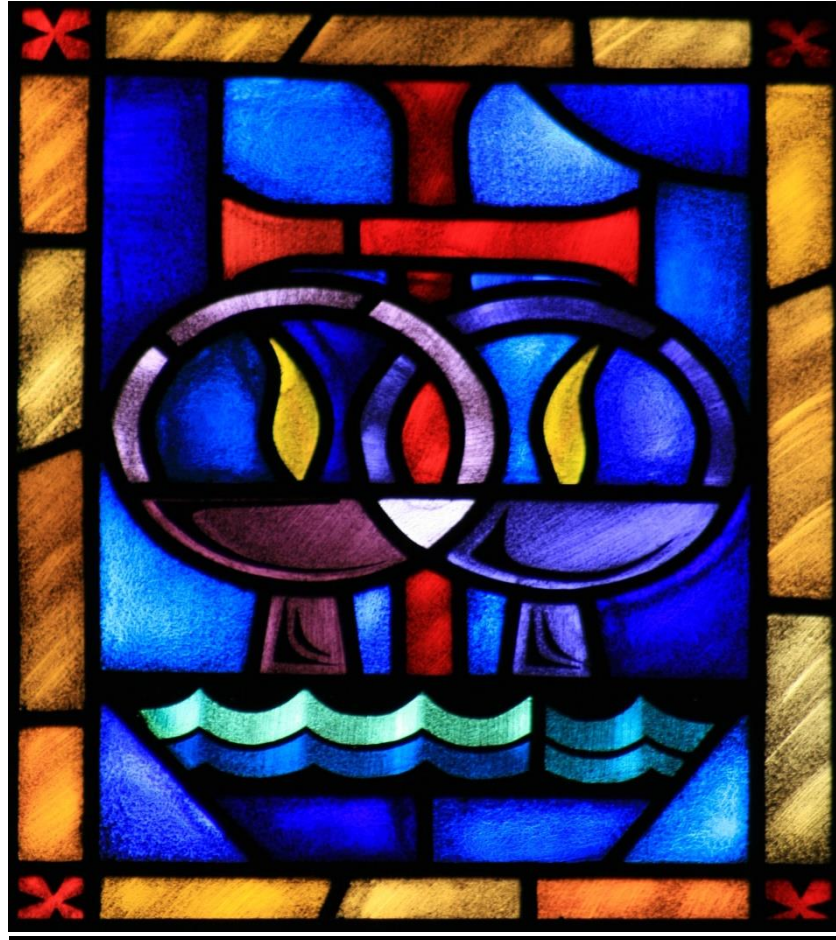


# **MARRIAGE PROCEDURE AND PREPARATION**



**SAINT PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH**

4101 Norbeck Road  
Rockville, Maryland 20853



# SACRAMENT OF HOLY MATRIMONY

## INDIVIDUAL FEES

_____	\$200.00	Organist
_____	\$150.00	Soloist
_____	\$30.00	Altar servers (if needed-cash)

Make payable to individual party by name.

### Please Note:

A fee for the celebrant (priest/deacon) is neither required nor expected. In addition to the requested Parish Fee for the Church, a monetary gift may be given to the priest/deacon at the discretion of the family.

“For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”

This is a great mystery, but I speak in reference to Christ and the church. In any case, each one of you should love his wife as himself, and the wife should respect her husband.

Ephesians 5:31-33

For those preparing for the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony, the highpoint of the wedding day is the Nuptial Mass or the Wedding Ceremony, where bride and groom become husband and wife in the lifelong covenant of marriage (a sacrament for baptized Christians). Thoughtful, prayerful planning and participation in your Catholic wedding liturgy will bring many blessings to your married life.

This booklet provides important information for the planning of your wedding here at Saint Patrick Catholic Church. Please refer any questions to the priest/deacon responsible for your preparation.

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## SACRAMENT OF HOLY MATRIMONY

### PARISH FEE FOR THE CHURCH

_____	\$500.00	for registered contributing families; includes fee for Wedding Coordinator
_____	\$600.00	for other registered parishioners; includes fee for Wedding Coordinator
_____	\$750.00	non-parishioner; includes fee for Wedding Coordinator
TOTAL	_____	

Make check payable to SAINT PATRICK CHURCH.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Priest/Deacon

\_\_\_\_\_  
Engaged Couple

## REHEARSAL

The entire wedding party should attend a brief rehearsal which is usually held the evening before the wedding. Musicians and photographer/videographer need not attend. The priest/deacon will direct the wedding rehearsal and provide at that time all of the options that are acceptable.

