

Preparing for the Celebration of Holy Matrimony



SAINT ROSE
CATHOLIC CHURCH

215 E. Front Street
Perrysburg, OH 43551
www.saintroseonline.org

Dear Bride and Groom,

Congratulations on your decision to marry! Holy Matrimony is a big commitment, but even more, it is a holy calling (“vocation”) from the Lord. Our most basic calling in life is to imitate God, who is love. Holy Matrimony is one very important way of following Christ and responding to this call from God that we love one another.

On the day of your wedding, you will publicly give yourselves to each other, without condition and for the rest of your lives. With God’s blessing and in the midst of the Church, you will enter into a holy covenant. Your committed, mutual love thereby will become an image (sacrament) of the absolute and unfailing love with which God loves us all. In the midst of your planning, please remember that your wedding will last but a day, but that your matrimony is for the rest of your lives. Be sure to invite the Lord not only to your wedding, but also into your marriage!

This booklet is designed to provide you the information you need to know about preparing for Holy Matrimony at Saint Rose Parish. A significant portion of the booklet concerns the guidelines for the wedding liturgy. These guidelines have but one ultimate goal: to help ensure that your wedding ceremony will be a beautiful and prayerful celebration, one based on the principles of authentic Catholic liturgy.

As you prepare for Holy Matrimony, may the Lord Jesus, who himself was a guest at the wedding feast at Cana (John 2:1-11) continue to bless and deepen your love and commitment to each other.

Sincerely in the Lord,

Rev. George E. Wenzinger
Pastor

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preparation for Matrimony	1
Visiting Priest or Deacon	2
Required Documents	2
Certificate of Baptism	2
Previous Marriage	2
Marriage License	3
Parish Customs and Rules	3
Flowers	3
Aisle Runner.....	3
Candelabra.....	3
Other Decorations	4
Clean-up	4
Altar Servers	4
Flower Girls and Ring Bearers	4
Wedding Attire	4
Dressing Rooms	5
Photography and Video	5
Lectors	6
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	6
Liturgical Matters	7
Should there be a Mass?.....	7
The Sacrament of Reconciliation.....	7
Principles of Planning the Wedding Ceremony	7
Music	8

Order of Celebrating Matrimony within Mass 9-10

Order of Celebrating Matrimony without Mass 11-12

Logistical Matters13

 Church Fees13

 Wedding Coordinator13

 Wedding Time and Rehearsal14

 Worship Aids.....15

 Suggestions for Preparing the Worship Aids15

Checklist16

Last Minute Reminders for your Wedding.....17

 The Week Before17

 The Rehearsal18

 On Your Wedding Day.....19



PREPARATION FOR MATRIMONY

Since Holy Matrimony is an exclusive, life-long commitment that can only be dissolved by death, it is not to be entered into lightly. The Church's one desire is that you have a strong, life-long marriage that is filled with God's grace and deep mutual love. In order to help you prepare for making this commitment to a total sharing of life, at least six months of preparation is required in the Diocese of Toledo before celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony.

At Saint Rose Parish, you will first meet with one of our priests or our pastoral associate who will help confirm your ability to enter into the matrimonial covenant and will assist in arranging your ceremony at Saint Rose. No venues or services should be booked until you have had this initial meeting with the parish pastoral staff and are then able to set a date for the ceremony.

Preparation for Holy Matrimony consists of individual meetings with a member of the clergy at Saint Rose as well as a workshop experience endorsed by the Diocese of Toledo. In addition to these requirements, couples preparing for Holy Matrimony at Saint Rose take part in a Natural Family Planning course either in person or online as part of their preparation.

With the permission of the Pastor or Parochial Vicar of Saint Rose, a couple who currently live far from the parish can arrange to do their preparation at a parish near them or complete an online preparation program. Such couples still need to meet in person with one of the priests or the pastoral associate at Saint Rose to begin the process and schedule the ceremony.

Visiting Priest or Deacon

With the explicit permission (“delegation”) of the Pastor or Parochial Vicar of Saint Rose, a visiting priest or deacon may officiate at your wedding. Please discuss this with the priest or pastoral associate at your first meeting. If the priest or deacon is from outside the Diocese of Toledo, he must submit a letter of suitability from his own diocese or religious superior to the Vicar for Clergy in the Diocese of Toledo. This is a nationwide requirement.

