

WEDDING GUIDELINES YOUR WEDDING AT THE CATHEDRAL

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. What you are preparing for is of greatest importance for both of you as well as to your families and friends. It is important to members of our Cathedral Parish as well as to the larger community of faith we call the Catholic Church. In many ways we are all in this together.

In choosing to come to the Catholic Church for the celebration of your wedding, you have made a choice to begin and to live your marriage in a Christian manner--to see your wedding as more than just a wonderful social event but as something which gets its deeper meaning from our Christian faith. Because of this, it should not be surprising to you that the Church has some very definite expectations about how your wedding liturgy will be celebrated. These expectations are not arbitrary or difficult impositions intended to add to the already considerable challenges of planning a wedding. They are, rather, the Church's (and, in this case, the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament's) way of doing things. It is our way of helping you to set the tone for the celebration of an event that is of the greatest importance in your lives.

The members of the Cathedral staff stand ready to help you celebrate your wedding. We are eager to do everything possible to see to it that your wedding will be a beautiful and faith-filled celebration--a powerful and persuasive sign of Jesus' love for His people. That is a large order, and one not easily achieved without a good deal of careful and prayerful planning.

We ask that, together, you read these Guidelines carefully. Please make note of any questions you may have for the priest, deacon, or wedding coordinator when you meet them.

OVERVIEW

This is a brief outline of the major steps to take while preparing for a wedding at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament.

- Contact Maria Elena Gutierrez, the Cathedral Wedding Coordinator, at (916) 444-3071 Ext 10; mgutierrez@cathedralsacramento.org, to confirm the date and time of your wedding on the Cathedral calendar.
- Make arrangements with a priest or deacon to preside at your wedding. Ask if he is available for the date and time you hope to select. If you do not have a particular priest or deacon, Fr. Michael Kiernan will usually preside at your wedding.
- Complete the wedding reservation form and return it, along with your \$1,000.00 deposit, to the Wedding Coordinator, within two weeks of making your reservation. A copy is attached.

(Revised 10-21-11)

- Select the Marriage Preparation Program, i.e.,
 - Christ the King Weekend
 - Evenings for the Engaged
 - Catholic Engaged Encounter
- Contact Rex Rallanka, Director of Music, about the music for your wedding: 916-572-2161 (cell); rrallanka@cathedralsacramento.org.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Who May Officiate?

The parish priests of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament and other Catholic clergy may officiate at the marriage. The priest or deacon who officiates is responsible for preparing the couple for marriage. This includes meeting with the couple, completing the pre-matrimonial questionnaires, and officiating at the marriage. If the priest or deacon is not of the Cathedral parish, he will be sent an Agreement to Officiate and Delegation to Officiate letter. He must also obtain from his Bishop a Letter of Good Standing, and send it to the Wedding Coordinator.

Planning the Ceremony

1. Selection of Time and Date

Weddings at the Cathedral are normally celebrated on Saturdays. Due to the Cathedral Mass and Confession schedule on that day, the following choices are available: 11:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m., or 6:30 p.m. A Friday afternoon wedding is also possible and is very nice.

2. Rehearsals

Rehearsals are normally conducted on Thursday or Friday at the following times: 4:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m., or 6:00 p.m. The rehearsal usually takes one hour. The rehearsal dates and times are arranged with the Wedding Coordinator. Rehearsal times requested on the wedding form are tentative until confirmed with the Wedding Coordinator. We ask couples to be flexible in their scheduled rehearsals.

It is important that you arrive on time for your rehearsal, and remind all members of your wedding party to do the same. Since the Cathedral calendar is routinely crowded, your rehearsal must start and end on time. All participants in the rehearsal are asked to dress appropriately.

3. Liturgy

A wedding is first and foremost a liturgical celebration of the Catholic Church, not just a personal or family event. The months before your wedding are an ideal time to pray together and to talk about the place of God in your new life together.

The Rite of the Roman Catholic Church is used at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. According to Catholic theology, the bride and groom administer to each other the Sacrament of Matrimony. The priest or deacon is the witness of the Church to this Sacramental Action. There are two types of wedding liturgies:

- a. The Eucharistic Liturgy (Mass)
- b. Marriage Outside of Mass (Ceremony). Those of another faith are welcome to invite their clergy to participate in the liturgy.

