



SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Requirements and Guidelines PRELIMINARY STEPS

- It is essential that at least one of you be an active member of St. Veronica. If neither of you is practicing your faith and neither of you intends to do so, then the celebration of the Sacrament would have little or no meaning for you. In addition it would not be a valid marriage according to our church norms.
- It is essential that both people be free to marry. That means that neither party has been validly married previously. If one or both of you have been married before it is essential to talk to the priest about that and consider possible options which might include asking for a church annulment of the previous marriage.
- It is essential that the couple be prepared for the sacrament prior to its celebration. The state-wide policy for marriage preparation states that a couple needs to have initiated contact with their parish priest as soon as the engagement occurs.
- It is essential that both partners be willing to make a permanent commitment to each other which includes openness to having children and a promise of marital fidelity. You will be asked to make these promises during the wedding ceremony.
- It is essential that the sacrament be celebrated in a church in the presence of a church official (priest or deacon) and with two witnesses present. As such it can be a very simple celebration. People tend to think of a church wedding as elaborate and/or expensive. That is certainly not a church requirement.
- It is essential that the celebration be a common prayer in which all assembled are included and can actively participate. It is not necessary to have a Mass. Interchurch and interfaith marriages are welcome at St. Veronica's. An ecumenical wedding can be enriching as well as challenging for both the Catholic and non-Catholic spouse. Please direct all inquiries to the pastor.



REQUIRED RECORDS, FORMS & MEETINGS

To help you meet the previously listed essential conditions at St. Veronica Parish Community, we ask you to do the following:

1. Participate in the marriage preparation process which includes:
 - Attend an Archdiocesan Enrichment program for the engaged such as *Enrichment Day for the Engaged*. We will give you a brochure that includes the locations and this year's schedule for the program.
 - Meet with a parish couple trained to administer the FOCCUS who will help you with the assessment process.
 - Meet twice with the priest/deacon.
 - Meet with our Director of Music who will provide you with our liturgical requirements and help you prepare your wedding liturgy. An early meeting with the Director of Music can help you understand your options and the parish's musical expectations before you make any concrete plans.
 - Participate in a wedding rehearsal.
2. Obtain the necessary documents, which include:
 - Certificates of Baptism issued within the past three months.
 - A marriage license for the State of Wisconsin obtained in the county in which you reside. (Call 414-278-4070 [Milwaukee County] for more information.)



USE OF THE CHURCH

Wedding Times

There is only one wedding held on a Friday or Saturday. Saturday weddings are held as early as 11:00 a.m., but no later than 1:00 p.m. due to preparation for Saturday evening Mass.

The time allotted for your set-up, ceremony, pictures, etc. is one hour prior to and one hour after the time of the ceremony.

Church Fees

- A church stipend of \$350.00 is required
- The Director of Music fee ranges from \$175.00 - \$225.00 depending on the needs. This does not include soloists or other musicians. They are contracted separately.

Visiting Clergy

If you have a family member or close friend of the family who is ordained they are more than welcome to celebrate, concelebrate or assist in the ceremony. Please direct all requests to the pastor.

All Weddings must use the parish musician.

Other instrumentalists can play special songs before or during the wedding at the discretion of the Director of Music. Vocalists from outside the parish must be familiar with the music that has been chosen. The parish musician will **not** teach or make tapes of songs for singers. One 30 minute rehearsal is included in the musician's fee; any additional rehearsal time will result in an additional fee. St. Veronica has several parish cantors who serve as vocalists at weddings. **No recorded music is allowed.** The parish stipend and music fee should be given to the musician at least one week prior to the ceremony. All questions regarding your music should be directed to the Director of Music.

Pictures

Pictures are to be taken in a reverential way, mindful of good order in the church and the sacredness of the place. Photographs and videotaping are only allowed within certain parameters. Photographers/Videographers must talk to the priest/deacon before the ceremony. If the couple desires pictures taken after the wedding in front of the altar, this may be done in a respectful manner. Remember there may be a Mass or other service after your celebration. Because of this short time period, we encourage all couples not to have a

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receiving line at church. Please greet your guests before the wedding ceremony or at the reception.

Decoration

The church is for the wedding couple to use on the date and time selected, within the season of the year that the church is celebrating. Decorations that are desired are to be arranged by the wedding couple with the florist. Flowers and other decorations may be added to the church environment, but the decorations which are in place for the liturgical season may not be removed, covered, or changed (e.g. if there are Easter flowers, Christmas trees, banners, etc. we expect that they will not be changed for the wedding.) In addition, no furniture may be moved. Questions about decorations should be directed to Carla Jager in the parish office.

Length of Aisle

The length of the center aisle from the altar to the old baptistery is 65 feet.

Rice, Confetti, Birdseed, Flower Petals and Bubbles

Rice, confetti, birdseed and flower petals may not be thrown either inside or outside of the church. It can create a hazard as well as a mess that someone else has to clean up. Bubbles must be kept outside the church.