Required Documents

As part of marriage preparation, the following documents will need to be provided by each couple:

Certificate of Baptism

A recently issued certificate of baptism is required for all Catholics. St. Rose Parish will obtain this certificate for you. Please bring any baptismal information you have to your first marriage preparation session with the Pastor. At a minimum, this includes the name of the parish and city where you were baptized.

Non-Catholic Christians who are baptized are asked to obtain a letter or certificate from the church where they were baptized. Please arrange to have these mailed directly to Saint Rose Parish, 215 E. Front St., Perrysburg, OH 43551.

Previous Marriage

Any previous marriage that either party was involved in will require a Declaration of Freedom to Marry and may require a Declaration of Nullity (commonly called an “annulment”). Please advise the priest or pastoral associate immediately of any previous marriages, regardless of where or when they were celebrated. We are absolutely forbidden from setting a wedding date until these proceedings are completed in their entirety.

Marriage License

This is to be obtained from the Ohio county probate court for the county in which either one of you presently reside. It is valid for 60 days. Please bring the marriage license with you to the rehearsal. The priest or deacon must have the license before witnessing the marriage.

Parish Customs and Rules

Saint Rose Church is a smoke free facility. NO SMOKING is permitted anywhere in the building.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES are not permitted in the church building or on church property during a wedding or a rehearsal.

Flower petals are not to be strewn in the aisle on carpet or on aisle runner.

Rice, birdseed, balloons and sparklers are prohibited. Bubbles may be used outside of church.

Flowers

Any flowers placed in the sanctuary are considered a gift to the parish. Thus, they are to be left in place for the Sunday Masses. If there is more than one wedding at our church on a given weekend, we suggest that you contact the other couple to investigate the possibility of sharing the expense.

Artificial flowers are discouraged.

Aisle Runner

This is optional and can be obtained from your florist. The aisle is about 80 feet long. Many couples forego the use of a runner.

Candelabra

Candelabra may be used anywhere in the church sanctuary or main aisle, provided they are enclosed by glass protection. They must be supplied by the florist and free standing. No lit candles are permitted in bridal bouquets.

Other Decorations

Any decorations attached to the pews must be done only by elastic bands. Tape, glue, adhesives, and screws are never permitted. No existing sanctuary furnishings (chairs, candlesticks, etc.) may be moved without the permission of the priest/deacon.

Clean-up

The family is responsible for removing any decorations and equipment which were brought in for the wedding (aisle runner, bows, etc.). Please coordinate this with your florist.

Altar Servers

For weddings that include Mass, the parish will supply two altar servers. If there is someone special you would like to serve, please let the priest know. It is a common courtesy to give each server a gratuity. A gift of \$10-\$20 per server is appropriate.

Flower Girls and Ring Bearers

These are not required. When they are involved as part of the wedding party, they should not be less than 4 years old, as children of this age tend to panic when they see a church full of people and anticipate a long walk down the center aisle. Please consider carefully whether their presence will add or detract from the joyful solemnity of the liturgy.

Wedding Attire

The celebration of marriage is a sacred ceremony in the house of God. At times you will be asked to kneel; therefore, when selecting wedding attire, modesty should be kept in mind so as not to offend the sacredness of this ceremony or any of the people in attendance.

Dressing Rooms

Women may use the women's restroom in the church basement. There is a large mirror and dressing table. Smoking is not permitted in the restrooms.

The sacristy may not be used as a dressing room. It is recommended that the men in the wedding party arrive at the church already in their wedding attire.

Photography and Videos

We understand the importance of preserving the memory of your wedding day through photographs and video. However, the clicks and flashes of cameras and roving video recorders easily detract from the sacredness of the liturgy. Please adhere to the following guidelines:

Only one official photographer is permitted. No flashes are permitted during the ceremony. The only exception is the entrance procession and the recessional. The photographer is expected to be discreet and judicious in photo taking, so as not to distract from the liturgy. Our parish policy will be given to the photographer before the wedding.