In planning your wedding, you have the opportunity of selecting those prayers, scripture readings, blessings, and cultural practices which best express your desire for God in your lives and the support of your community.

To aid in this planning, we use the booklet, *Together for Life*, by Msgr. Joseph M. Champlin (Ave Maria Press, Notre Dame, Indiana). There are separate editions of this booklet for the Nuptial Mass and Marriage Outside of Mass. The Wedding Coordinator will have these available for you at your first meeting.

Necessary Documents

The following documents must be in the Cathedral Parish Office at least one month before your wedding. Please send them as soon as feasible:

1. Baptismal Certificates for both bride and groom

A baptismal certificate, issued within the last six months, **MUST** be obtained from the church in which each person to be married was baptized. Those baptized in another Christian Church or denomination also need a current Baptism Certificate.

2. Form A – Personal Testimony Form

Please complete what you can. The priest or deacon will assist the couple with Form A. A copy is attached. If Fr. Kiernan is the celebrant for your wedding, you must make an appointment with him to complete Form A. Please call him on his cell phone: 916-995-0168

3. Form B – Testimony of Parent or Relative

Form B is a testimony from a parent, relative, or close friend that each person to be married is free to do so. A copy is attached. Two Form B's must be submitted by the bride, and two by the groom. They must be witnessed by the Wedding Coordinator here at the Cathedral Rectory. The witnesses should call Maria Elena to make an appointment: 444-3071 Ext 10.

4. Canonical Form

When either the bride or the groom is not a Catholic, it is necessary to obtain special permission of dispensation from the Diocesan Marriage Tribunal before a marriage may take place. The priest preparing the couple will explain this and assist in obtaining whatever is necessary. A \$10 processing fee is required for this dispensation.

5. Marriage License

The couple must have a California Marriage License. You can apply for the marriage license at the County Recorder's Office, no sooner than ninety (90) days before the wedding.

Diocesan Marriage Preparation Programs

There are four programs offered by the Diocese of Sacramento. The couple must attend one of the four.

1. Evenings for the Engaged

Evenings for the Engaged is a seven week program. Every week is created so you may discuss honestly with each other your strengths and unifying attributes. This is offered right here in Mercy Memorial Hall in the lower level of the Cathedral. Please call or email Mariana Rose for information: 916-421-2281; steverosepainting@comcast.net

2. Engaged Couples Weekend Retreat

A low-key weekend specifically designed to give engaged couples an opportunity to dialogue honestly about their lives together; their strengths, weaknesses, desires, ambitions, goals; their attitude about money, sex, children, family; their role in the Church and society. Call Christ the King Retreat Center at: (916) 725-4720 for more information.

3. Catholic Engaged Encounter Weekends

This weekend-long workshop will encourage couples to share honest and intensive communication about their future lives together, discussing nearly every aspect of their relationship, including money, children, sexuality, and their roles in the church and society. Please go to the Catholic Engaged Encounter Sacramento web site: <http://sacee.org/>

4. Pre-Cana Conference

A Pre- Cana Conference is a special day to explore your needs, desires, and expectations, and to develop a vision for your married life. Call the Marriage Preparation Center at (916) 733-0155. This program should be used only if the prior three are not feasible.

Parking

The Cathedral does not have a parking lot, but there are three public parking lots close by. They all charge parking fees.

1. Private Parking Lot located on the north side of the Cathedral, down the alley and to the left. The fee on Saturdays is \$5 for all day. This is often the most economical option.
2. City parking lot on 10th and L Street, with entrance on 10th Street.
3. City parking lot on 11th Street between I Street and J Street.

Bride's Room

Space is available in the Lower Level of the Cathedral for the dressing convenience of the bride and her bridesmaids. To reserve the Lower Level, please call Maria Elena Gutierrez, the Wedding Coordinator, at (916) 444-3071 Ext 10.

Photography

Photographs may be taken during the ceremony. No photographs are permitted in the Cathedral PRIOR to the ceremony; prior to the ceremony, photographs may be taken outside. You may have 30 minutes AFTER the ceremony for picture taking inside the Cathedral. For the entrance procession, your photographer or videographer may stand at the side of the aisle or in the choir loft. No photographer or videographer is allowed on the steps surrounding the altar, since this area is the Sacred Sanctuary. Please refer to page 12, where a diagram is presented for you to give to your photographer.

