

MARRIAGE

Planning for the Celebration



Saint Joseph's Parish
218 Tenth Street South, Moorhead, MN 56560

Checklist for Wedding Plans

- ___1. Make appointment with priest/deacon.
- ___2. Take the FOCCUS Pre-Marriage Inventory.
- ___3. Discuss FOCCUS with priest or sponsor couple.
- ___4. Arrange to attend a Pre-Marriage Weekend or Engaged Encounter Weekend and bring a copy of the certificate to the parish office.
- ___5. Set wedding date and reserve church.
- ___6. Arrange with liturgy coordinator to plan music four months before wedding.
- ___7. Plan liturgy with the priest/deacon.
- ___8. Bring copies of baptismal certificates to parish office.
- ___9. Make arrangements if reception is to be held at church.
- ___10. Arrange for photographer and florist.
- ___11. Select liturgical ministers:
 - ___Readers ___Ushers ___Attendants
 - If wedding liturgy is a Mass:
 - ___Ministers of Holy Communion
 - ___Altar Servers
- ___12. Bring stipends for the use of the Church, The Gathering Place (if applicable), musicians and servers at least one month prior to the wedding date.

Please set a reasonable schedule in which to accomplish the above tasks.

ST. JOSEPH’S WEDDING BOOKLET

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Most of the guidelines present in this book are taken from “Marriage, Planning for the Celebration”, a book compiled by:

The Diocesan Liturgical Commission
Diocese of Crookston
Crookston, MN

INTRODUCTION

Congratulations on your engagement! Marriage is the nucleus of the Christian community. We know you have put a great deal of planning, thought and care into the preparation of your wedding. We, in turn, would like to do our share to make your wedding a most memorable celebration for you and your family. Hopefully, the following suggestions will help you in planning your wedding celebration. As a pastor, bishop emeritus Victor Balke writes:

“Marriage is of God. The Book of Genesis says: ‘This is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one body’” (Gen. 2, 24). Jesus Himself referred to this passage and then added: ‘Thus they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore, let no one separate what God has joined’. (Mt. 48, 49).

Marriage between two baptized persons is a sacrament. More precisely, the husband and wife are a sacrament. Each one is an on-going sign to the other of Christ’s love and grace. Together, moreover, they are a sign of the marriage between Christ and the Church. A husband and wife in a loving and life-giving relationship, lead each other more and more deeply into the life and love of CHRIST.

Marriage, finally, because it means growth in unity through relationship, is a process. That is, while marriage begins on one’s wedding day, it happens every day. Two lives become one life more and more only over a lifetime of experiences shared together. Two hearts beat as one heart more and more only through a lifetime of sharing feelings, both negative and positive, in honesty and openness.”

LITURGICAL DIRECTIVES

The planning of the liturgical celebration is an essential part of the preparation for the wedding day. These guidelines will assist you in planning that considers not only the spouses, but also the community that will gather to celebrate, the parish in which the celebration will occur, the priest or deacon and the various liturgical ministers involved in the celebration (readers, musicians, ushers, altar servers, and Ministers of Holy Communion). The following guidelines are presented to assist you in planning the wedding ceremony.

A. PLANNING THE LITURGY

The marriage ceremony may be individualized both in the ceremonies and in the texts. Along with this booklet, couples will receive a book of readings and prayers from which to make personal selections for your ceremony.

B. WEDDING SERVICE

There are different ceremonies used to celebrate a Catholic wedding. If both the bride and bridegroom are Catholic, the ceremony is celebrated within the Mass. When only one is Catholic, the ceremony is celebrated according to The Rite of Marriage outside of Mass.

C. WEDDING LITURGY TIMES

The actual time for your wedding liturgy will be decided by you and the priest/deacon. One option is to have your wedding during a regularly scheduled weekend liturgy, if both the bride and groom are Catholic. Other times are between 5-8 on Friday night, or between 10 am and 2:30pm or 7pm on Saturday. Weddings on other days of the week are also possible.

