program.
5. Administration of the FOCCUS inventory and follow-up counseling.
6. Consultation with the Director of Music
7. Natural Family Planning overview and calendar of upcoming NFP classes

Non-parishioners, who have met conditions outlined in our introductory letter, will need the written permission of their pastors to marry outside their parishes. All required paperwork (Freedom to Marry and witness forms; applicable permissions and delegations; recently issued Baptism certificates and verification of marriage preparation or engaged counseling) should be gathered and collated at the couple’s home parish and forwarded to Holy Rosary at least six weeks before the wedding date.

If one of you has been divorced and a Decree of Nullity or Lack of Form Decree has not been granted by the Tribunal, please contact the Director of Education as we cannot schedule your ceremony until this is resolved. If you are a parishioner living within the jurisdiction of the Archdiocese of Portland, we are more than happy to help you file a petition. Civilly married Catholics who wish their marriage “blessed” should be aware that marriage preparation and paperwork is required for all Catholic weddings. Please call for details.

Questions concerning these guidelines, including rules governing cohabitation and policies for non-parishioners, should be directed to the pastor. All marriage preparation is private and confidential.

Dates, Times and Schedules

- ❑ Nuptial Masses on Saturdays begin between 11 a.m. and 2:00 pm. Convalidations are generally on weekday mornings or during Mass. Friday evening ceremonies may not begin before 7 pm., nor on First Fridays.
- ❑ Weddings are not scheduled on Sundays, Holy Days of Obligation, during Advent and Lent, or on First Fridays.
- ❑ Rehearsals begin after 5:30 on any available evening preceding the wedding. or Friday mornings at 10:15.

- ❑ The church is open 1 hour before the wedding, and you may reserve rooms in Siena Hall for up to 2½ hours prior to the ceremony. If access is needed outside this time frame, call the office to see if arrangements are possible.

Your Ceremony

Vows are exchanged during the *Rite of Marriage*, which for Catholics is generally within the context of Mass. United as one body in the Sacrament of Marriage, it is appropriate that your first act as husband and wife is to receive the one Body of Christ in the Eucharist. When a Catholic marries a non-Catholic, however, the *Rite of Marriage* is usually outside of Mass. In either case, you will be given a workbook with norms to assist you choose readings and plan your ceremony, as your wedding is part of the rich liturgical life of the church.

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 to be ready to receive the sacrament in the state of grace and to fully understand what it means to marry in the church.” Marriage preparation for all Catholics is reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation close to the wedding date.

The Wedding Party

As your wedding party may not consist of only Catholics, do share in advance what is expected at a Catholic ceremony. If yours is a Nuptial Mass, only properly disposed and prepared Catholics receive communion; others are welcome to come forward for a blessing. The Best Man and Maid of Honor need not be Catholics, although both must be at least 18 years of age. Non-Catholic Christians may serve as readers, although acolytes must be confirmed Catholics. Children under three are generally too young to be part of the wedding party; please include toddlers with caution! There is no rule governing the size of your wedding party, but you are encouraged to keep the total number of attendants to no more than 6 on each side.

License

A civil license, issued from any county office, is valid throughout the state. The closest location to Holy Rosary is at the corner of N.E. Grand Avenue and Hawthorne. All couples must apply for an **Oregon** license. 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 church on the day of your rehearsal.

Flowers, Candles and Decorations

- ❑ It is not necessary to “decorate the church” for a wedding ceremony, but if you bring flowers, arrangements for placement at the sides of tabernacle and/or the base of the statues must be brought to church intact.

- ❑ Flowers may not be placed on or in front of the altar, on the Communion rail, or beside the kneelers.
- ❑ Seasonal arrangements are already in place for Christmas, Easter, Holy Days, etc; please ask if your ceremony falls on these dates.
- ❑ Do not decorate pillars, rear balcony, the outside staircase or any doors.
- ❑ Do not distribute petals down the center aisle, or permit guests to toss rice, petals, confetti or birdseed at the conclusion of the ceremony.
- ❑ If pew bows are used, attach them with florist tape or clips designed for that purpose; transparent tape, strapping tape etc. are difficult to remove and mar the surface of the wood.
- ❑ Do not bring additional plant stands, plants, candles or candelabras.
- ❑ Lighting of a unity candle is not included in the liturgy.

Photographs

Formal church photos before and after the ceremony are of the bride and groom. Wedding party and family pictures may be taken in the Parish Hall or, weather permitting, outdoors. Although we do not limit photographs during the ceremony, flash is restricted to the processional and recessional.

Photographers are to remain outside the sanctuary, avoid crossing in front of the altar, take all photographs as discretely as possible, and remain on the main floor. Access to the rear balcony is not permitted during the ceremony.

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

Music

As liturgical music is prayer, music you select for your wedding liturgy must reflect the faith of the Church. In accordance with the U.S. Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy, texts are to 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 for your ceremony is to be arranged through the Parish Director of Music, Dean Applegate; contact him before finalizing music selections, inviting outside musicians, or if you are interested in the Schola or Cantor. Blake Applegate, who is the Cantor, is also the Director of *Cantores in Ecclesia* (www.cantoresinecclesia.org); speak with him directly if you interested in hiring the choir. Both can be reached at 503 295 2811.

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.

Fees

The following fees include the organist and wedding coordinator; installment plans available:

PARISHIONERS: **\$550**, which includes a non-refundable fee of **\$100**, the balance due TWO WEEKS before the rehearsal.

NON-PARISHIONERS: **\$900**, which includes a non-refundable fee of **\$100**, the balance due no later than TWO WEEKS before the rehearsal.

A FEW ADDITIONAL NOTES:

- A stipend or gift to the priest who celebrates your wedding is customary.
- We coordinate your rehearsal and assist you from the arrival of the wedding party to the moment you walk down the aisle. This service is included in your fee; please do not provide an outside coordinator.
- The organist is included in your parish fee. Outside musicians must be approved and arranged through the Director of Music, and are paid separately at the rehearsal or wedding day.
- The civil license fee is payable to the county, not the parish.
- Visiting Priests or Deacons may witness your vows with permission of our pastor. Please let us know as soon as possible, as special arrangements need to be made well in advance.
- There is no smoking in any indoor facility, including the restrooms.
- See that all personal property is removed from the church and Siena Hall after the ceremony. We cannot take responsibility for items left behind.
- Do not consume alcoholic beverages on Church property. The time to “toast the bride and groom” is at the rehearsal dinner or the reception!
- If you are interested in using Siena Hall for your reception site, we will be glad to discuss it with you. Receptions in what was previously known as “Rosary Hall” must be arranged through the Ambridge Center. When inquiring, let them know you are having your wedding at Holy Rosary.

Please keep this information and refer to it during the planning process.

Call the parish office, 503 235-3163, if you wish to make an appointment with the pastor or Janine Applegate, Director of Education (janineapplegate@excite.com), who will assist you over the coming months and coordinate your rehearsal and wedding.

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