No more than two video cameras are permitted. They must be stationary. We recommend placing one in the choir loft. If a second camera is used, it should be placed in the back of church off the main aisle, or in the east side aisle near the chairs.

Cameras and video equipment are not permitted in the sanctuary or music areas at any time during the wedding.

Please inform your friends and families of these guidelines. If you are using a worship aid ["program"] please incorporate the following phrase in it:

"Kindly refrain from taking pictures or video recording during the ceremony."

Lectors

In selecting someone to do the scripture readings, please keep in mind that the person who fills this liturgical role will be proclaiming the Word of God. These individuals should be instructed at the rehearsal on the appropriate timing and method to proclaiming the scriptures. It is most important that they be able to read so that the assembly can hear the Word of God.

A Catholic who already serves as a Lector in their parish is the preferred person to proclaim the scripture readings at your wedding. It is also permitted to have another Catholic or indeed a baptized individual from another Christian denomination fulfill this role.

Copies of the readings will be provided by the priest or deacon and placed on the ambo (pulpit) prior to the liturgy. There is no need for the readers to carry a copy of the reading to the ambo.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

If your wedding will include the celebration of the Eucharist, there may be a need for extraordinary ministers to help with the distribution of Holy Communion. Family or friends who function as extraordinary ministers in their own parishes may fill this role during the wedding. Please discuss this matter with the priest when planning the liturgy.



LITURGICAL MATTERS

Should there be a Mass?

There are three liturgical options for the Celebration of Matrimony: within Mass, without Mass, and between a Catholic and Catechumen or a Non-Christian

For marriage between two Catholics, the Church recommends that the rite of marriage take place within the celebration of the Eucharist.

For marriage between a Catholic and a baptized non-Catholic, the Church recommends that the rite of marriage be celebrated without Mass.

For marriage between a Catholic and non-baptized person, the rite of marriage is celebrated without Mass.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

It is strongly recommended that Catholics preparing for marriage celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation prior to the wedding so that they may fruitfully receive the sacrament of marriage. The priest or deacon preparing you for marriage can help answer questions in this regard.

Principles of Planning the Wedding Ceremony

Since the wedding liturgy is a celebration of a sacrament, the music must reflect that sacramental nature. Music which only celebrates the human secular values of love is not appropriate in church. The assembly gathered for the wedding should be drawn into active participation in this sacred ritual through prayer and song in order to share fully in the sacramental encounter with Christ the Lord. Sung texts should reflect not only the love of a man and a woman but also the love of God for the couple and for all people. It is with this understanding that these guidelines have been established for all weddings at Saint Rose Parish

Music

Once your wedding date has been set please contact the parish musician as early as possible. The Director of Liturgy & Music, Charlotte Mariasy can be reached through the Parish Office (419-874-4559)

Engaged couples are EXPECTED to employ one of the parish organists or parish musicians for their wedding ceremony. St. Rose musicians know what works best in our community and are familiar with the sound system, acoustics, and instruments of the church. Finally, parish musicians are at ease with the practice and presidential style of the parish priest(s) and deacon(s). Your fee to the church includes the stipend for the parish organist.

All extra musicians, i.e. instrumentalists and vocalists are to have appropriate musical training, experience, and understanding of the liturgy and marriage rite. An interview with the parish musician will determine whether the guest musician meets these criteria. All extra musicians need to be approved by the Director of Liturgy & Music BEFORE you hire them. It is up to the couple to pay extra musicians directly.

All music selections need to be approved by the Director of Liturgy & Music.

The use of recorded music is not permitted at Saint Rose.

All musical selections need to reflect Christian faith. Secular music such as TOP 40, Broadway Show tunes or music from movie soundtracks are inappropriate for a wedding liturgy. This does not mean that these songs are inherently bad, but rather a realization that they are better suited for your reception - where they will help to celebrate other dimensions of the wedding. The Director of Liturgy & Music will assist you in selecting music for your wedding and will make all final decisions regarding music at Saint Rose.

