

Celebrating Marriage
in



PARISH

St. Hilary Parish
2750 West Market Street
Fairlawn, Ohio 44333
(330) 867-1055

On the Importance and Dignity of the Sacrament of Marriage

“In virtue of the sacrament of marriage, married Christians signify and share in the mystery of the unity and fruitful love that exists between Christ and his Church; they thus help each other to attain holiness in their married life and in welcoming and rearing children; and they have their own special place and gift among the people of God.

Christian couples, therefore are to strive to nourish and develop their marriage by undivided affection, which wells up from the fountain of divine love: in a merging of the human and the divine, they remain faithful in body and mind, in good times as in bad.”

- Introduction, The Rite of Marriage, 1&3

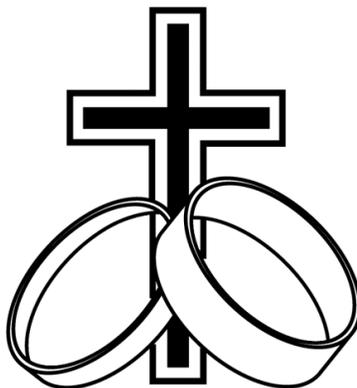


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INTRODUCTION

Congratulations on your engagement! The St. Hilary Community and the entire Church share your joy and excitement as you anticipate your wedding day.

Your marriage and the celebration of your wedding are important events for you, your family and your parish. In fact, so important is marriage in Christian life that it is a Sacrament. Your marriage, lived out, is an expression of your love and commitment to each other, as well as a sign of the love of God for all people.

It is important that time and effort be given in preparing for your marriage. The following guidelines are meant to provide you with important information to be used in the planning of your wedding. Great care should be taken to see that this special celebration is reverent, prayerful and beautiful. We are pleased to share the responsibility of helping you prepare for this day and more importantly, a lifetime together.

God has called you to the vocation of Christian marriage. As you prepare for your wedding day, it is our hope that you will prayerfully reflect on the life you are beginning and how faith can strengthen your marriage.

WEDDING COORDINATOR

Denise Fresh is the St. Hilary wedding coordinator. She will run/assist at your rehearsal, arrive an hour before your wedding to set up, assist in getting the bridal party organized at the wedding, and will clean up after the wedding.

Any questions you may have regarding your rehearsal, flowers or photographer should be directed to: Denise Fresh at 330-666-9389.



John 15:12

MAKING YOUR ARRANGEMENTS

Couples are expected to contact a priest at St. Hilary *at least* six months in advance of the day they hope to celebrate their wedding. Dates can be booked **only after** a priest has met with the engaged couple. All dates remain tentative during the process until it can be determined there is no cause to refuse or delay the celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage as set forth in the Cleveland Diocesan Marriage Policy. Should you have any questions regarding this policy, please ask the priest who will be assisting in your preparation.

TIME AND DATE

Weddings are scheduled on Friday evenings, or on Saturdays at either 11:30 a.m. or 1:30 p.m. While a later time might be desired for receptions afterwards, the church needs to be free at 3:15 for confessions followed by Mass at 4:00 p.m.

Please note there are certain times in the Church year when the liturgical and parish calendar prohibits the celebration of weddings. For example, because of the solemn nature of Advent and Lent, it is not advised to celebrate a wedding during these liturgical seasons.

CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT

Spiritual

Minimal religious readiness includes, among other things, the acceptance and practice of the Catholic faith by at least one of the parties, or the serious intention to resume such practice. This also includes the acceptance of the religious and Sacramental nature of marriage.

Personal

Due to the lifelong nature of the marital covenant, areas of development which have an effect on personal relationships will also be examined: Responsibility, self-sufficiency, communication, reality awareness, and self-acceptance, among others.

Canonical

Through dialogue, it must be determined that a couple is free to marry within the Church and there are no impediments of the law. In the case of a remarriage or validation or an existing union, the priest will assist you in taking the necessary steps.

NOTE: *All of the items described above will be evaluated during your meetings with the priest and through a pre-nuptial evaluation called Prepare and Enrich (see page 8).*



PRE-MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Marriage preparation is not just for the wedding day, but for a lifetime of love and commitment. It is desired that couples recognize the importance of preparation for Christian marriage. The three components to the marriage preparation process are: the Prepare and Enrich evaluation, Couple-to-Couple Ministry, and the planning of the Wedding Liturgy.

