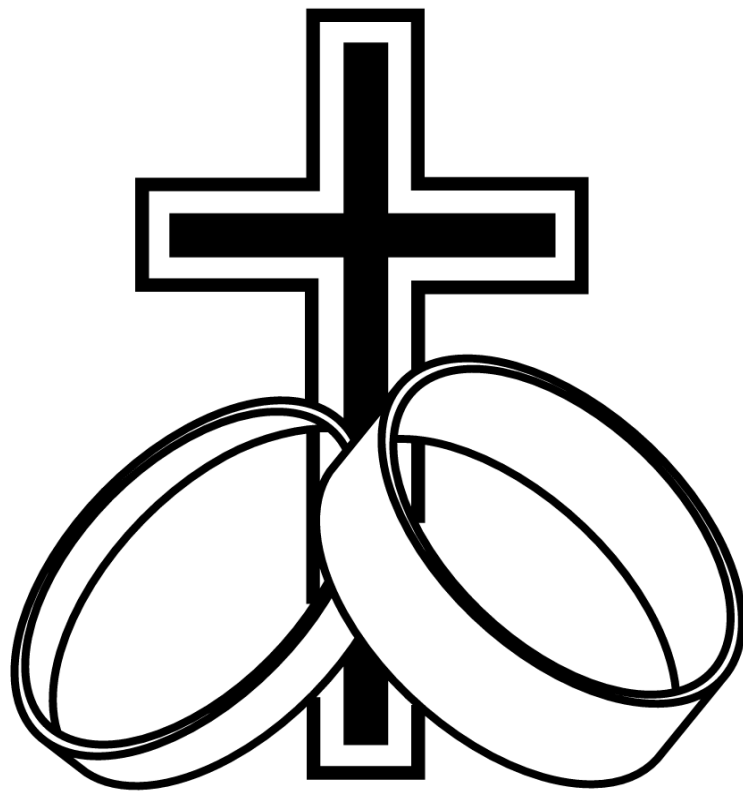


Preparing for Marriage
and
Planning a Wedding



A Guide for
Saint Rose of Lima
Catholic Church
Roseville, Minnesota

MARRIAGE ARRANGEMENTS

The staff of Saint Rose of Lima is happy to help you in preparation for your Marriage and planning your wedding. The following guidelines are meant to assist you in making this a very special time in your lives.

The Place

When both the bride and the groom are Catholic, the wedding may take place in the parish of either of them. It is understood that the bride and groom are practicing Catholics and that the wedding will take place in the parish in which one of them is registered as a parishioner.

When one party is a non-Catholic Christian and the other party is a practicing Catholic, arrangements may be made to celebrate the wedding in either Church provided that the proper permission is obtained from the Archbishop. Your priest or deacon will help you with this request.

The wedding of a practicing Catholic and a non-Christian must take place in the Catholic Church.

Weddings at Saint Rose are celebrated in the main Church.

By Archdiocesan Policy, Catholic weddings are celebrated only in Church - not at home, outdoors in backyards or parks, halls or other places that are not normally worship space.

The Date And Time

The date for the wedding is determined by the couple's readiness for Christian Marriage. This readiness can be made apparent only after meeting with the priest or deacon from the parish. We urge you not to set any dates before this meeting. Wedding dates cannot be given out on the phone by the parish office staff.

According to Archdiocesan Policy, weddings may be scheduled any day of the week except Sunday. The customary time for weddings is Friday night or Saturday during the day.

Here at Saint Rose of Lima we will schedule only one wedding on a Friday evening at a time agreed upon by the couple and the presider. Saturday weddings may be either 11:00am or 2:00pm. This schedule has been established to provide for an appropriate amount of time to accommodate the number of wedding requests we receive. It is also in keeping with our weekend schedule which begins with the Sacrament of Penance at 3:30pm and Eucharist at 4:30pm on Saturday. We do not schedule weddings on Saturday evenings.