D. ATTIRE

The sacrament of marriage in the Catholic Church is a very sacred and holy ceremony, and must be treated with the utmost respect and modesty. Please keep this in mind when selecting a dress for the bride and her attendants. Men usually wear suits or tuxedos. ***Please do not leave any belongings in the church facilities overnight.***

E. USE OF CHURCH FACILITIES

St. Joseph's is a very large and active community where many activities take place. The fee you paid is for the use of the church and Marian Hall for a total of 4 hours, including the wedding and post wedding. For example, if you have a 2:30 wedding, you would have access to the facilities from 11:45 to 3:45. The church must be clear by 3:45 to allow for confessions to begin promptly at 4:00. If you need to come earlier, it will be at an additional \$100 per hour.

Occasionally there may be a Saturday morning funeral, in which case you would be notified two days in advance to arrange for some slight adjustments. You are welcome to decorate in the church the night before the wedding provided there are no funerals or other weddings taking place. There is a telephone in the cry room at the south entrance of the church for outgoing calls only. Please dial "9" to get an outside line.

F. REHEARSAL TIMES

The time of your rehearsal is set with the priest/deacon. Traditionally, the rehearsal takes place the evening before the wedding. However, you may also have the rehearsal one half hour before the scheduled time for pictures on the day of the wedding. Please remind your wedding party to be on time. The rehearsal will need to begin and end promptly.

G. SATURDAY AFTERNOON WEDDINGS

If you are arranging for a limousine or other transportation, they should arrive no later than 3:45. The church needs to be vacated by 3:50 so that confessions can begin promptly at 4:00.

MUSIC FOR WORSHIP

As for any worship service, the music is to be chosen with care according to sound liturgical principles. A wedding is first a worship service – worship and praise to God who calls a man and a woman together. Music must express and deepen this worship of God for the mystery of love he created and transforms in this sacrament.

Particular decisions about choice and placement of wedding music should grow out of the three judgments proposed in “Music In Catholic Worship.”

The MUSICAL JUDGMENT asks whether or not the music is aesthetically, technically, and expressively good. This judgment is used to eliminate the cheap and trite, and the music which is of generally poor quality.

The LITURGICAL JUDGMENT asks whether or not the music and especially the words are appropriate in a service of worship. The music should join the people with bride and groom in praising God and asking Him to bless this union.

The PASTORAL JUDGMENT evaluates the music in terms of how well it enables the people gathered to express their faith through this celebration. It takes into account the size and makeup of the assembly. Are the people mostly Catholic or non-Catholic, etc?

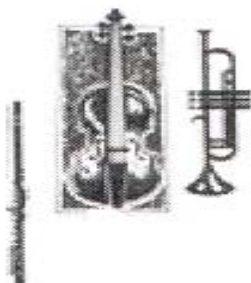
Music chosen for Christian weddings must respect the right of the assembly to participate in the celebration. It is important to consider the family and friends gathered in this celebration, and to make choices that will encourage their participation. Therefore, music chosen is to be familiar to your families and to the people of the church where the celebration takes place. If the music is mostly new, or beyond their ability, it will limit their participation, and thus hamper the community’s worship.

MUSIC GUIDELINES

- 1. St. Joseph's will provide you with an accompanist and cantor.** You are welcome to invite a guest soloist and/or accompanist for a special musical selection before or during the wedding. If, under special circumstances it is agreed that special music is brought in, a musical assistant is hired at the expense of the couple to assist with set up of the sound system and use of the facilities. (Fee amounts are found on page 22 and all fees are due one month before the wedding.) The accompanist will be at the church one hour prior to the wedding to rehearse with a guest vocalist. Additional time with the accompanist prior to this is \$25 per hour. For example, for a 2:30 wedding, anyone wishing to rehearse with the accompanist would need to arrive at 1:30. The liturgy coordinator will assist you with these decisions and answer any questions.
2. All gathered are to be involved in the singing of the Responsorial Psalm, the Alleluia, and if the liturgy is a Mass: the Holy, Holy, Holy, the Memorial Acclamation, the Great Amen, the Lamb of God and the Communion Song. The Responsorial Psalm is sung by the cantor, with the people singing the refrain. The assembled community may be invited to join in the singing of a Gathering Song (a song following the processional.) Again, the more the community participates, the more meaningful the ceremony will be for them.
3. The Lord's Prayer is one of the few prayers that is common to other Christian faiths. It is important that this prayer be recited or sung so that all present can join in this prayer. A solo rendition of the Lord's Prayer can be sung only as a prelude or a meditation piece.