**RICE, BIRD SEED, BALLOONS or other items that cause litter or that need to be cleaned up may not be used at any time or for any reason.**

### Please Note:

There are no facilities for dressing at Saint Patrick Church. Please come basically ready to go! The restrooms are located at the main church door entrance.

**ABSOLUTELY NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES MAY BE BROUGHT TO OR IMBIBED ON SAINT PATRICK CHURCH PROPERTY. THIS INCLUDES BOTH THE WEDDING REHEARSAL AND THE WEDDING DAY. THIS IS STRICTLY ENFORCED!**

**SAINT PATRICK CHURCH IS A NON-SMOKING CAMPUS. PLEASE RESPECT THIS DIRECTIVE.**

## HOW SHALL WE PAY OUR FEES?

All fees including church, organist/musicians, and altar servers (if needed) should be submitted to the parish office at least two weeks prior to the Nuptial Mass/Wedding Ceremony.

## WHO MAY BE MARRIED AT SAINT PATRICK CHURCH?

An individual requesting to be married at Saint Patrick Catholic Church must be a registered active member in good standing for a minimum of six months before the formal six months of instruction can begin.

An individual who is registered less than six months may request to be married at Saint Patrick Church when a letter of good standing is presented to the pastor of Saint Patrick Church from the individual's previous parish of registration. The letter should state that the individual was registered and regularly practiced the Catholic Faith in the former parish.

Practicing adults from outside of the parish whose parents are registered active parishioners in good standing at Saint Patrick Church may request to be married here. A letter must be presented to the pastor of Saint Patrick Church from the parish of the individual. The letter should state that the individual is registered and regularly practices the Catholic Faith in his/her parish.

A Catholic is considered to be 'active' and 'in good standing' by attending Mass on a regular basis and by contributing to the financial welfare of the parish.

### Please Note:

Ordinarily, the engaged couple makes the arrangements for the wedding. All directions, permissions and agreements are to be made with the assisting Saint Patrick priest/deacon.

A proper dispensation (permission) must be obtained from the Archbishop when one of the parties to be married is not a Catholic. The condition for obtaining the dispensation is the signed/oral promise of the Catholic party to raise the children as Catholic and to continue the practice of the Catholic Faith. The non-Catholic party must be clearly advised of this condition and agree to it before wedding arrangements can move forward.

## **HOW SHOULD WE BE MARRIED?**

A Catholic Bride and a Catholic Groom are to be married with a Nuptial Mass. A marriage between a Catholic and non-Catholic does not take place with the Mass. A Wedding Ceremony including the Liturgy of the Word and the Marriage Rite is observed in this case.

Catholic weddings take place in the Church. If the couple requests to be married in the non-Catholic church of the Bride or Groom, permission is required from the Archbishop of Washington.

At a Nuptial Mass, Holy Communion under both species is the norm for the Catholic Bride and Catholic Groom. Only Catholics in good standing may receive Holy Communion at a Nuptial Mass. The presiding priest will give proper instruction to those present regarding the discipline of the Church in this matter and give the proper direction for the reception of Holy Communion.

In the event that an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist is required, he/she shall be appointed by a priest from Saint Patrick parish prior to the day of the wedding.



## **WHAT ABOUT FLOWERS/DECORATIONS?**

It is up to the engaged couple to choose a florist. The church will be open one hour prior to the wedding to receive flowers.

Two flower arrangements are appropriate to be placed on pedestals on either side of the tabernacle OR two small arrangements on either side of the tabernacle. Flower arrangements are never permitted to be placed ON the altar of sacrifice.

Pew bows are acceptable; however, the use of tape of any kind to attach bows to the pews is strictly prohibited. The florist can suggest other means of mounting pew bows that do not require the use of tape.

Runners are no longer used.

The Unity Candle is no longer used.

## **WHAT ABOUT THE PHOTOGRAPHER/VIDEOGRAPHER?**

The photographer may take pictures prior to the wedding. During the Nuptial Mass/Wedding Ceremony the photographer may take pictures but not inside the sanctuary. The photographer may not at any time stop the proceedings to take a photograph.

The videographer is to place the equipment in a stationary position to the left or the right of the sanctuary in a side aisle near the first pew. Its position is to be non-conspicuous.