A Special Encouragement

During the time of Marriage preparation you as a couple will be subject to many outside influences. Our society does not value the commitment of Marriage as strongly as we believers do. Nowhere is this more evident than in the acceptance of couples who live together before Marriage. We strongly encourage you uphold the sacred beginning of your life together as your wedding day and to live separately until that day.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Please allow a minimum of six months for preparation. To assure the date you want for your wedding, and to avoid unnecessary pressure, you are encouraged to begin the process much earlier. As a rule, most couples begin nine to twelve months in advance of the proposed wedding date.

The wedding itself is a day or the better part of a weekend. Marriage is for a lifetime. With that in mind, Marriage preparation takes priority over wedding plans. Preparation for marriage involves three areas.

First is your own spiritual foundation for Marriage. As mentioned earlier, those requesting Marriage in the Church are expected to be active in their faith life. This includes developing a prayer relationship with the Lord both as individuals and as a couple. It also includes regular participation in Sunday worship and other activities of the faith community.

While it is not a requirement for Marriage, if a Catholic has not been Confirmed or a non-Catholic is interested in the Catholic Faith, your priest or deacon will be able to guide you in those areas of faith development. Specifically, the parish provides the R.C.I.A. program each year. R.C.I.A. runs approximately from October until Easter.

Second, as a couple, you will be given the opportunity to evaluate your relationship through the Prepare/Enrich Program. After your initial meeting with your priest or deacon you will be matched with a specially trained, volunteer married couple who will work with you as mentors in Marriage preparation. After you complete the customized Prepare/Enrich Relationship Inventory online, the mentor couple will review the results with you.

This will provide you the opportunity, over the course of several sessions, to discuss important relationship issues with each other with the guidance of the mentor couple. Ideally, you will complete the meetings with the couple about six months before the proposed wedding date.

Third, as a couple, you will arrange to participate in an Engaged Couple Conference. There are a number of Engaged Conferences available in both Saint Paul and Minneapolis, some on weekends, some on week nights, and a variety of different formats. Your priest or deacon will provide you with brochures and details. You may choose the program that will work best for you and schedule it when it is most convenient. Since you are responsible for participating in an engaged conference, we recommend that you select and register for a conference as soon as possible, according to when it best fits into your schedule.

There is a cost for these conferences which is minimal compared to what you may spend for your wedding day. Remember that Marriage is for a lifetime. We hope you will consider the cost of the engaged conference as an investment in your Marriage.

PLANNING THE WEDDING -- LITURGY AND MUSIC

A wedding must reflect both the Liturgy of the Sacrament of Marriage and the Faith and personality of the couple. The best way to get a sense of how liturgy is celebrated at Saint Rose is to pay close attention to the pattern of the Sunday Liturgy. Note especially the participation of the congregation in the prayers and the music. As a couple you will be invited to make choices so that the liturgy will genuinely reflect your faith and your prayer.

A Liturgy Planning Workshop is offered as needed. This two hour workshop is held in Church to give you a hands-on feel for planning your wedding liturgy. At this time you will be given a planning sheet with lots of options and ideas. You will also receive a copy of "Together for Life." This booklet contains an outline of the wedding liturgy and many of the selections for prayers, blessings, Scripture readings, petitions, vows, etc. After you have attended the workshop, make an appointment to meet with your priest or deacon to go over your choices. He will assist you in making decisions and will invite your input and creativity.

A Music Planning Workshop is also offered, usually within a week or two after the liturgy workshop. Music is an integral part of the wedding liturgy and as such it is intended to enhance the attitude of worship and prayer. During this workshop, held in the church music space, a variety of suitable music will be played and sung. This will help you to distinguish between music intended for liturgy and music which is better suited for the wedding reception and dance. In general, non-liturgical music is not used during the wedding liturgy or beforehand as prelude music.

Using our Sunday liturgical music as a model, note that music is intended to involve the congregation in the act of worship. Normally responses and acclamations such as the psalm after the First Reading and the "Alleluia," are sung by the congregation. When there is a wedding Mass, the "Holy, Holy, Holy Lord," "Christ has died...", "Amen," and "Lamb of God," are also sung by all. The congregation should be invited to join in other hymns and refrains as well. As on Sunday, music performed by a cantor alone should be kept to a minimum. Saint Rose of Lima's Music Director will help you with the final selection of music for your wedding.