4. The texts of the music chosen must be appropriate for Christian worship. The words should express God's love for us, his love for his Church, or be expressions of praise and thanksgiving. ***Secular pop songs or show tunes are inappropriate during the wedding liturgy. "Here comes the Bride" and Mendelssohn's "Wedding March" may not be used. Any music not suggested in this booklet must be approved by the liturgy coordinator.***

5. You might also inquire about other instrumentalists such as trumpets, violins and flutes available in the parish. Recorded music should never be used to replace the organist, choir or instrumentalists.



WEDDING PROGRAMS

The programs for a wedding are to be carefully designed to include the order of service in its proper dimensions. The liturgy coordinator will provide you with a sample planning form. Please have the final draft approved by the coordinator before the printing to avoid a reprinting of programs.

ORDER OF CELEBRATION

A. THE GATHERING

1. **HOSPITALITY** – Care is to be taken when creating a mood of hospitality and expectant joy as people gather to celebrate. This mood is created by host couples, greeters or the parents of the couple and the couple themselves welcoming the people as they arrive. Two guest books are suggested for larger weddings to enable guests to enter smoothly and quickly.

2. **PRELUDE MUSIC** – The prelude music for a wedding celebration is to set an atmosphere for worship. If instrumental music is to be played, the organist will be able to pick appropriate selections. The prelude music can be instrumental or vocal selections which set a mood of joy.

B. THE ENTRANCE RITE

1. **THE PROCESSION** – There are various options for the entrance of the wedding party and the presider. In order to properly focus worship on God, we recommend a procession of all those involved in the celebration of the wedding ceremony. We suggest that the attendants enter as couples and the bride and groom enter with their parents or as a couple. The procession ends with all taking their appropriate place for the celebration. The parents and attendants sit with the rest of the assembly and the bride and groom take their special place of honor in front of the assembly. The attendants are to come forward only when the couple are to exchange their vows.

2. **THE PROCESSIONAL MUSIC**-There are various options for the use of processional music:

- a. The organist plays a processional.
- b. The organist plays a processional and the assembly joins in a hymn of praise once the wedding party is up front.

c. After the processional, the presider greets the assembly, calls them to worship and then invites them to join in the singing of a hymn of praise.

C. LITURGY OF THE WORD

1. READINGS FROM SACRED SCRIPTURE – The couple select the scripture readings for the marriage ritual. In no case is it allowed to substitute readings from other sacred or secular authors, ancient or modern. A family member or friend can be asked to proclaim the Old and New Testament readings, however, they must be able to read well and have an opportunity to rehearse using the microphone in the church. In a Mass, the readers are required to be Catholic.

The Liturgy of the Word consists of the following elements:

- A. Old Testament Reading
- B. Responsorial Psalm – This is the assembly’s response to hearing God’s word. We recommend that the refrain be short so that it can be easily sung by the assembly after it is sung by the cantor. The verses are sung solo by the cantor, and the refrain is sung by the assembly.
- C. New Testament Reading.
- D. Gospel Acclamation (Alleluia) – This is to be sung
- E. Gospel Reading.
- F. Homily



D. LITURGY OF MARRIAGE

1. EXCHANGE OF VOWS AND RINGS

The vows are to be proclaimed in such a manner that all present can hear. The rings are blessed in a visible manner and given to the couple to exchange with each other.