PREPARE AND ENRICH

The couple preparing for marriage will be expected to take the Prepare and Enrich marriage evaluation. The Prepare and Enrich evaluation is not a test, and couples cannot “pass” or “fail.” Instead, the Prepare and Enrich marriage evaluation is an instrument to assist the couple and priest in identifying areas that can serve as topics for discussion during the preparation period. It also allows for increased communication between the couple on topics related to marriage.

COUPLE-TO-COUPLE MINISTRY

St. Hilary includes Couple-to-Couple Ministry as part of the marriage preparation program in the comfort of a home environment. Your priest will put you in contact with a married couple from St. Hilary who has been trained to work with engaged couples preparing for marriage. They will serve as “sponsors” for you before and after your wedding. This ministry provides an opportunity for you to openly discuss areas of marital life with an experienced couple and to form fruitful relationships with members of the parish community.

BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATES

Contact the church where you were baptized to request that a NEW copy of your baptismal certificate be sent to the priest assisting in your preparation. Copies of baptismal certificates (for Catholics and non-Catholics) must be newly issued by the parish or church of your baptism and should, if applicable, include dates of First Communion and Confirmation.

CIVIL LICENSE

It is your responsibility to obtain a civil marriage license in the Ohio County of residence of either party. For Summit County residents, licenses are obtained at:

Marriage License Bureau
1st Floor of Old Court House
209 S. High St.
Akron, OH 44308
(330) 643-2350

Both of you must appear in person to apply for the license. You must bring a **driver's license** and/or **birth certificate** as well as your **social security number**. Note that if either party has been married before, a copy of your certified divorce decree is also needed.

THE WEDDING LITURGY

The wedding liturgy is the public prayer of the Church that celebrates God's covenant in love. In the Roman Catholic tradition, the bride and groom minister the sacrament to one another; a priest or deacon and at least two other witnesses are also required to be present. Ordinarily, a priest from St. Hilary will preside at weddings celebrated in the parish. However, a couple may ask a priest or deacon friend or relative to preside. Should you choose to have a priest not from St. Hilary, please make arrangements for that priest to prepare you and mention this to the parish priest early in the process so that appropriate arrangements may be made.

PLANNING THE LITURGY

Couples should use the experience of Sunday Mass as the model for preparation of their wedding liturgy. You will be provided with a copy of *Together for Life*, a marriage preparation booklet. This will assist you in choosing Scripture readings, vows, prayers and blessings. The priest can answer any questions you might have. Additionally, you will need to meet with the Director of Music and Liturgy, David Dettloff, to choose music and finalize your Wedding Liturgy:

(330) 867-1055 ex. 202

ddettloff@sthilarychurch.org

He will assist you in choosing music for the ceremony, but it is helpful if you come to the meeting with ideas.

Because of the public nature of the Sacrament of Marriage, liturgy planning should strive for full, active and conscious participation of those gathered.

Ecumenical Considerations

Whenever a wedding involves an inter-religious couple, the liturgy may be celebrated without Eucharist. If your marriage will occur in the context of Mass and Communion is offered, it is beneficial for you and your family to review the guidelines found in Appendix C.

Hospitality

People should be greeted warmly as they arrive. Also, it is not required to seat guests into separate sides of the church.

Programs

Wedding programs or worship aids are not required but are helpful in encouraging the assembly to participate. If you are duplicating music you must obtain copyright permission to do so and should give proper credit to the composers. The priest or Director of Music can proofread the program before it is printed.

Liturgical Ministers

The couple usually chooses lectors for the wedding. These individuals should be able to proclaim the Word of God effectively and reverently. If Mass will be celebrated, Eucharistic Ministers will be needed. St. Hilary will provide parishioners to serve in this capacity, but if you have friends or families that are trained Eucharistic Ministers, they may serve at the wedding. (Similarly with Altar Servers.) In choosing children for ring bearers or flower girls, couples should consider age, and whether they will add or detract from the joyful solemnity of the celebration.

MUSIC GUIDELINES

Music in the wedding liturgy is meant to enhance the beauty of the Sacrament of Marriage and to unite the assembly. Therefore, when choosing music for your wedding, it is important to make selections that express faith and promote prayer. Your choices should allow the assembly to be full, active and conscious participants in the prayer and action of the liturgy. The goal of music in the wedding celebration is not to entertain, or provide a repertoire of pretty or “favorite” songs, but to encourage active participation.