As a parish policy, Saint Rose organist/pianist Dana Jones-Sell will play for your wedding. She is familiar with our presider, cantors, instruments, sound system, and our customs. This will ensure that your wedding liturgy will run smoothly

The cantors who lead the singing on Sundays at Saint Rose are available to minister at your wedding. The list of Cantors is on our website at WWW.SAINTROSEOFLIMA.NET Scroll down to the link on Music Ministry. The Music Director will also help you in the selection of other musicians and instruments such as a guitar, harp, flute, oboe, violin, and trumpet if you so desire. Other singers and musicians you may suggest must be approved by the Music Director. By way of reminder, because your wedding is the celebration of a sacrament, all musicians for weddings must be musically and liturgically competent and able to assist the congregational singing. (Here's a helpful note for your program. The singer is not referred to as "Soloist." The correct term is "Cantor.")

Our Music Director is Diane Kretsch. Please feel free to call her with any questions you may have about music. Her phone number is 651-639-1915.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Documents

The Archdiocesan Prenuptial Questionnaire will be completed with all couples. It will be signed by the bride and groom and the priest or deacon.

Baptismal information is necessary from both the bride and groom. Catholics must contact the parish where their Baptism took place and request a new certificate. This will be kept with the Questionnaire. Partners with other religious affiliations are asked to bring in their baptismal certificate indicating the name and address of the Church and the date of the Baptism. This certificate will be copied and returned.

Occasionally a form attesting that both the bride and groom are free to marry will be requested. This would be filled out with the priest or deacon by a parent, guardian, relative or friend.

A Marriage License from the State of Minnesota must be obtained from any County Court House. If paid by cash, the license will be issued one week after the application. By check, the waiting time is three weeks. The current license fee is \$100. When you have completed your Marriage preparation, your priest or deacon will issue you a certificate allowing you to save \$70 on the license fee. The License is good for six months and so may be obtained early.

Witnesses

The Best Man and the Maid or Matron of Honor do not have to be Catholic. By Minnesota State Law, to be witnesses they must be at least 16 years of age. They are required to stand next to the Bride & Groom to witness the vows, and to sign the Marriage License after the wedding.

Participating Clergy

In an ecumenical spirit we are pleased to welcome Pastors from other Christian Communities to participate in your wedding. The proper procedure is for you to contact and invite the other pastor first. Then the priest or deacon from Saint Rose of Lima will confer with him or her.

Similarly, if we are helping to arrange for the Marriage of a Catholic and another Christian and the wedding is to be held at the other Church, we would be happy to participate if the Pastor wishes us to.

Children

If you plan to include children in your wedding party, please be prudent. We do not recommend children under the age of 3 in the procession. Also, they do not throw flower petals.

Rehearsal

The rehearsal will be scheduled when you meet with the priest or deacon after the liturgy and music workshops. The rehearsal usually lasts from 45 to 60 minutes. All members of the wedding party, ushers, and parents involved in the liturgy should be present. Readers and gift bearers may also wish to be present. Musicians do not normally play at the rehearsal.

To the rehearsal please bring the following:

1. The Marriage License;
2. The Unity Candle if one is being used;
3. The check for the parish offering and musician stipends, and the tips for the servers.

Flowers, Aisle Cloth, and Unity Candle

All it takes to decorate Saint Rose is a bouquet or two. Normally the flowers are left in Church after the wedding as decorations for the weekend liturgies. When there is more than one wedding on the same weekend we will help you contact the other couple should you wish to share the expense of flowers. During the liturgy workshop we will advise you as to what special seasonal decorations and colors will be in place at the time of your wedding.

Extra candelabra are not permitted in the sanctuary area. If you wish to use aisle candles or bows on the pews you may make those arrangements with your florist. Please treat the pews as you would your best furniture at home. Attach things only with ribbon or padded clamps. The Church has a set of holders for bows. Please remind the florist that no tape or other stick-on products are allowed and that aisle candles must be picked up immediately after the wedding.

If you choose to use an aisle cloth, you must purchase it either from the florist or a party goods store. The necessary length is 100 feet.