2. LIGHTING OF THE UNITY CANDLE (optional)

This is not part of the normal Catholic Rite of Marriage, but is a “cultural” symbol that some couples use. After the exchange of rings, the couple moves forward and lights the unity candle together. This is an appropriate time for a song by the soloist, whether the unity candle is used or not. St. Joseph’s has a unity candle stand available; however, couples must purchase their candles.

3. PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

The prayers of the faithful are taken from the marriage handbook. The liturgy coordinator may assist you in composing these prayers. They may be read by a family member, a guest or the couple themselves.

E. THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

(If your wedding is celebrated outside of Mass, sections 1, 2 and 3 listed below are omitted. Skip to number 4.)

1. PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

Gifts of bread and wine are brought forward by parents, relatives or friends and presented to the priest. A short congregational hymn, solo or instrumental piece of music is appropriate at this time.

2. THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Eucharistic Prayer is the hymn of thanksgiving to God for the whole work of salvation. Since this prayer is the center and high point of the Eucharistic celebration, the whole assembly joins by responding and singing the proper acclamations: Holy, Holy, Holy, Memorial Acclamation and the Great Amen. The melodies should be familiar to the majority present.

3. THE COMMUNION RITE

The Communion Rite consists of the following elements:

- A. The Lord's Prayer is the common prayer for all Christians. This prayer should be recited to allow all present to join in.
- B. The Sign of Peace is exchanged as usual. It is more than a handshake of welcoming. It is one's direct offer of the love, peace and reconciliation of Jesus and of oneself to the other.
- C. The Lamb of God accompanies the breaking of the bread and preparation of the cups.
- D. All present who share the Catholic faith are invited to receive communion. In order to offer the Eucharist under both forms of bread and wine, you need to have two Ministers of Holy Communion. These can be family members, if they have been commissioned in their own parish.
- E. It is appropriate to sing a congregational hymn during communion.

4. CONCLUSION OUTSIDE OF THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST (A Wedding Service without Mass)

The Lord's Prayer is recited by all.

The Sign of Peace can be exchanged.

The Final Blessing and Recessional.

F. THE LEAVE-TAKING

1. THE FINAL BLESSING

Everyone is invited to respond "Amen" to the blessing prayers.

2. RECESSIONAL

- a. The couple is presented to the assembly.
- b. Recessional music can either be a strong, simple and well-known hymn of joy or an uplifting instrumental song.

SUGGESTED WEDDING MUSIC

The following is a suggested list of wedding music. It is not an exhaustive list, but will give you an idea of what type of music is appropriate for a Catholic wedding liturgy. Songs that are followed by a number are found in the St. Joseph hymnal. The liturgy coordinator can provide you with a cassette tape and planning sheet that will aid you in selecting your music. Please return the cassette tape when finished with it.

PROCESSIONALS AND RECESSIONALS

Hornpipe	Handel
Arioso	J.S. Bach
Arioso (Thanks be to Thee)	Handel
Canon in D	Pachelbel
Fanfare	Lemmens
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring	J. S. Bach
Ode to Joy	Beethoven
Prelude in Classic Style	Young
Processional (Water Music)	Handel
Psalm 19	Marchello
Rondeau (Sinfones de Fanfares)	Mouret
Trumpet Tune	Purcell
Trumpet Voluntary	Purcell

CONGREGATIONAL HYMNS

All Creatures of Our God and King	#523
Canticle of the Sun	#495
City of God	#663
For the Beauty of the Earth	#548
Gather Us In	#743
Glory and Praise	#537
Holy God, We Praise Thy Name	#519
Holy, Holy, Holy	#483
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You	#520
Lift Up Your Hearts	#341
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling	#613
Now Thank We All Our God	#545
Praise to the Lord the Almighty	#536
Sing a New Song	#544
Sing of the Lord's Goodness	#532
Sing to the Mountains	#452
Though the Mountains May Fall	#595
You are the Voice	#538
When Love is Found	#856