The First Step

Within three months of your wedding date, be sure to set up a meeting with David Dettloff, Dir. of Music and Liturgy:

(330) 867-1055

ddettloff@sthilarychurch.org

He will assist you in choosing and preparing the music for your wedding celebration.

Outside Musical Involvement

It is recommended that you utilize the music ministers provided from St. Hilary for your wedding celebration. However, should you choose to use a cantor from another parish, such arrangements should be cleared with David as soon as possible. In addition, be sure the cantor contacts David to discuss details. If he has not heard from the cantor within a month of the wedding, a St. Hilary cantor will be assigned.

As noted above, the assembly is meant to take part as active participants rather than as passive spectators. Keep in mind then, that vocalists should contribute to the wedding, not *become* the wedding as a result of the music chosen or the manner in which it is sung.

What Music Should be Used?

The best place to begin is to listen for music that is used in the parish on Sundays. This music will be familiar to many gathered to celebrate with you and familiar to the music ministers as well. You can begin by looking at the parish hymnal and other resources provided by David Dettloff.

Music which was designed to serve a purpose outside of liturgy (i.e. theater, concert, etc.) often loses its effectiveness when used in another context. Although non-liturgical music, specifically that which references romantic love, may be inspirational to you on this day, songs that do not speak of faith, or express the centrality of Christ are best be saved for the reception. Secular vocal music is not allowed during the liturgy and is discouraged even as prelude music.

The following questions may be helpful in making your final determinations regarding music:

- Is it good music from an artistic standpoint?
- Is the quality of the music such that it will enhance the celebration?
- Do the words of the song express the Christian faith? Are they relevant to Christian marriage?
- Is the song appropriate for this community? If another tradition (i.e. Jewish, Protestant) will be represented, are there selections familiar to them?

**For a list of suggested music, please see
Appendix A on page 19.**

THE ENVIRONMENT

Flowers

When placing flowers in the sanctuary, please do not place them in front of the altar. Also, floral arrangements should not overwhelm the sanctuary or interfere with the wedding liturgy.

Pews

Pew bows should be easily removable without damage to the pews. Decorations should not impede entrance into the pews.

Candles

Some couples choose to use candelabras as part of the environment. Should you choose to do this, please note that drip-less candles must be used.

Aisle Runners

For safety reasons, an aisle runner is not permitted.

Seasonal Decorations

If a wedding celebration is scheduled during a major liturgical season (i.e. Advent, Christmas or Easter) please be aware that the decorations in the church will reflect that particular season. During Advent, the Advent wreath and the colors of the season will be a part of the environment. In the Christmas and Easter seasons, the environment will be enhanced with flowers and colors as well.

Traditions

To avoid safety hazard, and to minimize custodial work, the throwing of rice, birdseed, confetti, flower petals, etc. is not allowed at St. Hilary. You may opt for bubbles, balloons or bells instead.

PHOTOGRAPHERS / VIDEOGRAPHERS

The photographer/videographer should, in no way, distract the worship or disrupt the prayer, or get in the way of the processions. This means that photographers and videographers are NOT free to roam in the church during the celebration of the liturgy for your wedding. Also, the opening and closing processions and all other liturgical actions during the ceremony should not be interrupted by attempts to stage or “pose” pictures. Finally, flash photography is NOT permitted during the liturgy. Flash may be used for pictures after the ceremony. If you should have questions regarding this policy, please ask the priest who is assisting you in your preparation.

If your wedding is at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, picture-taking must be completed by 1:00 p.m. when there is another wedding at 1:30 p.m. If your wedding is at 1:30 p.m., picture taking must be completed and you must be out of the church by 3:15 p.m. at the latest since individuals arrive at that time for Reconciliation.

If you believe that time will be a factor in taking all of the pictures that you desire in the church, it is recommended that you take some of your pictures prior to the wedding.

Photographers are to be made aware of this policy and MUST adhere to it. Also, please instruct your photographer and videographer to introduce themselves to the wedding coordinator and priest on your wedding day, and to ask about the appropriate positions for picture taking during the ceremony. A map is included on the back of this page indicating the position of photographers during the procession (P) seated in the front row, the readings (R) standing in the side aisles, and the Vows Ceremony (V) standing in the middle aisle.

