

The Sacrament of Matrimony

Check List to Complete

- _____ Talk with the pastor at least six months in advance
- _____ Confirm and record the date of the wedding in the parish calendar
- _____ Obtain necessary dispensations/documents
- _____ Meet with the pastor at least 4 times before the wedding

- _____ Obtain ministers for the wedding
- _____ Decide on two official witnesses
- _____ Obtain civil license (no earlier than 30 days and no later than three days prior to the wedding)

- _____ The offering for the parish is \$400.00
- _____ The offering for the priest.

- _____ Sacrament of Reconciliation



Saint Patrick's Catholic Church

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Guidelines for Marriage

Please understand that these guidelines are intended to assure that your wedding celebration will be a truly religious experience.

INITIAL STEPS:

1. A couple wishing to marry is expected to make an appointment with the pastor at least 6 months in advance.
2. At this time you should discuss your proposed wedding date, religious background, and any other questions you may have.
3. Arrangements must have been made with your parish priest to complete the Pre-Nuptial Inquiry and all dispensations (if needed); Baptismal certificates issued within the last six months (not copies) are presented at this time. Participation in a prescribed Engaged Encounter Program is also required.
4. You are entering into a Sacrament, and as with all Sacraments, proper preparation must be undertaken. In addition to the Engaged Encounter Weekend, the couple will meet with the priest or deacon at least four (4) times. Catholics should arrange with the priest for a time to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession) before celebrating the Sacrament of Matrimony.
5. Our own parish policy fully endorses the diocesan statement in regards to a couple living together before Marriage. It is the policy of our parish that couples who are living together separate before entering into a Christian marriage. A state of grace is necessary for participation in any Sacrament.

PRESIDER: If you are inviting clergy from another parish or diocese to participate in the ceremony, it must be discussed and approved by the pastor during the initial meeting.

TIME OF WEDDING: Saturday – 2:00 p.m. No weddings on Holy Days, during the season of Lent or on major civil holidays.

CONFIRMING THE DATE: In order for the wedding date to be confirmed and entered into the appointment book, you must speak to your parish priest, or the pastor must call or write confirming that he will be officiating, completing the Pre-Nuptial Inquiry and seeing that the Engaged Encounter is completed.

STIPEND: The offering for the church is **\$400.00** and must be paid no later than two (2) weeks in advance (offering for a visiting priest/deacon is separate and to be discussed with the individual, also you must make arrangements for his accommodations and meals during his visit).

The offering for the priest/deacon is left up to the couple. The customary offering is \$50.00. Please make checks payable to Saint Patrick and enclose a note bearing your name and wedding date.

HALL RENTAL: The hall may be rented for a fee. Please speak with the office about the terms of the contract.

REHEARSAL: The pastor will arrange a time for the rehearsal. It is customarily the Friday evening before the wedding, around 6:00 p.m.

CIVIL LICENSE: A marriage License issued by the State of Texas must be obtained. The license must be obtained no earlier than 30 days and no later than three (3) days prior to the wedding date.

CHURCH DOCUMENTS: All required church documents must be in the office at least two (2) weeks prior to your celebration. The documents are your Pre-Nuptial Inquiry along with any dispensations if needed and the certificate from your Engaged Encounter.

RESPECTING THE CHURCH:

- ✓ Conduct not reverencing the house of God will not be tolerated. As Catholics we believe that Jesus Christ is present, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity in the Blessed Sacrament, reserved in the tabernacle. Therefore no food/drinks/gum chewing, no exceptions.
- ✓ Children should be kept seated and not left without adult supervision during the entire time in the church.
- ✓ Please keep the church doors closed at all times, so as not to let the air out. This will insure comfort during the wedding.

PHOTOS, VIDEO, FLOWERS, ETC:

- ✓ Photos and video cameras are welcome provided they do not become a distraction during your celebration.
- ✓ You are allowed to decorate one hour before your wedding. Please be careful not to damage the *pews* or church furnishings when attaching flowers (no taping and no nailing).
- ✓ Rice, flower petals, confetti, birdseeds, etc. are prohibited for safety and maintenance reasons. Remove all floral arrangements, photography equipment, clothing, etc. from the church immediately following the celebration. Items left in the church will be disposed of promptly.

MUSIC, ALTAR SERVERS, MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION, LECTORS:

- ✓ These arrangements are the responsibility of the couple and should be made well in advance. You may call the church office for assistance if needed.