MUSIC FOR YOUR WEDDING

Music for your wedding will be provided by musicians of Cathedral Music Ministry and preferred instrumentalists arranged through the Director of Music. Any outside musicians brought in must be approved by the Director of Music. The Cathedral Choir is available for a \$500 donation.

If your wedding is a Mass (as opposed to a Ceremony), the Cathedral Organist and a Cathedral Cantor are required to sing for the Mass. Non-Cathedral Cantors may be brought in, on occasion, but they must be approved by the Director of Music.

As this is a Cathedral, and Marriage is one of the seven sacraments, all music for your wedding must be sacred and religious in nature. Instrumental music is taken from a more Classical genre which is appropriate for the Cathedral worship space. Most popular or secular music is more appropriately reserved for the reception. Tape recorded music is not used at the Cathedral.

You will find a list of suggested music on pages 7 thru 9. A Wedding Music Planner sheet is on page 10. Music not on the list will have to be approved by the Director of Music.

At least two months before your wedding, please mail or scan/e-mail your Wedding Music Planner sheet to the Director of Music at: Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, 1017 11th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814; rrallanka@cathedralsacramento.org. Should you need assistance in your music planning, the Director of Music is available to meet with you. You may call him at (916) 444-3070, ext. 38 (work), or (916) 572-2161 (cell), to schedule an appointment or if you have any further questions.

All fees for Cathedral musicians are collected by the Wedding Coordinator.

FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS

The beauty of the Cathedral, in many ways, makes flowers and decorations unnecessary, even superfluous, so, you can have a nice savings while still having a beautiful environment. Decorations should reflect simplicity and not interfere with the liturgy; therefore, flowers are not placed on the altar itself. Flowers may be placed off-center on the sides of the altar and/or in front of the ambo on the floor. Flowers and stands are not to exceed six (6) feet in height nor should they dominate the sanctuary area. The altar is 3 feet in height and the ambo is 3.5 feet in height. Please note, in regard to weddings held during Lent, it is contrary to the penitential spirit of the Season of Lent to have elaborate weddings or lavish decorations.

To preserve the Cathedral furniture, no staples, wire, or tape may be attached to the pews. Pew bows may be placed with rubber bands. There are 22 pews down the main aisle, 21 full pews; the first pew is indented. The neck of the pew is 13.5 inches around and it is 34" from the neck of the pew to the floor.

The Cathedral has six candles that surround the altar. These are the ONLY candles to be used.

A UNITY CANDLE is not part of a Catholic Wedding Ceremony. If a unity candle is used, it is to be purchased by the bridal party.

The use of RICE, BIRDSEED, OR FLOWER PETALS, within or outside of the Cathedral, is considered a safety hazard and is never allowed. The Cathedral will be used by many people after the bridal party and wedding guests have departed.

Because the Cathedral is the mother church of the Diocese of Sacramento, many Diocesan events are held at the Cathedral. The environment (flowers, draping, etc.) and furniture (candles, font, ambo, etc.) in the church are not to be moved nor removed.

WEDDING FEES

We make every effort to keep fees very reasonable for the privilege of being married in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. Many hours are involved, by well-trained experts, in making sure you have a beautiful wedding. To help with cost containment, the priest does not receive or expect any income from your wedding.

The fee for the Cathedral is \$2,000.00, payable in two payments. A \$1,000.00 deposit is due within two weeks of reserving a date for the Cathedral. The balance of \$1,000.00 is due one month prior to the wedding. ALL WEDDING FEES ARE EXPECTED TO BE PAID IN FULL 30 DAYS PRIOR TO THE WEDDING.

If six months prior to the wedding date, you decide not to be married at the Cathedral, a cancellation fee of \$950.00 will be charged and any money paid-to-date in excess of \$950.00 will be returned to you. No refunds will be made for cancellations within six months of the wedding date. After two rescheduled dates, the deposit and date are forfeited.