A Unity Candle may be obtained from a candle shop or religious goods store. Our holder is for a 3 inch diameter candle only. We provide the side candles.

Pictures and Video Recording

You are welcome to pose for formal group pictures in the sanctuary as long as the dignity of the Church is maintained. Arrival and preparations for picture taking may begin two and one half hours before the wedding. On Saturdays this means 8:30am and 11:30am. Pictures must end one half hour before the scheduled starting time of the wedding. This will allow you time to relax and become quiet and composed.

After the 2:00pm wedding pictures must be finished and the Church must be cleared for Confessions by 3:30pm. Please instruct your photographer as to these time lines.

Professional rules require that no flash pictures be taken during the wedding. Nor should there be distracting movements. A photographer never interrupts a sacred event. This applies to video cameras as well. Members of the congregation must abide by the same rules and should be encouraged not to take pictures at all. If you are having a program printed, you may wish to add, "No flash pictures during the wedding, please. Thank You."

Wedding Coordinator

The Parish Wedding Coordinator will be present for the rehearsal and will be at the Church on the day of your wedding. She will arrive two and one half hours before the wedding. The wedding coordinator will be available to assist you with the placement of flowers and decorations. She will turn on lights for the photographer. The coordinator will assist the ushers with the aisle cloth and the order of seating the guests. She will organize the wedding party for the procession, make sure everyone has their cell phones turned off, and send people down the aisle in the correct order. In general, the coordinator will be a helpful presence during the final preparations for the wedding liturgy.

After the wedding, the wedding coordinator will be around to help facilitate clean up, to see that everything is ready for the next event in the Church, and to make sure that you leave nothing behind.

Before the Wedding

A Bridal room is available for your convenience in the back of the Church. Additional men's and women's lavatories are located in the lower level.

Smoking is not allowed inside any parish building. If you choose to smoke outdoors, please be sure that someone is responsible to pick up cigarette butts and deposit them in the trash.

No beer, wine, or mood altering chemicals are permitted to be consumed in the Church building or on the immediate grounds of the Church before, during, or after the wedding. Any member of the wedding party that is noticeably "under the influence" will not be allowed to participate in the wedding ceremony.

Please see that purses, wallets, or other valuables are not left in the Bride's Room before, during, or after the wedding ceremony. This will protect you from the possibility of theft or loss.

After the Wedding

Ushers are asked to see that the Church and entryways are cleaned up after the wedding. This includes the aisle cloth, programs, decorations on the pews, etc.

The bride's attendants are to see that the Bride's Room is cleaned up. All trash may be deposited in the appropriate receptacles.

The throwing of rice, confetti, or bird seed is prohibited because it is dangerous under foot to our older members and because it gets tracked into the Church. Bubbles and bells may be handed out to the congregation after the wedding liturgy.

Offerings - Stipends - Fees

It is customary to make an offering of \$300 for the parish at the time of a wedding. This offering in part covers the cost of the PREPARE inventory and the Parish Wedding Coordinator.

The music stipend for Saint Rose organist and cantor is \$350.

A single check for \$650 should be made to Saint Rose

Please check with the Music Director concerning fees for any additional musicians or additional rehearsal fees with non-Saint Rose musicians. Individual checks should be made out directly to those musicians.

It is not necessary to provide a stipend for the priest or deacon, however if you wish to do so, that is strictly at your discretion.

When there is a wedding Mass with Communion, the two Mass servers are normally given a gratuity of \$10.00 each. Please provide the gratuity for the servers in cash.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

The celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage signifies a real change and a new beginning in the lives of the couple to be married. This is one of those opportune times to approach the Sacrament of Penance for forgiveness of past mistakes and the healing and strength to move forward in your new commitment. As a Catholic bride or groom you are encouraged to make the Sacrament of Reconciliation one of your final acts of Marriage preparation, at least one week before your wedding celebration.

And Finally,

Please be assured that beginning with this time of Marriage preparation and continuing throughout your lives you will be in the prayers of the entire parish community of Saint Rose of Lima. May God bless you and your Marriage!

05/2010