At no time should a photographer sit or lie on the floor. Photographers and videographers should also wear clothing that is appropriate for church and is not a distraction to the ceremony (eg. the words “photographer” printed on your shirt).

The devotional customs that have been recognized by the Conference of Bishops are: **Arras** (coins) and **Lazo** (cords) and **Veil**. The **Unity Candle**, though currently popular in many churches in the United States, is not a part of the actual Catholic marriage rite, and the Conference of Bishops prefer that it not be included. Lighting of the unity candle may instead be included as part of the Prayer Before Meals at the wedding reception. This provides a bridge between the celebration of unity experienced during the Marriage Sacrament, and beginning of the lived expression of that Sacrament experienced at the Wedding Reception.

Please consult with the priest if you wish to include one of the above sanctioned devotionals.

Visit to the Blessed Mother

This devotional custom is not part of Catholic marriage rite, but can be included as a time of prayer in the wedding liturgy. This custom is allowed by our diocese as it has a long history without commercial origins. When included, the couple should process together to the statue of Mary and spend time praying for help and inspiration in their married life.



REHEARSAL

Arrangements for the rehearsal are made with your priest and with the wedding coordinator, Denise Fresh. The entire wedding party is to be present at the rehearsal and all participants are asked to arrive on time. You should bring the following to the rehearsal:

1. Marriage License — The marriage license must be presented to the priest no later than the rehearsal.
2. Programs — If you have prepared a wedding program, you can bring them to the rehearsal to be stored for the wedding day.
3. Offering — The offering to the Church and musicians should be brought to the rehearsal and given to Denise Fresh, the wedding coordinator. This is one less item to worry about on the wedding day.

OFFERING

It is customary to give an offering at the time of the wedding. Offerings are made to the parish, clergy, and musicians as follows:

Parish: One offering of \$155.00 payable to St. Hilary Parish to cover the \$30.00 Prepare and Enrich fee, \$20.00 for the two altar servers, and \$105.00 for the wedding coordinator.

Clergy (Priest or Deacon): One offering of \$150.00 payable to the priest or deacon for the stole fee.

Music: The offering for the organist/pianist is \$150.00. The offering for a St. Hilary cantor is \$100.00. Additional musicians (strings, etc.) set their own fees.

All payments are due on the evening of your rehearsal

CONTACTS

Fr. Steven Brunovsky, Pastor

(330) 867-1055 x204

sbrunovsky@sthilarychurch.org

Fr. Matt Jordan, Parochial Vicar

(330) 867-1055 x207

mjordan@sthilarychurch.org

David Dettloff, Director of Music and Liturgy

(330) 867-1055 x202

ddettloff@sthilarychurch.org

Denise Fresh, Wedding Coordinator

(330) 666-9389

ddfresh1@msn.com



APPENDIX A:
SUGGESTED MUSIC FOR THE CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE

Instrumental Music

Adagio from *Water Music* (G.F. Handel)
Air from *Suite No. 3* (J.S. Bach)
Ave Verum Corpus (W.A. Mozart)
Canon in D (J. Pachelbel)
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring (J.S. Bach)
Largo from *Xerxes* (G.F. Handel)
Lord of Unfailing Love (J. Haydn)
Prelude in C (J.S. Bach)
Sheep May Safely Graze (J.S. Bach)

Prelude — Vocal Solos

A Nuptial Blessing (Michael Joncas)
Ave Maria (F. Schubert or J.S. Bach)
Be Thou My Vision (Traditional Irish)
Love is the Sunlight (David Haas)
Panis Angelicus (C. Franck)
The Servant Song (Richard Gillard)
When Love is Found (Brian Wren)
Where Charity and Love Prevail (Paul Benoit)
Wherever You Go (David Haas)

Processional Music — Instrumental

Canon in D (J. Pachelbel)
Finale from *Water Music* (G.F. Handel)*
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring (J.S. Bach)
Overture from *Firework Music* (G.F. Handel)
Spring from *The Four Seasons* (A. Vivaldi)*

Suggested Hymns for the Liturgy

All Creatures of our God and King
For the Beauty of the Earth
Gift of Finest Wheat*
God in the Planning
Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee
Lord of All Hopefulness
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
Love One Another
Now Thank We all Our God
Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow
Take and Eat this Bread*
Taste and See*
The King of Love My Shepherd Is
The Supper of the Lord*
We Are One in Christ*
We Have Been Told
We Walk by Faith
When Love is Found ***Communion specific hymns**

