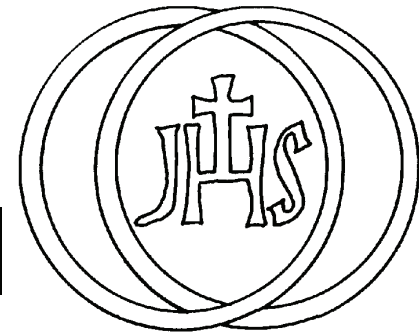
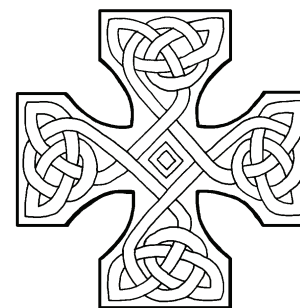


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# SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE GUIDELINES

Please ask family and friends to  
put cell phones and pagers on  
silent prior to the beginning of  
the marriage ceremony.



NO TACKS, NAILS, WIRE, TAPE or other means may be used to secure flowers, palms or other decoration to church walls, furniture or fixtures. Plastic clips only may be used to attach floral arrangements or bows to the pew. Flowers for the women and/or boutonnieres for the men may be delivered to the narthex of the Church.

#### SANCTUARY CANDLES MUST BE LEFT IN PLACE.

No decorations set in place for a liturgical season may be removed for the wedding.

Aisle runners are not permitted!  
WEDDING PARTY

Please wear appropriate clothing for the church ceremony.

#### THE UNITY CANDLE

The unity candle is not part of the official Rite of Marriage and is not permitted to be used at the church. If the couple wishes to incorporate the unity candle into the wedding day, they might consider incorporating it as part of the "Grace Before Meals" at the reception.

#### PHOTOGRAPHY

Photographers are welcome at the wedding and may take additional pictures before or after the ceremony. To preserve the sanctity of the wedding celebration, no flash photography during the wedding vows.

Photographers may not move about the church during the liturgy. Photographers are allowed in the center aisle, at the back of the church at least two pews behind the guests as well as in the organ loft. Photographers are never allowed in the sanctuary or sacristy.

#### VIDEO / DVD RECORDING

If video or DVD equipment is used, it should be set up in the choir loft.

NO Receiving lines are permitted at the Church.

NO throwing of Birdseed, Rice, Flower petals or Confetti.

These items, either inside or outside the church building, are a hazard. Our liability insurance will not permit them. They are absolutely prohibited. Bubbles may be used outside the church but would be better used at the reception.

#### ALCOHOL and FOOD

No alcohol is permitted in the church, parish hall, or parking lot. The priest will not marry any individuals who have consumed alcohol prior to exchanging their vows. Food is not permitted in the church or parish hall. It is recommended that you bring bottled water to ensure proper hydration.



Saint Paul The Apostle Roman Catholic Church  
Rejoices With You!

We are pleased you have chosen Saint Paul the Apostle Catholic Church to share one of the most important decisions of your life. The decision to join with another in a lifelong, faithful relationship is, by its very nature, creative. It is a pleasure for us to share this event with you.

**W**hen a couple asks the Church to witness their commitment to one another, there is a responsibility on the part of the Church to share all the available resources that will enable them to grow in a deeper relationship throughout their lives. Not only will you grow, but also those who assist you experience a renewed sense of commitment to their particular vocation. Your marriage will have a profound effect on your lives and the lives of all those with whom you come in contact.

As you have shared hours thinking about this step and talking about it with one another and those close to you, we also have spent much time working with other couples in preparing their Wedding Day. In the pages that follow, we offer you our experience that together we may facilitate a deeper appreciation of the unique experience that is a Christian Marriage.



## MARRIAGE GUIDELINES

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## WHO CAN BE MARRIED IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH?

### CHURCH LAW

Church law requires that both of you must be free to marry. You are free to marry in the Catholic Church if you have not been married before and at least one of you is a baptized, practicing Catholic.

