

PREPARING FOR YOUR WEDDING CEREMONY

Congratulations! We at St. Mary celebrate your engagement with you! You have our prayers and support.

We believe that the guidelines in this brochure reflect our commitment to you as well to the best practices for weddings as envisioned by the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

MUSIC

The principles used to judge the suitability of music for the Roman Catholic marriage rite come to us from “Sing to the Lord” and “Celebrating Marriage” documents from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

The understanding of the sacramental celebration is that we are not mere observers, but, rather, active participants. We are gathered together as a visible sign of the Body of Christ, the church, united in prayer and praise to the Father. The participation of the gathered assembly in both sung and spoken prayer is essentially the nature of Christian worship.

The primary purpose of music in any liturgy is to support the communal, liturgical prayer of the Church. Music that does not do this contradicts and damages liturgical prayer.

The wedding ceremony is a liturgical rite and bears great similarity to the Sunday celebration. It must reflect standard liturgical practices and encourage the community to join the couple in entering the spirit of this occasion as a communal event.

In all liturgical celebrations proper use must be made of the musical elements within the whole of the liturgy.

The following are the parts of the Mass that are sung by the congregation:

- ◆Entrance Hymn
- ◆Glory to God
- ◆Responsorial Psalm
- ◆Gospel Acclamation
- ◆Holy
- ◆Memorial Acclamation
- ◆Great Amen
- ◆Lamb of God
- ◆Communion Hymn

For a wedding that takes place outside of Mass, parts to be sung by the congregation are:

- ◆Entrance Hymn
- ◆Responsorial Psalm
- ◆Gospel Acclamation

Prelude music serves as a call to worship for the gathered community and invites the people to prayer. It is, therefore, not appropriate to use “popular” or secular music. Pre-recorded music of any type is not permitted.

The music selected for the wedding must be approved by the priest/deacon one month prior to the wedding.

CHURCH DECORATIONS

Live or cut flowers are strongly encouraged. It is customary, but not required, to leave cut flowers in the church after your ceremony.

Seasonal decorations in the Church, especially during Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter should be incorporated into your decorations, and are not changed for weddings.

PHOTOGRAPHY

- 1) The ceremony may be videotaped, but only from designated stationary positions in the front and rear of the church. Photographers and videographers should check with the priest/deacon before the ceremony.
- 2) Professional photographers may take flash pictures as the bridal party processes up the aisle, but NOT from the front of the Church. Other pictures taken during the ceremony must be non-flash and be taken from the rear of the Church. **ONE photographer may take a LIMITED amount of pictures from the choir loft, as long as he/she does not distract the musicians or detract from the sacredness of the liturgy. Motorized camera rewinders are not allowed.**
- 3) Photographs may be taken in the Church up to but **not after** 30 minutes before the start of the ceremony.
- 4) After the ceremony, the photographer is responsible for remembering that he/she and the wedding party are in church and should conduct themselves accordingly.

GENERAL POLICIES

- 1) Do NOT throw bird seed, rice, confetti, or other items following the ceremony.
- 2) NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES are permitted on the Church premises prior to, during, and after the rehearsal or wedding. **Such beverages ARE permitted if the rehearsal dinner takes place in the church basement.**
- 3) SIGNS on all wedding vehicles must be in good taste – not vulgar or sexually explicit. The parish staff reserves the right to ask for any inappropriate signs to be removed. Any such public display must keep in mind the sanctity and dignity of the Sacrament of Marriage.

FEES

The fee for a wedding at St. Mary is \$65.00. You are responsible to pay the organist. Their possible duties may include 1) Meeting with the couple and planning the wedding liturgy, 2) One private rehearsal with the vocalist, 3) Playing the wedding.

The fee for your vocalist is between you and your vocalist. The average fee is \$50. If using parish servers, the best man pays them \$5 - \$10 each following the ceremony. A check for the \$65 parish fee should be made payable to "St. Mary Church" and must be given to the priest/deacon, along with the Marriage License at the rehearsal.

PROGRAMS

The program printed for your wedding liturgy is to be designed as a worship aid, allowing the gathered assembly to more fully understand and participate in the liturgy. Programs must be read-able with careful consideration given to font size and style. Programs must be submitted to the priest/deacon for approval one month prior to the wedding.

EMAIL ADDRESSES

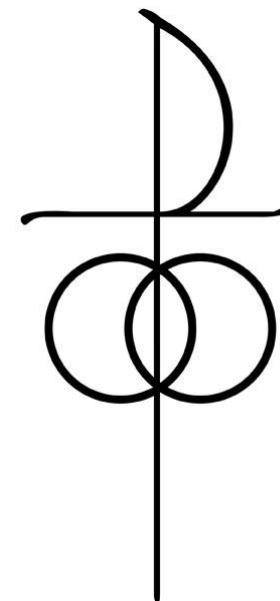
Pastor: Fr. Richard Walling
rwalling@coldwatercluster.org

Associate Pastor: Fr. Alexander Witt
awitt@coldwatercluster.org

IMPORTANT ITEMS TO REMEMBER

- 1) Meetings with Fr. Walling or Fr. Witt: No wedding date is considered confirmed until after a first meeting with Fr. Walling or Fr. Witt. One of them will call you to schedule that first meeting, ideally six to nine months before your wedding.
- 2) Plan on a second meeting (with the priest who is helping with your marriage preparation) two to four months before your wedding.
- 3) Between your first and second meetings with the priest, you need to do three things:
 - a) Two meetings with a FOCCUS couple (the couple will contact you to set up the first meeting)
 - b) Attend a Pre-Cana formational workshop, refer to this website to register www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/family-life/engaged-couple-programs/
 - c) Do a self-assessment of your readiness for marriage (respond to the questions on the "Couple's Insert" sheet)
- 4) Plan on a third meeting with the priest a month or so before your wedding.
- 5) The normal rehearsal time is on Friday at 6:30 pm the day before your wedding.
- 6) The normal starting time for your wedding liturgy is at 2 pm, Saturday.
- 7) The school hall is available for changing.
Please leave this space in the same condition as you found it.

We at St. Mary rejoice with you and your families as you enter in this new phase of your lives. May our God, who is gracious, bless you abundantly with much love and peace.



To Become One in Christ

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