Marian Hymns (for Visit to Mary)

Ave Maria (Chant/J.S. Bach/F. Schubert)
Hail Mary, Gentle Woman
On This Day, O Beautiful Mother
Magnificat (any setting)

Recessional Music - Instrumental

Allegro Maestoso from *Water Music* (G.F. Handel)
Wedding March (F. Mendelssohn)
Rondeau (Mouret)
Ode to Joy (L.V. Beethoven)

APPENDIX B:
GUIDELINES FOR THE RECEPTION OF
COMMUNION IN A ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

For Catholics

As Catholics, we fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist when we receive Holy Communion. We are encouraged to receive Communion devoutly and frequently. In order to be properly disposed to receive Communion, participants should not be conscious of grave sin and normally should have fasted for one hour.

A person who is conscious of grave sin is not to receive the Body and Blood of the Lord without prior sacramental confession except for a grave reason when there is no opportunity for confession. In this case, the person is to be mindful of the obligation to make an act of perfect contrition, including the intention of confessing as soon as possible (*Code of Canon Law, canon 916*). A frequent reception of the Sacrament of Penance is encouraged for all.

For our fellow Christians

We welcome our fellow Christians to this celebration of the Eucharist as our brothers and sisters. We pray that our common baptism and the action of the Holy Spirit in this Eucharist will draw us closer to one another and begin to dispel the sad divisions which separate us. We pray that these will lessen and finally disappear, in keeping with Christ's prayer for us "that they may all be one." (*John 17:21*)

Because Catholics believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is a sign of the reality of oneness of faith, life and worship, members of those churches with whom we are not yet fully united are ordinarily not admitted to Holy Communion.

Eucharistic sharing in exceptional circumstances by other Christians requires permission according to the directives of the diocesan bishop and the provisions of canon law (*canon, 844 §4*). Members of the Orthodox Churches, the Assyrian Church of the East, and the Polish National Catholic Church are urged to respect the discipline of their own Churches. According to Roman Catholic discipline, the Code of Canon Law does not object to the reception of Communion by Christians of these Churches. (*canon 844 §3*).

For those not receiving Holy Communion

All who are not receiving Holy Communion are encouraged to express in their hearts a prayerful desire for unity with the Lord Jesus and with one another.

For non-Christians

We also welcome to our celebrations those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ. While we cannot admit them to Holy Communion, we ask them to offer their prayers for the peace and the unity of the human family.

APPENDIX C: LITURGY PLANNING GUIDE

St. Hilary's Catholic Parish Celebration of Marriage – Liturgy Planning Guide

Bride _____ Phone (_____) - _____
Groom _____ Phone (_____) - _____
Date _____ Time _____
Celebrant _____
Prelude Music

Processional

Introductory Rite

Gloria
Opening Prayer

LITURGY OF THE WORD

1st Reading (Old Testament): _____
Reader: _____

Psalm Response: _____
2nd Reading (New Testament): _____
Reader: _____

Gospel: _____
Homily

Marriage Rite

Exchange of Vows; Blessing and Exchange of Rings
Universal Prayer: *(Prepare with Wedding Coordinator)*
Reader: _____

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparation of the Gifts: _____ #: _____

Communion Rite

The Lord's Prayer; Nuptial Blessing; Sign of Peace
Communion Hymn: _____ #: _____
Prayer after Communion
(Visit to Mary - optional) _____

Concluding Rite

Final Blessing
Recessional: _____ #: _____

APPENDIX D: CHECKLIST

- Met with priest or deacon at St. Hilary
- Prepare and Enrich taken
- Assigned and been contacted by Couple Ministers
- Rehearsal and wedding date have been booked
- Obtained baptismal certificates
- Obtained other necessary church documents
- Marriage license obtained
- Met with Director of Music
- Music has been selected and Liturgy planning guide has been completed
- Wedding programs read by Director of Music or priest
- Meetings with priest or deacon are completed
- Photographer has parish policy sheet
- Offering is paid (at or before rehearsal)
 - Parish Offering (\$155)
 - Presider (\$150)
 - Pianist/Organist (\$150)
 - Cantor (\$100)