Catholics marrying in the Catholic Church must accept the responsibility to raise their children in the Catholic faith before the priest may witness their marriage. In the case of a Catholic marrying a person of another faith (an interfaith marriage), the couple must discuss this matter before requesting marriage in the Catholic Church.

### LECTOR(S)

These ministers proclaim the Word of God during the liturgy. There should be two Lectors selected by the couple, one for each Scripture reading chosen (except for the Gospel, read by the Celebrant). An additional reader should be selected to read the Prayers of the Faithful/Petitions.

### EXTRA ORDINARY MINISTER OF HOLY COMMUNION

This minister helps with Holy Communion when there is a liturgy with Eucharist (Mass). He/she may be a family member or a friend who is Catholic and has been delegated to participate in this ministry at Saint Paul the Apostle Parish or another Catholic parish.

### PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

Four gift bearers should be selected to bring the bread, wine, water and Celebrant's chalice to the altar during a Nuptial Mass. No other gifts or symbols may be presented in the procession.

### HOLY COMMUNION

When marriage is celebrated during Mass, the Guidelines for Receiving Communion, from the Bishop's Committee on the Liturgy, (or a simpler but clear and accurate form) should be included in the printed program, especially if the invited guests

will include members of other faith traditions.

### FLOWER GIRLS & RING BEARERS

No flower petals are to be dropped in the church or outside the church. Flower girls oftentimes carry baskets of flowers and wear flowers in their hair. Ring Bearers generally do not carry the actual wedding bands, but rather a representation. From experience we have found that ring bearers and flower girls should be age four or older. It is recommended that ring bearers, flower girls and junior attendants up to age 6 sit with their parents during the actual ceremony.

### FLOWERS & CANDLES

It is the responsibility of the couple to furnish flowers for the decoration of the church if flowers are desired. These are to remain in our sanctuary for the Saturday evening and Sunday morning liturgies at which the couple is kept in our prayers. Do not place Flower Arrangements in front of main Altar.

ing the cross and candles). Even the lector(s) may be part of the procession. Those in the procession may go to the door of the church where the celebrant welcomes the couple and leads them to their place at the altar. The servers go first in the procession, followed by (the lector,) the celebrant and then the bride and bridegroom. The couple may be escorted by their parents and preceded in the procession by two canonical witnesses (the best man and maid of honor) and other attendants.

What is often referred to as the “traditional procession” may be used in the Diocese of Harrisburg according to long-standing and legitimate custom. In fact, it can easily be incorporated into the liturgical procession envisioned by the Rite of Marriage. For example, the bride may be escorted by her father. A suggested procession in this case would be the ministers followed by the celebrant followed by the groomsmen followed by the groom followed by the bridesmaids followed by the bride and her father. In this situation, intervals in the procession are possible (e.g. after the celebrant reaches the altar, after the groom reaches the front of the church). It would also be possible for the groomsmen and bridesmaids to process together as pairs. During the procession,

music may be played or the entrance song is sung.

#### WHO ARE THE LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR THE CEREMONY?

##### BRIDE & GROOM

The ministers of the Sacrament of Marriage are the bride and groom.

##### RELIGIOUS CELEBRANTS

The priest, deacon, ordained minister and/or rabbi witness the marriage and receive the consent.

##### ASSEMBLY

The wedding couple, family and friends that have been invited comprise the assembly. It is the assembly’s role to celebrate the liturgy. Those helping you prepare your wedding will make every effort to involve the assembly in listening, singing and responding.

##### USHERS and/or GROOMSMEN

Ushers/Groomsmen will seat your guests.

##### CROSS-BEARER

Select a close friend or family member to carry the cross during the entrance procession.

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#### PREVIOUS MARRIAGES

If either party has been married before and a former spouse is still living, please contact the pastor immediately before you attempt to schedule a wedding at Saint Paul the Apostle Church so that the pastor can help you determine if you are free to marry in the Catholic Church. All previous marriages (civil, non-Catholic or Catholic) are presumed valid unless and until proven otherwise. A party is free to marry in the Catholic Church only if the former spouse has died or an annulment of a previous marriage has been obtained.