*These music guidelines are in accord with those established
by the Diocese of Toledo.*

ORDER OF CELEBRATING MATRIMONY WITHIN MASS

Name: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____

Introductory Rites

Entrance Procession: _____

Gathering Hymn: _____

Glory to God: _____

Opening Prayer: _____

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: _____

Responsorial Psalm (sung): _____

Second Reading: _____

Gospel Acclamation: _____

Gospel: _____

Homily: _____

Rite of Marriage

Consent and Exchange of Vows: _____

(Sung Acclamation-optional): _____

Blessing and Exchange of the Rings: _____

Blessing and Giving of the Arras (cultural): _____

(Sung Acclamation-optional): _____

The Universal Prayer/General Intercessions: _____

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Gifts and the Altar (inst. music or sung hymn): _____

Eucharistic Prayer: _____

Lord's Prayer: _____

Blessing and Placing of the Lazo or Veil (cultural): _____

Nuptial Blessing: _____

Sign of Peace: _____

Breaking of the Bread: _____

Communion Song: _____

Prayer after Communion: _____

Concluding Rite

Final Blessing: _____

(Devotion to the Blessed Mother – optional): _____

Recessional (congregational song and/or instrumental music): _____

Additional Notes

ORDER OF CELEBRATING MATRIMONY WITHOUT MASS

Name: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____

Introductory Rites

Entrance Procession: _____

Gathering Hymn: _____

Opening Prayer: _____

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: _____

Responsorial Psalm (sung): _____

Second Reading: _____

Gospel Acclamation: _____

Gospel: _____

Homily: _____

Rite of Marriage

Consent and Exchange of Vows: _____

(Sung Acclamation-optional): _____

Blessing and Exchange of the Rings: _____

Blessing and Giving of the Arras (cultural): _____

(Sung Acclamation-optional): _____

The Universal Prayer/General Intercessions: _____

Lord's Prayer: _____

Blessing and Placing of the Lazo or Veil (cultural): _____

Nuptial Blessing: _____

Concluding Rite

Final Blessing: _____

(Devotion to the Blessed Mother – optional): _____

Recessional (congregational song and/or instrumental music): _____

Additional Notes

LOGISTICAL MATTERS

Church Fees

The Church does not charge anyone for any of the Sacraments. God's grace is offered free of charge to all! Options to receive the Sacrament of Matrimony in a very simple fashion (without the music, flowers, bridal party, etc.) may be discussed with the priest or pastoral associate at your first meeting.

Most couples, however, wish to hold their wedding ceremony at a specific time and have the church building reserved for their exclusive use and decorated according to their taste. For such a wedding ceremony, Saint Rose Parish assesses a fee of \$500. This fee covers the rental of the church, our parish musician, our parish wedding coordinator and serves to help the general upkeep of our facility. This fee must be paid to the parish (checks made out to "Saint Rose Parish") before a date can be secured.

Wedding Coordinator

Saint Rose Parish provides a wedding coordinator for your wedding. The coordinator will be at the rehearsal and available the day of the wedding. She will contact you 1-2 weeks before your ceremony to touch base and answer any questions you may have.

Wedding Time and Rehearsal

Usually, weddings are scheduled on Friday or Saturday. Friday weddings are usually scheduled at 6pm. Saturday weddings may be scheduled at 11am or 2pm. Those scheduling their weddings on either of these days have the use of the church for three hours. Hence, those having a Friday evening wedding have the church from 5pm to 8pm. Those having a Saturday morning wedding have the church from 10am to 1pm. Those having a Saturday afternoon wedding have the church from 1pm to 4pm.

The parish liturgical schedule for the weekend begins with confessions at 4pm. Hence, those having a Saturday afternoon wedding must have the church cleaned up and vacated by 4pm.

Rehearsals are to be scheduled with the priest or deacon. With cooperation and prompt arrival, the rehearsal usually lasts no longer than an hour. Any decisions during the rehearsal will be made by the clergy and/or parish wedding coordinator in consultation with the bride and groom, not by outside consultants or family members.



Worship Aids

A printed worship aid, when properly prepared, encourages the active participation in the spoken and sung prayers of the service and helps those who are unfamiliar with the Catholic Liturgy to understand its basic structure. A worship aid also provides a thoughtful remembrance of the occasion. Sample programs will be given out at the Engaged Couples Conference or can be obtained from the Director of Liturgy & Music.

