



Your Wedding at Immaculate Heart Church

Congratulations! Your wedding is a very special moment in your life and in the life of the church. The following outlines several important areas that will assist you in the planning of your wedding at Immaculate Heart.

Presiding Priest

It is important that you meet the priest who will preside at your wedding liturgy *at least six months prior* to the ceremony. The real purpose of these meetings is to prepare your minds and hearts for your marriage: keeping in mind that the wedding day is only the first day of a life-long union. The priest will also assist in helping you arrange for a Pre-Cana or Engagement Encounter and with the required documents for church and civil validity.

The Wedding Ceremony

If both bride and groom are baptized Catholics, the wedding rite is placed in the setting of the Mass (Liturgy of the Word and Liturgy of the Eucharist). It completes the promises of your Baptism as you marry and share the Eucharist with each other and with your loved ones. If one of you is not Catholic or perhaps not baptized, then the wedding rite is celebrated within the Liturgy of the Word alone.

Non-Parishioners

If the bride and groom do not belong to Immaculate Heart Parish, you must obtain written permission from your pastors to celebrate your wedding in our church.

Rehearsal, Arrival, Departure, and Wedding Times:

All **Weddings** are scheduled for Saturdays at 12:00 noon or 2:00 pm. **Rehearsals** are held on Friday evening at 5:00 (unless special activities are being held in the church on Friday evening). Please arrive on time! *Times are first come, first serve basis!*

- **ARRIVAL TIME:** You may arrive ½ hour prior to your scheduled wedding time (The Noon wedding may arrive no sooner than 11:30 am and the 2:00 pm wedding may arrive no sooner than 1:30 pm.



- **DEPARTURE TIME:** The Noon wedding must leave the church by 1:30 PM as the 2:00 wedding will be arriving. The 2:00 wedding must leave the church by 3:30 PM as the Vigil Mass starts at 5:00 PM with confessions at 4:00 PM.

Fees

- **Altar Servers:** are not necessary, but if you request them you should offer them a gift.
- **Musicians:** General Guidelines are provided below, and the musician fees are included on the *Planning Sheet for the Celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage (separate document)* that will help guide your music choices for your wedding.
- *Musician fees are due a month prior to the wedding date!*

WEDDING MUSIC FEES: *(all fees are due one month prior to the wedding date)*

Organist: \$300 Cantor: \$200

PLEASE NOTE: *neither the organist nor cantor attend the wedding rehearsals.*

- **Priest:** It is normal to make an offering to the priest who celebrates the wedding. A normal fee is between \$150-\$200

Flowers

We suggest you visit with your florist and plan flower arrangements and placement to enhance the ceremony. If there is another wedding on the same day as yours, you may want to contact them and share the flowers and expense. Call the secretary at the office for the information.

Suggested Placement of Flowers

- The front points of the sanctuary area.
- On either side of the Altar area or behind the Altar area.
- On the reredos (the altar against the back wall).
- **NOTHING** is to be placed on the Consecrated Altar of Sacrifice (i.e. flowers, unity candle will be placed on a table off to one side).
- Bows or flowers may be attached to the pews with rubber bands or pipe cleaners only...**no tape or staples.**
- For safety reasons, we do not permit aisle runners. If your wedding day has wet weather, ushers can seat guest from side aisles, then the main aisle will be dry for the wedding party and the bride.
- Placing flowers in the sanctuary is more than just decoration...it helps to accentuate the beauty of your wedding commitment through worship. For this reason, most couples donate the floral arrangements to the parish to be used for Sunday worship. Seeing the flowers from your wedding on the following Sunday helps people to remember your marriage in their prayers.
- **Clean-up!** Please be sure all flower boxes, containers, pew bows, etc. are cleaned up prior to leaving the church.



Photography

Photographers may arrive ½ hour prior to the wedding time (example: 2:00 wedding, arrival at 1:30 PM). Photographers should wear proper attire and place cameras inconspicuously in the Sanctuary before the ceremony. **Photographers are not permitted in the Sanctuary.** Photographers should not be visible in the sanctuary and should not take photos from the side areas...particularly during the exchange of vows and rings, the very heart of the marriage rite. Since this is a sacred space, it is important that photos be taken with respect and as quietly as possible. Please be mindful of other weddings and events that precede or follow your wedding and have photos taken promptly.

PHOTOS SHOULD NOT EXCEED 30 MINUTES. We ask that your bridal party display proper decorum in the church during this time as well.