A wedding date cannot be set prior to obtaining an annulment. That is, you will need to obtain a declaration of nullity on the marriage from the Tribunal of the Diocese. Our parish pastor will assist you in establishing your freedom to marry in the Church through the annulment process. Annulments processed through the diocesan Tribunal can take up to 18 to 24 months. Talk your specific situation over with the pastor.

#### I AM CATHOLIC. MAY I MARRY A PERSON OF ANOTHER FAITH IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH?

A marriage between a Catholic and a person baptized in another tradition is called an interfaith marriage.

In interfaith marriages, the priest discusses with the couple the expectations of the Church that the Catholic party will fulfill their responsibility of passing on his/her Catholic faith to any children from the union. In the presence of the priest, the Catholic promises in these words:

“I reaffirm my faith in Jesus Christ and, with God’s help, intend to continue living that faith in the Catholic Church. I promise to do all in my power to share the faith I have received with our children by having them baptized and reared as Catholics.”

#### CHOICE OF CEREMONY

The Rite of Marriage provides three forms for celebrating marriage in the Roman Catholic Church:

I. The Rite for Celebrating Marriage During Mass is normally used when two Catholics marry.

II. The Rite for Celebrating Marriage Outside Mass is normally used when a Catholic marries a

baptized person from another Christian church or ecclesial community. (RM8)

III. The Rite for Celebrating Marriage Between a Catholic and an Unbaptized Person must be used when a Catholic marries someone who is not a baptized Christian. Mass is prohibited in this situation. (RM 8)

It is recommended that an interfaith marriage not be celebrated with the Eucharist since Catholic church laws do not allow for the distribution of Communion to those present who are not Catholic. The Church's Rite of Marriage provides for a beautiful and meaningful service even when the Eucharist is not included.

#### MINISTER OF ANOTHER FAITH AND MARRIAGE IN ANOTHER CHURCH

Under special circumstances, the Bishop's permission may be sought for a minister or rabbi to celebrate and receive the vows of marriage in the church or synagogue of the partner who is not Roman Catholic. The liturgical form of the host church is followed. A priest may also be present at the service of marriage but it is not necessary. When an interfaith marriage takes place in a Roman Catholic Church, the involvement of minister or rabbi is welcomed.

#### PREPARATION FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Couples planning to be married must contact their pastor at least 10 to 12 months prior to the desired date of the marriage.

In line with the "Common Policy" established for our diocese, the couple meets with the priest to discuss the spiritual basis of marriage, to assess freedom and readiness for marriage, and to plan the liturgical ceremony.

The pastor will need the following documents for a Catholic wedding:

- Baptismal & Confirmation certificates
- Pre-marital Questionnaire (you will complete this during one of your meetings with the priest)

To help ensure that all engaged couples are ready, able, and willing to celebrate a sacramental marriage in the Catholic Church, the Diocese of Harrisburg requires couples to complete one of the following Pre-Cana Programs:

- Mentoring Couple Program and Marriage as a Sacrament Seminar or
- Engaged Encounter Weekend

befitting the dignity of the sacrament and worthy of the celebration. The music minister can assist with the selection of a cantor/soloist if necessary, and all music which is appropriate and necessary for the wedding. Remember, secular music cannot be used in the marriage ceremony. Appropriate music speaks of the love between husband, wife, and God. The organist/music minister and soloist do not normally attend the wedding rehearsal. The wedding rehearsal is for the wedding party, not the musicians. The musicians will arrange their own rehearsals. If the organist/music minister is required to attend the rehearsal, there will be an additional \$50 charge.

#### MARRIAGE CEREMONY

Catholic weddings are to be celebrated in a place of Catholic worship and will follow the prescribed liturgy of the Catholic Church. There may be one or two scripture texts in addition to a sung responsorial psalm, a sung Gospel acclamation and the Gospel itself. Only selections from Scripture may be used. You will plan your wedding with the help of the pastor and music minister according to the guidelines of the Catholic Church.