Suggestions for Preparing the Worship Aids

Print major headings in bold or decorative type so they stand out. The elements of each rite may be in a smaller type. Do not print the texts of prayers, readings, or vows. These should be listened to, not read by the assembly.

Include page numbers of the hymns, responses, and acclamations so that the congregation may easily participate in the celebration. An invitation might also be included at the very beginning of the worship aid asking the assembly to join in the sung and spoken prayer of the wedding ceremony.

Any time music and/or words to hymns are printed, copyright permission must be secured. The Director of Liturgy & Music can assist them in obtaining the permission.

The Order of the Liturgy should be printed first since this is the most important part. The list of ministers (members of the wedding party, lectors, musicians, and family) is printed on the last page.

Please include the following in the worship aid:

“Kindly refrain from taking pictures or video recording during the ceremony.”

All couples are required to have the Director of Liturgy & Music proof the program BEFORE it is taken to the printer.

CHECKLIST

- First Meeting with Priest or Pastoral Associate (at least 6 months prior to intended wedding date)
- Follow-Up Preparation Sessions
- Matrimony Preparation Workshop
- Natural Family Planning Course
- Plan Ceremony using *Together for Life*
- Meeting with Music Director
- Obtain Civil Marriage License
- Celebrate Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Rehearsal (Bring Civil Marriage License)
- Wedding Date



LAST MINUTE REMINDERS FOR YOUR WEDDING

The Week Before

- **Remember to pray!** Pray for yourself and pray for your fiancé(e)! Pray every day!
- **Pray through the readings that you have chosen for your wedding day.** You may be too nervous to hear them well during the ceremony. Familiarize yourself with them beforehand to make the Word of God even more meaningful for your Wedding Day.
- **Take a close look at your wedding vows.** Pray through the words of your wedding vows and the questions of intent that you will be asked on your big day. You can find these in your *Together for Life* book on pages 88 – 92. They may be the most important questions you'll ever answer, and *the most important words you'll ever say!*
- **Consider going to Reconciliation.** Catholics are *strongly* encouraged to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) prior to celebrating the Sacrament of Matrimony. You may do this at Saint Rose or at any Catholic Parish, either at the regular appointed times or by making an individual appointment with any Catholic priest.

Regular Confession Times at Saint Rose


Mondays:	6:30 – 6:45 am
	8:30 – 8:45 am
Wednesdays:	6:30 – 6:45 pm
Saturdays:	4:00 – 4:40 pm

The Rehearsal

- Your rehearsal will be on _____ at _____
- Your rehearsal and wedding day will be coordinated by our parish wedding coordinator who is an expert at making sure that everything goes smoothly for your wedding ceremony.
- You must bring your **civil marriage license** to the rehearsal. Please bring everything (including any return envelopes) that you received from the county clerk.
- *Please, no food or drink (except water) in the church.*

On Your Wedding Day

- No alcohol for the bride or groom before the ceremony on your wedding day! Both bride and groom must be completely sober, or there will be no wedding. Also, your wedding party should be completely sober when they arrive at the Church. A member of your wedding party who has been drinking will not be permitted to participate in the ceremony.
- If you are having a Mass, it is customary to give the two altar servers an appropriate gratuity (\$10-20 each).
- Please remind your photographer/videographer that they are to be professionally dressed in a manner appropriate for a church ceremony. They will be expected to follow all of the guidelines outlined on the bright yellow/green sheet of paper that was provided to you ahead of time. Make sure they have received these guidelines ahead of time.
- During the ceremony, it is expected that you (and your wedding party) will be prayerful throughout the ceremony and set a good example for the congregation. Please join in on the responses and sing the hymns you have chosen. Please refrain from engaging in small talk with one another during the Mass, especially during the distribution of Holy Communion.
- For Saturday afternoon weddings, remember that you must be finished with pictures and out of the church by 4:00 pm when Confessions begin.



THE LOVE OF
HUSBAND AND WIFE
IS THE FORCE THAT
WELDS SOCIETY
TOGETHER.

ST. JOHN
CHRYSOSTOM

Catholic Company
Since 1864

NOTES

Lined writing area consisting of 25 horizontal lines.

NOTES

Ruled lines for writing notes, consisting of 21 horizontal lines spaced evenly down the page.