Bride's/Groom's Areas

The wedding party may arrive ½ hour prior to the wedding time (example: 2:00 wedding, arrival at 1:30 PM).

THERE IS NO AREA FOR BRIDAL PARTY TO GET DRESSED.

PLEASE GET "COMPLETELY" DRESSED BEFORE ARRIVING AT THE CHURCH.

The groom and groomsmen gather in the sacristy. For security reason, do not leave personal items in these areas unattended.

Receiving Lines

Because of the time constraints and the time needed for photography, a receiving line is discouraged please. An announcement can be made that you will receive your guests at the reception. Please be mindful of other weddings/events that follow your wedding.

Miscellaneous

- **We do not permit** the throwing of rice, birdseed, confetti, flowers or anything after the ceremony. Given our schedule, there simply is not time to clean it up. It is also a nuisance for the wedding party's hair and clothing! We try to have the church and area clean and neat when you arrive and hope you will leave it the same way.
- Smoking and the use of alcohol are not permitted anywhere on church property, *including the parking lots!* Anyone visibly intoxicated will not be permitted to participate in the ceremony.
- In the past we have found that weddings have been canceled without the parish being notified. We have so many requests for weddings and need to know as soon as possible. If, for some reason the date has been cancelled, please put it in writing and send it to us.



*PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH EVERYONE WHO
WILL BE HELPING YOU PLAN YOUR WEDDING! THIS WILL
KEEP THEM INFORMED OF OUR GUIDELINES AND
ELIMINATE ANY UNNECESSARY CONFUSION.*



Music Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage

There are several guidelines that should be kept in mind as you begin to plan your wedding Ceremony. These guidelines are meant to be of help in making your Wedding Ceremony a truly beautiful celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage.

1. The Celebration of a wedding is part of the official prayer of the church. Everyone involved in the planning of your wedding ceremony should be mindful that the wedding is a celebration of a Sacred Sacrament. It is during this celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage that you will announce your vows to one another, before God, in the presence of the priest, and before your families and friends.
2. Please remind your bridal party that Immaculate Heart Church is a holy and sacred place and should be treated with respect at all times.
3. The sacrament of marriage is celebrated with your family and friends who are also participants in this sacred ceremony. They participate as official witnesses for the exchange of your wedding vows and are encouraged to take part in the singing and responses during the wedding ceremony.

Most of the music during the wedding ceremony is music which the congregation is encouraged to sing. Please plan accordingly by putting vocal solos only where recommended and placing most of them prior to the celebration (*The Planning Worksheets will help with this process*).

4. The planning of the Wedding Ceremony should be at the forefront of every couple's preparations. Scripture Readings and the Responsorial Psalm text should be chosen with care and reflection. You will also need to choose Readers for the first two readings and for the Universal Prayers (General Intercessions). The cantor will lead the congregation in the singing of the Responsorial Psalm that comes between the Readings. The Priest and/or the Music Director can answer any questions that you have concerning your wedding ceremony.
5. The readings & The Universal Prayers (General Intercessions) are also provided for your convenience as links on the: **3. STP Wedding Fillable Form to Submit**.
6. As a reminder, this is a sacred ceremony and **only sacred music** can be sung at the Wedding. You can have secular songs performed at your reception. The church is a place of worship and the music should always reflect this reverence. The beauty of the music should reflect and support the beauty of the church building and more importantly, the solemnness of your commitment.

7. The music contained within the *2. STP Wedding Music Worksheets & Recordings* is by no means an all-inclusive list of music that may be included within the Marriage Rite. Other suitable hymns and music may be chosen in place of the music listed, provided the selections meet the guidelines listed above and is chosen in consultation with the pastor. *Secular music is strictly prohibited* and final judgment of whether a piece of music is appropriate in the context of the Sacred Liturgy rests solely with the pastor.

NOTE: The pastor will plan the music with **only** the wedding couple.

*Thank you for respecting the guidelines
provided above and we will do all that we can
to make sure that your wedding will be
celebrated with the utmost reverence and
dignity that it deserves.*

Other helpful link as you plan your wedding:

<https://www.foryourmarriage.org/readings/>

<https://www.usccb.org/topics/marriage-and-family-life-ministries/wedding-ceremony>

<https://www.foryourmarriage.org/dating-engaged/planning-a-catholic-wedding/>

<https://www.foryourmarriage.org/ceremony-options/>

<https://www.foryourmarriage.org/rite-of-marriage/>

<https://www.foryourmarriage.org/interfaith-marriages/>