The couple themselves and their parents might consider greeting

the guests as they arrive. It is an apt expression of the hospitality which should characterize Christians. The tradition honoring the special moment when the bride and groom first see each other on their wedding day could be respected by a private time of meeting before guests arrive. During this time the couple, their families and the wedding party could be together for prayer and whatever leave-taking anyone would want to express. This personal meeting time could be seen as the immediate preparation of the public ceremony.

#### ENTRANCE PROCESSIONAL

You are to respect the sanctity of the Church at all times. Before, during and after the ceremony, please be mindful that you are in a holy place and therefore you are asked to behave appropriately. Please do not allow children to run about the church or in the Sanctuary. Loud, wild behavior can be reserved for the reception but is not appreciated or permitted in the church.

The Rite of Marriage (RM 19-20) envisions the entrance procession to be similar to what takes place at Sunday Mass.

The procession would include the celebrant and servers carry  
*(Continued on page 12)*

## CATHOLIC NON-PARISHIONER

If you are Catholic and attend a church other than Saint Paul the Apostle, you will need to obtain a letter of permission from your pastor.

## DISPENSATION FOR NON-CATHOLIC

Inter-faith marriages require a dispensation/permission for the Catholic party to marry a non-Catholic. The priest will request this dispensation for the Catholic party after the Catholic party has indicated that he/she will accept the responsibility to provide for the Catholic upbringing of the children in the Catholic faith.

## PREVIOUS MARRIAGES

If you have had a previous marriage that has been annulled by the Catholic Church, provide a copy of the decree of annulment to the parish office.

## MARRIAGE LICENSE

Every couple is responsible for obtaining a civil marriage license. The license must be submitted to the Parish Office one week prior to the rehearsal. (The license may be secured up to 60 days prior to your wedding). No wedding will take place unless we have the civil marriage license in our possession.

This is a legal requirement of the State of Pennsylvania and there are **NO** exceptions. Be aware that a license issued over 60 days prior to your wedding date is considered expired and your wedding cannot take place. No license = No wedding ceremony.

## PLANNING THE MUSIC FOR THE MARRIAGE CEREMONY

Please contact Mary Beazley, our music minister, at 717.867.2750 as soon as you set your wedding date. Music planning with your music minister should be completed no later than one month before the wedding ceremony. When meeting with the music minister, bring along your wedding planning booklet, "Together for Life" with the selected readings. The music and readings can be correlated. The instrumental music selected for the procession must reflect the dignity of the Sacrament of Marriage. The Catholic Church does not allow the use of the traditional wedding march (Here Comes the Bride). The solemnity of the wedding liturgy challenges us to use music that dignifies the Rite, which is centered on the love of God. The Music Minister will help you make appropriate selections,

*(Continued on page 11)*

You will receive a brochure explaining the approved Pre-Cana Programs along with dates and registration form from your pastor or you may stop by the parish office and pick one up. The couple must meet with the priest prior to registering for a Pre-Cana Program.

After one of these programs is completed you will have one or two sessions with the pastor bringing with you a certificate of completion of one of the approved Pre-Cana Programs.

Normally, the pastor is the celebrant at all weddings. Priest relatives may preside at the wedding with the pastor's approval and permission. Priest friends may be invited to con-celebrate. Ministers are always welcome to participate in weddings of a Catholic and a non-Catholic.

The Marriage Ceremony itself is quite brief, consisting of the Statement of Intentions and the Exchange of Vows by the couple. This is preceded by readings from Scripture chosen by the couple, and by a homily.

The exchange of vows is followed by the blessing of rings, and the nuptial blessing. You will receive a booklet entitled "Together For Life" from the Pastor. You may select Scripture Readings, General Intercessions and various other prayers

for the Marriage Ceremony or Nuptial Mass. When both parties are Catholic, the marriage is normally celebrated within the context of Mass. The Diocesan policy is that all marriage ceremonies must be in a Church.

## SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

The Catholic bride and/or groom should be invited to receive the Sacrament of Penance in preparation for the wedding so that the grace of the Sacrament of Marriage may be most fruitfully received.

Now that you have read the guidelines, use this checklist to make sure everything is complete.

## TIMELINE/CHECKLIST

### 12 – 9 months prior to wedding

- Inquire at Church office as to the requirements, availability of date and time.
- Set up appointment with Priest marrying you to confirm date and time, review requirements, begin marriage preparation.
- Meet with priest
- Contact our parish music minister, Mary Beazley at 717.867.2750 as soon as Church wedding date is set..
- Attend Marriage Preparation Class

Request Baptismal Certificates from church of baptism

**6 months prior to wedding**

Set up meeting with Church organist to discuss music

Set up and attend second meeting with priest celebrating your wedding

**1 month prior to wedding**

All fees and stipends, individual checks made out as indicated on the payment form. Mail to the parish office at least one month prior to the wedding.

**1 week prior to wedding**

Purchase Wedding License and hand deliver to parish office

Scripture and Liturgy selections from the "Together for Life" Booklet are to be hand delivered to the parish office

WEDDING TIMES

Morning Ceremonies are celebrated at 11:00AM

Afternoon Ceremonies are celebrated at 2:00PM

REHEARSAL

Rehearsal is usually held

Friday late afternoon or early evening. Please discuss rehearsal time with your pastor.

Please assemble on time in the Church narthex for the rehearsal.

**WEDDING FEES**

**Registration fee** .....\$50

First meeting with Pastor.

**Priest** –It is customary to make a gift of a stipend to the presider of the wedding. The amount is a matter of personal choice. We suggest, however, that it be commensurate with the time spent by the presider with the couple in preparing for their wedding and the wedding service itself.

**Organist fee** .....\$200

**Cantor fee** .....\$100

**Sacristan fee** .....\$50

**Church fee**.....\$200

Using the payment form found in this book, all fees are to be individual checks made out as indicated on the payment form. Mail to the parish office at least one month prior to the wedding.



**DOCUMENTS NEEDED**

These are the documents you will have to obtain in order to be married in the Catholic Church. These documents are collected in your wedding file that is compiled by the priest officiating at the wedding. The bride and groom will each need to provide and ensure the delivery of each document.

IF BRIDE and GROOM ARE BOTH CATHOLIC:

- Proof of Baptism
- Proof of Confirmation
- Affidavits of freedom to marry

- Proof of attendance in Marriage Preparation Class
- Letter of permission from your pastor if you are Catholic and attend a Church other than Saint Paul the Apostle

Civil Marriage License. If previously married, copy of annulment decree.

IF THE BRIDE/GROOM IS A NON-CATHOLIC:

- Proof of Baptism
- Affidavits of freedom to marry
- Proof of attendance in Marriage Preparation Course
- Dispensation from Catholic Diocese granting permission for Non-Catholic to marry Catholic
- Civil Marriage License If previously married, copy of annulment decree.

If you were not baptized in Saint Paul the Apostle Church, write the church of Baptism and request that they send you a "proof of Baptism" document. Be sure to include the following information in your request:  
–Full name at birth  
–Full name of your parents  
–Mother's maiden name  
–Date of birth  
–Date of baptism (if known)

If you were baptized in Saint Paul the Apostle Church we will prepare the document for you and place in your marriage file.

A person baptized in another Christian tradition should bring their Baptismal certificate to the office. We will make a copy of the certificate for the marriage file. You keep the original.

CONFIRMATION CERTIFICATE

Each Catholic must obtain either a certificate or information of the date, church and city of the Confirmation.

AFFIDAVITS OF FREEDOM TO MARRY

Each party, whether Catholic nor not, must have two affidavits of freedom to marry completed. These forms are completed by the pastor and your parents or persons who have known you most of your life.

*(Continued on page 10)*