Please review these guidelines with the Wedding Coordinator for clarity

## **REVERENCE IN CHURCH**

All members of the wedding party and guests should respect the sacred character of the church. There should be a reverent quiet during the rehearsal and before and after the wedding. No food or drink of any kind (with the exception of water) is permitted in the church.

## **PROPER DRESS**

The wedding party should be appropriately dressed for a sacred celebration. The bride and bridesmaids should be dressed in such a manner that shoulders are covered while in the church. If the clothing is strapless, the use of a shawl while in the church is acceptable.

## **THE LITURGY**

The priest/deacon will assist the engaged couple in the planning of appropriate prayers, Scripture readings, and the proper Marriage Rite to be used for a Nuptial Mass or for a Wedding Ceremony.

## **WHAT ABOUT MUSIC?**

Music to be used for a Nuptial Mass or Wedding Ceremony is to be religious in nature. Secular or other popular music is not appropriate in church. Ms. Patti Sullins, Director of Music, will assist with the selection of music. Contact the Parish Center, 301-924-2285, ext. 306 to speak with her.

Normally, only those musicians under contract or associated with Saint Patrick Church are permitted to provide the music. Exceptions can be made on an individual basis when appropriate.

## **TIME**

The priest/deacon will discuss available times with the engaged couple. Ordinarily, a Nuptial Mass or Wedding Ceremony can be scheduled for either a Friday afternoon/evening or for a Saturday late morning/early afternoon depending on the availability of the church. Normally, the earliest time for a Nuptial Mass or Wedding Ceremony to begin on a Saturday is 11:00 a.m. and the latest time to begin is 2:00 p.m. Parish Confessions are at 4:00 p.m. and, therefore, everything needs to be completed (including pictures) by 3:30 p.m.

Weddings during the Season of Advent are possible but should be celebrated in keeping with the sacred character of the season. Liturgical decorations, including the Advent Wreath, are not to be moved out of the sanctuary for any reason.

Weddings during the Season of Lent are not prohibited, but strongly discouraged in keeping with the solemn penitential character of the Season.



## **WHO MAY PERFORM THE CEREMONY?**

The ordinary minister of the Sacrament of Marriage is a priest/deacon currently assigned to Saint Patrick Church. Exceptions may be made by the Pastor for good reason. A priest/deacon affiliated with a diocese other than Washington, DC must provide to the Pastor of Saint Patrick Church a letter of good standing from his bishop if he is to celebrate/concelebrate a Nuptial Mass/Wedding Ceremony here.

For good reason, a priest/deacon from another parish may request to celebrate a Nuptial Mass/Wedding Ceremony at Saint Patrick Church for one of their own parishioners. In such a case all marriage preparation and the obtaining of all appropriate documents is the responsibility of the visiting priest/deacon.

Ordinarily, six (6) months' notice is to be given so as to allow the priest/deacon and the engaged couple enough time to adequately prepare for the wedding.

Only a priest/deacon currently assigned to Saint Patrick Church can place a marriage date on the church calendar up to but no more than 18 months in advance. No date can be finalized until the priest/deacon has determined eligibility for the marriage to take place at Saint Patrick Church.

## **WEDDING COORDINATOR**

A Wedding Coordinator will be assigned to assist with the rehearsal and the wedding day particulars. The fee for this person is included in the fee for the church.

## **WHERE DO WE GET THE MARRIAGE LICENSE?**

A civil license is necessary for marriage and must be from Montgomery County. It is to be obtained from the Clerk of Montgomery County Circuit Court in Rockville, Maryland. For information you may contact the License Department at 240-777-9460. A forty-eight (48) hour period follows from the time of application. The marriage license is valid for six months. Once obtained, it is to be given directly to the priest/deacon so that it can be attached to the marriage file.

## **WHO MAY TAKE PART AS OFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE WEDDING PARTY?**

All of the members of the wedding party should be of good reputation and character and may be either Catholic or non-Catholic. Catholic members of the wedding party, however, should be practicing Catholics in good standing.

For a Nuptial Mass, those who have an official role as lector or gift bearer are to be practicing Catholics.

For a Wedding Ceremony, those who have an official role as lector may be either practicing Catholic or practicing non-Catholic Christians. Non-baptized persons are not suitable.

Ring Bearers and Flower Girls must be at least five (5) years of age and have sufficient composure so as not to distract from the sacred character of the ceremony.