Personnel Fees – All fees are due one month prior to wedding date:

- Wedding Coordinator Fee.....\$100
- Organist..... \$210
- Cantor/Singer..... \$140
- Other Instrumentalists..... fee varies

WEDDING MUSIC REPERTOIRE

Prelude

Organists/Instrumentalists will play 15-20 minutes of Classical wedding repertoire. Unless there are specific requests, music for the prelude will be determined by the instrumentalists.

Procession of the Wedding Party

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring by Bach
Air from "Water Music" by Handel
Air on the G String by Bach
Canon in D by Pachelbel
Trumpet Tune by Purcell
Trumpet Voluntary by Stanley
Rhosymedre by R. V. Williams
Rigaudon by Böhm

Procession of the Bride

Bridal March by Wagner
Canon in D by Pachelbel
Prince of Denmark's March by Stanley/Clarke (also appropriate for Recessional)
Rigaudon by Campra (also appropriate for Recessional)
Prelude from "Te Deum" by Charpentier (also appropriate for Recessional)
Overture from "Fireworks Music" by Handel

Responsorial Psalm (may also be sung bilingually and in Spanish)

Psalm 33: "The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord."
Psalm 34: "Taste and see the goodness of the Lord."
Psalm 103: "The Lord is kind and merciful."
Psalm 118: "This is the day the Lord has made."
Salmo 127: Dichoso el que Teme al Señor.
Psalm 128: "May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives."

Gospel Acclamation/Alleluia

Chant Alleluia (verse may be sung in Spanish)

Celtic Alleluia by O'Carroll

Gospel Acclamation from Spanish, Responde y Aclama

Preparation of the Gifts (Wedding Mass only)

The Gift of Love by Hopson

The King of Love My Shepherd Is (tune: St. Columba)

The Call by R. V. Williams

I Have Loved You by Joncas

Lord, You Have Come/Pescador De Hombres (may be sung bilingually and in Spanish; also appropriate for Communion)

Ubi Caritas by Hurd (may be sung bilingually and in Spanish; also appropriate for Communion)

Eucharistic Prayer Acclamations (Wedding Mass only)

Mass of Creation by Haugen

Community Mass by Proulx

Mass by Mejía (Spanish)

Communion (Wedding Mass only)

One Bread, One Body by Foley, SJ

Gift of Finest Wheat by Westendorf

I Received the Living God

I Am the Bread of Life by Toolan

Ubi Caritas by Hurd (may be sung bilingually and in Spanish)

Taste and See by Chepponis

Love One Another by Chepponis

Pan de Vida by Hurd (bilingual)

Amén. El Cuerpo de Cristo by Shiavone (bilingual)

Panis Angelicus by Franck (sung in Latin)

Salmo 33: Gusten y Vean by Reza (sung bilingually or in Spanish)

Marian Devotion (flowers to Raphael Madonna or Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel)

Ave Maria by Schubert (sung in Latin)

Ave Maria by Bach/Gounod (sung in Latin)

Recessional

Wedding March by Mendelssohn

Allegro Maestoso from "Water Music" by Handel

Rondeau by Mouret

Hymn to Joy by Beethoven

Tocatta from "Symphonie V" by Widor

Finale from "Symphonie I" by Vierne

Fanfare by Mathias

Concerto in G by Bach

WEDDING MUSIC PLANNER

Bride: _____ Groom: _____

Wedding Date & Time: _____

Celebrant (priest/deacon): _____

Is the Wedding a Mass or Ceremony? _____

Cantor (mandatory for Wedding Mass): Yes No

Cathedral Choir (fee is a \$500 donation): Yes No

Instrumentalists (fee varies) Yes No

Circle one if desired: Trumpet Flute String Quartet

Who is in your Wedding Party? (e.g., how many Bridesmaids? Groomsman? kids?)

Procession of the Wedding Party:

Procession of the Bride:

Responsorial Psalm (in Masses and Ceremonies with Cantor):

Gospel Acclamation (in Masses and Ceremonies with Cantor):

Preparation of the Gifts (Wedding Mass only):

Eucharistic Acclamations (Wedding Mass only):

Communion (Wedding Mass only):

Marian Devotion:

Recessional:

(e-mail to: rrallanka@cathedralsacramento.org, or give to the Wedding Coordinator)