



# *The Sacrament of Marriage*



**HOLY ROSARY**  
Church & Dominican Priory





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## *Weddings at Holy Rosary: Before You Begin*

Congratulations as you prepare for marriage in the Catholic Church. Sacraments are generally received in a home parish, and the Sacrament of Matrimony is no exception. If you are a parishioner but are you are not sure if you have registered, or if you wish to update your address or other information, please call the office at (503) 235-3163 and the secretary will be glad to assist you. If you are a practicing Catholic registered elsewhere, permission to marry at Holy Rosary Church may be granted under any of the following conditions:

- Baptism, First Communion, or Confirmation was at Holy Rosary
- Parents or grandparents are current parishioners
- One or both was registered at Holy Rosary before moving out of the area
- You have special circumstances you would like to discuss with the pastor

Mindful of the teachings of the Church, cohabiting couples are asked to separate during Sacramental preparation. We realize this may be a difficulty, but marriage in the Catholic Church involves more than planning the wedding and reception. If your circumstances would make this a particular hardship, we encourage you to request an appointment with the pastor.

Sacramental preparation and wedding planning generally takes six months. If you wish to marry here after reviewing our policies and guidelines in this packet, please contact the parish office at [office@holyroarypdx.org](mailto:office@holyroarypdx.org) or 503-235-3163 to make an appointment with one of our priests. We look forward to assisting you during this important time, and wish you many blessings on your engagement and future married life.

**Fr. Peter Do, OP | Pastor | Holy Rosary Church**  
375 NE Clackamas St. Portland, OR 97232 | 503-235-3163 | [peter@holyroarypdx.org](mailto:peter@holyroarypdx.org)

# Overview

Preparation requirements, liturgical practices, scheduling, and ceremony guidelines for celebration of the Sacrament of Matrimony may differ from parish to parish. This pamphlet will briefly outline general conditions for a valid marriage in the Catholic Church, as well as those 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**
3. **Completion of Freedom to Marry paperwork**
4. **Rehearsal and ceremony coordination**
5. **Consultation with the Director of Music**
6. **Natural Family Planning overview and calendar of upcoming NFP classes**

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 attend but are not sure if you are registered, please check at the office.

Non-parishioners, including grown children of active parishioners, must obtain approval from our pastor and provide written permission from their parish priest to receive the Sacrament here. 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) is to be collated at the couples’ home parish, which will send it to the local Diocese. It is then forwarded for approval to the Archdiocese of Portland and sent to Holy Rosary Church.

**ALL PAPERWORK MUST BE RECEIVED BY US AT LEAST SIX WEEKS BEFORE THE WEDDING DATE.**

If either, whether Catholic or not, is divorced and has not obtained an Annulment or Lack of Form Decree, please make an appointment to speak with our pastor. We are unable to schedule the Rite of Matrimony until your freedom to marry in the Catholic Church has been determined by a Tribunal.

Civily married Catholics who wish to have that union recognized by the Church should make an appointment to discuss steps necessary to schedule a Catholic convalidation.

# Ceremony

There are three Rites 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 outside of Mass; the form and outline for these last two rites will be explained more fully when you begin preparation.

## Dates, Times and Schedules

- Weddings are to be scheduled at least six months in advance.
- Saturday weddings may be scheduled between 11 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.
- Weddings are not scheduled on Holy Days of Obligation.
- Rehearsals in the church begin after 5:30 p.m. on an available evening during the week of the wedding, or Thursday or Friday mornings 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, 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 might be expected at the ceremony. This is especially important if yours will be a 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 read 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; this can be issued from any county office and is 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 church by the day of your rehearsal.

# Music

As liturgical music is prayer, 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 to be arranged through the Parish Director of Music, Blake Applegate; please contact him at [blake@holyrosarypdx.org](mailto:blake@holyrosarypdx.org) before planning the music for your wedding. 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. Holy Rosary Church will supply the services of organist and cantor. The fee for the church organist is \$175, and the fee for the church's cantor is \$175. Musicians should be paid separately through Blake Applegate no later than the date of your rehearsal. The use of outside musicians is not allowed. If a full choir is desired, Cantores in Ecclesia, our choir in residence, may be hired. This would also be arranged through Holy Rosary's Director of Music.

# Photographs

Formal photographs in the church before and after the ceremony are limited to those of the couple and celebrant. Wedding party and family pictures may be taken in Siena Hall or, weather permitting, outdoors. Although we do not limit photographs during the ceremony, 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. 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.

# Flowers, Candles and Decorations

- It is not necessary to "decorate the church" for a wedding ceremony.
- If you do choose to bring flowers, these arrangements are placed at the sides of tabernacle and/or at the bases of statues, and must be brought to church intact. We ask that you not assemble floral arrangements here.
- Flowers should not be placed on or in front of the altar, on the Communion rail, or beside the free standing kneelers.
- Seasonal arrangements may already be in place at Christmas, Easter, and on Holy Days; please ask if your ceremony will fall during these periods.
- Do not decorate pillars, rear balcony, the outside staircase, or any doors.

- Flower girls are asked not to distribute fresh or artificial petals during the procession or recessional, nor are guests to throw rice, petals, confetti or birdseed at the conclusion of the ceremony.
- If pew bows are used, 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, extra 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 to be ready to receive the sacrament in the state of grace and to fully understand what it means to marry in the church.” As you are preparing to receive one of the seven Sacraments, preparation for all Catholics includes reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation close to the wedding date.

## Financial Considerations

No one will be denied the services of the church for financial reasons, although please note that musician’s fees are a separate matter as described above. Holy Rosary has a parish wedding coordinator, Noelle Liwanag. If you would like to donate to cover her **\$200** stipend the church gives her, it would be much appreciated. Please do not provide an outside coordinator for the liturgy. If you would like to make a donation for the use of the church, recommended amounts are listed below.

- The recommended donation for use of the church for PARISHIONERS is **\$500**.
- The recommended donation for use of the church for NON-PARISHIONERS is **\$800**.

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

## Other Considerations

- A civil license fee is payable to the county, not the parish. We cannot marry a couple in the state of Oregon without a valid license.
- Visiting priests may witness your vows with permission of our pastor. Please let us know as soon as possible if you plan to invite someone from outside the parish, as special arrangements need to be made well in advance.
- Holy Rosary enforces a non-smoking policy in any indoor facility, including the restrooms.

- Please remove personal property after the ceremony, as we cannot take responsibility for items left behind.
- The time to “toast the bride and groom” is at your rehearsal dinner or reception. Please do not bring alcoholic beverages to Church property unless you have made prior arrangements to serve alcohol in Siena Hall during your reception.
- If you are interested in renting Siena Hall or Aquinas Hall for your reception site please contact [office@holyrosarypdx.org](mailto:office@holyrosarypdx.org) or 503-235-3163.

Call the parish office if you wish to make an appointment with the pastor or have specific questions or concerns related to any of these guidelines. All pre-marriage preparation is private and confidential.

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