RESPONSORIAL PSALMS

Lord, You Have the Words (Psalm 19)	#20
To You, O Lord (Psalm 25)	#26
The Lord is My Light (Psalm 27)	#29
Taste and See (Psalm 34)	#34
All the Ends of the Earth (Psalm 98)	#55
We are God's People (Psalm 100)	#56
The Lord is Kind and Merciful (Psalm 103)	#59
Let Us Rejoice (This is the Day) (Psalm 118)	#65
Blest are Those Who Love You (Psalm 128)	#70
I Will Praise Your Name (Psalm 145)	#76
God is Love	#608

PREPARATION OF GIFTS & COMMUNION SONGS

Blest Are They	#636
Eat This Bread	#806
Eye Has Not Seen	#616
You Satisfy the Hungry Heart	#816
I am the Bread of Life	#822
I Have Loved You	#504
Let Us Be Bread	#808
No Greater Love	#607
On Eagle's Wings	#593
One Bread, One Body	#813
Servant Song	#661
The Name of God	#62
We Are Many Parts	#727
We Have Been Told	#694
We Remember	#578
When Love is Found	#856
Where Charity/Love Prevail	#610



VOCAL SONGS

All Good Gifts	Godspell
And On This Day	Schwartz
Beginning Today	Balhoff/Ducote
By My Side	Porter
Center of My Life	Inwood
Come & Journey With Me	Haas
Covenant Hymn	Daigle
Day By Day	Godspell
Doubly Good To You	Mullins
Gift of Love	Hopson
God, A Woman, and a Man	Green
He Has Chosen You For Me	Terry
Household of Faith	Lamb/Rosasco
Into Your Hands	Montplaisir
No Greater Love	Joncas
Only A Shadow	Landry
Rainbow	Ducote
Shout To The Lord	Zschech
Time For Joy	Limpie
Wedding Prayer	Ault
Wedding Song	Stokey
Where There Is Love	Haas
Wherever You Go	Norbert

(Christmas songs during the Christmas season are encouraged.)



POLICY FOR USE OF ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH

A. PHOTOGRAPHY

Pictures of your wedding day serve as a beautiful reminder of your special day for years to come. In consideration for the members of the wedding party, pictures must be concluded one half hour before the start of the wedding service. **During picture taking, the church should be respected as a holy place, leaving furnishings (presider's chair, etc.) in place at all times. Pop cans, water bottles and food items are not permitted in the church at any time.** Flash pictures should not be taken during the ceremony because of the distraction and disturbance to the liturgy. Video taping during the ceremony is acceptable either from the back balcony of the church or from the side aisle. The videographer should be stationary to avoid detracting from the liturgy.

B. FLOWERS/ART AND ENVIRONMENT

The sanctuary space at St. Joseph's is naturally beautiful. Special flowers for the wedding should be limited to a bouquet in front of the altar and /or pulpit. Simply using the plants that are already in place in the church is also acceptable. (The church is decorated according to liturgical seasons. These decorations are put up with great planning and care, therefore, cannot be changed for a wedding.)

C. AISLE CLOTH ("Runner")

An aisle cloth is not permitted at St. Joseph's due to the length of the church. It has also proved to be very dangerous, as guests and the wedding party themselves can trip or become entangled in the cloth.

D. CANDLES

The use of candles at your wedding can add to a beautiful environment on your wedding day. However, because of fire codes, any candles placed on the pews must be enclosed (globed) and securely fastened, if used at all. Candelabras not permitted. *The Lighting of the unity candle during the wedding ceremony is not part of the usual wedding ceremony and therefore, is optional. If the couple desires to use it, they are responsible for purchasing the unity candle and side candles.*

E. RICE, CONFETTI, BIRD SEED, FLOWER PETALS and DECORATING THE CAR

Rice, confetti, birdseed and flower petals are not permitted at any time before, during or after the wedding ceremony. The time and cost of clean up is usually left to the parish. If the vehicle used for the wedding party is decorated, with respect for the Catholic Church, there may be no inappropriate wording or decorations used. Should this happen, you will be asked to remove the vehicle from the premises.

F. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

The wedding day is a time for celebration! God has blessed your choice of one another in a beautiful way. We want the day to truly be a celebration and a time of thanksgiving for God's many blessings. The use of alcohol as part of the celebration before the wedding can (and has) led to an embarrassing situation for the bride and bridegroom and the presider involved in the wedding. If alcohol is found or detected on any members of the wedding party, they may not be allowed to participate in the wedding. We want your wedding to be a prayerful and joy-filled day.

G. USHERS

The ushers are an important part of insuring that your wedding day flows smoothly. They should be told before the wedding exactly how and where people are to be seated. Guests will be entering through the south doors only. Are the guests to be seated according to their relationship with the bride or bridegroom (separate sides of the church) or will there be "open seating"? Also, please discuss with the ushers how the guests will be ushered out of the church... row by row...or, will the couple themselves return to the front of the church after the recessional and greet their guests as they leave their pews?

H. ALTAR SERVERS

If your wedding is a Mass, the presider will need two altar servers. If you do not have friends or family members who are experienced altar servers, the liturgy coordinator will secure these individuals for you. We do ask that you pay each of these young people \$20.00 for their service.

I. FLOWERGIRLS/RINGBEARERS

The involvement of family and friends in the wedding ceremony make the liturgy a special occasion; however, marriage is a sacrament for adults and it is suggested that the wedding party be made up of only adults. The focus of attention should always be the bride and groom. Unfortunately, the ring bearer and flower girl often become a distraction by their behavior during the liturgy. The use of a flowergirl/ringbearer should be discussed with the liturgy coordinator. The flower girl may carry a basket or bouquet. The suggested minimum age for the flowergirl/ringbearer is 5 years old

J. SECURITY DEPOSIT

All areas of the church building must be left in the same manner in which they were found before the ceremony. Designate someone to see that the following details are accomplished.

(This information will be on a separate sheet that will be given to the clean up person appointed to be in charge of clean up.)

Clean up includes:

Church: Go through the pews and collect any programs or other items or garbage left by guests. Check for flower petals or anything left from decorations. If there is any spilled wax or damage to the pews or any other area of the church, your deposit will not be refunded. *Pop cans, water bottles or food may not be brought into the church proper at any time.*

Outer doors Please do not prop open doors because of loss of heat/air conditioning. Your refund will not be refunded if the outer doors are left propped open after the wedding party and guests have left the premises.

Vestibule: If you have moved any tables etc please make sure items are returned to their original location.

Basement Make sure toilets are flushed, lights are turned off, and all hangers, boxes, packages, and wrappings are placed in the dumpster on the north east side of the church. If the nursery area is used, it must be left neat and clean. If food is brought in, leftover food, water bottles, pop cans, etc must be taken with you or placed in the dumpster. If any food or trash is left anywhere in the church or basement, your security deposit will not be refunded. Tables must be wiped off and chairs replaced neatly around the tables.

The Gathering Place: If The Gathering Place is used for any reason, it also must be left as found.

Outside of the church: Your deposit will not be refunded if any additional clean up is needed out side of the church on the lawn, sidewalks, parking lot or front steps.

If above criteria is satisfactory, you will receive your refund one to two weeks after your wedding

FEES

The marriage license must be submitted one week prior to the wedding. All payments are to be paid at the parish office one month prior to the wedding date. Checks may be made payable to the accompanist and cantor and the altar servers can be paid in cash. The fee for the church and security deposit are to be made payable to St. Joseph's Church, written as two separate checks.

These fees go into effect January 1, 2010.

Security Deposit\$125
(The security deposit will be refunded a couple of weeks after the wedding if no additional clean up is required by the church staff.)

Church

Parishioners.....\$250
Non-parishioners.....\$500
(Covers use of building, heat/air conditioning, lights, etc.)

Accompanist\$150
Cantor/Song Leader\$125
Two Altar Servers.....\$20 each
(Only needed when wedding is a Mass.)

Musical Assistant\$150
(Required only if St. Joseph' music ministers are not used.)

Additional instruments or musicians are available for an additional fee.