Alcohol

Please remember that alcohol consumption is not permitted on the church grounds before, during or after the rehearsal and wedding. This includes in front of the church and the parking lot of the church.

Cleaning

Please make sure that someone is assigned to clean up the "Bride's Room," gather any wedding programs from the pews and dispose of the aisle runner. Mass is celebrated at 4:30 pm following your wedding, so please leave the church in good order. What you bring with you, you should take with you. We are not responsible for cleaning up behind you or for items left behind.

Rehearsal and Conduct in Church

The wedding is a sacred event. This applies to the rehearsal and pertains to both dress and behavior. Please have proper respect in all parts of the church including the gathering space (back of church). The rehearsal should include all the wedding party, the parents of the bride and groom, readers and ushers. No music will be rehearsed.



PREPARING YOUR CEREMONY

The bride and groom prepare their wedding ceremony with the Director of Music and the presiding priest/deacon. The booklet **Together for Life** is used for choosing the readings.

The goal of your liturgy is to encourage the full and active participation of all who will gather to celebrate your marriage. You can achieve this goal in two ways: first, by regarding those who gather as participants in prayer rather than guests to be entertained; second, by using every means available to let those who are gathered know that they are invited to participate.

The Sunday liturgy serves as the model for your liturgy. There are several ministries which can be fulfilled by those who you invite to the ceremony: Cantor (soloist), Eucharistic Ministers, Hospitality Ministers, Readers and most importantly, the Assembly.

Music at Your Wedding

Music “should be considered a normal and ordinary part of (this) liturgical celebration” (*Liturgical Music Today*, #13). The music used should establish a spirit of prayer and celebration to strengthen the expression of faith. In this, the words should clearly express Christian faith and serve to deepen prayer. Music at your wedding has the power to encourage or stifle the participation of the assembly. The norm here is music in which the people can take part, with the Sunday Mass once again being our model.

All arrangements for music must be made through and approved by our Director of Music. Our Director of Music is also the musician for all weddings. Please arrange an appointment several months before the wedding.

Selection of Music

It is the policy of St. Veronica Parish that all music used for the Marriage Liturgy be sacred music. This means that all music must be prayer. Prayer is explicitly directed to God, expresses our praise, thanksgiving, and petition to God, and reflects explicitly on God’s action in the sacrament of marriage. This policy includes both prelude music and postlude music. Secular, popular songs are not appropriate for the celebration of the liturgy. They should be reserved for the wedding reception if desired by the couple. At the appropriate points in the liturgy, the music should also be liturgical; i.e., music which the people are invited to sing so that they can fulfill their proper role of full, active participation in the liturgy. These points include the Responsorial Psalm, the Eucharistic acclamations, and the Communion Hymn.



MINISTRIES

The Assembly

Although you will have invited those gathered for your wedding, from the perspective of worship they are not so much guests as they are Christian witnesses who join you in prayer. Their role is one of a community gathered to celebrate. The assembly becomes the voice of the church which speaks its word of faith and points you to a future life together. If you think of the community in this way, you will want to invite their participation and hear their words of wisdom and support. These people represent the local faith community, family and friends.

Ushers (Greeters/Hospitality Ministers)

Ushering at a wedding is understood as a ministry. The usher has the important role of welcoming the guests. Your ushers will consider it an honor to be asked. The ushers' most important role is to make people feel welcome. That means a warm greeting for each person and an attentive eye for the persons who are obviously strangers to the place and for those who don't seem to know anyone else. Ushers should seat people as close to the front as possible in order to encourage everyone to participate.

Readers

Good reading of the Scripture is important. The readings should be read by one of the faithful and a practicing Catholic who is a close family member or friend of the couple. When selecting a reader the norm should be that they can proclaim the Word of God, not simply read it.

Cantor (Soloist)

If you have a cantor other than the parish musician, then the cantor or singer for the wedding should be a person who can properly lead the assembly in liturgical prayer. The cantor should involve the assembly by singing common acclamations, (Alleluia, Great Amen, etc.), hymns and psalms. Here again, what we do on Sunday is the model.

Eucharistic Ministers

If your celebration is in the context of a Mass you should choose Eucharistic Ministers who are Eucharistic ministers in their respective parishes to assist the presider in the distribution of communion.

The Bride and Groom

You have a primary role of ministering to the assembly. You have a liturgical role of expressing your commitment in a public way, so that the assembly can hear and witness your exchange of vows. While it is an exchange between two



people, it is not a private exchange. Beyond your role in the vows, you are present to worship, to praise, to give thanks, and to remember God's deeds as they are lived out in human life.

Take time to prepare yourself spiritually for the celebration of marriage.

1. Attend church regularly through the whole period of wedding preparation so you won't feel like a stranger in church.
2. Celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation (confession) prior to the wedding.
3. Take time at the end of every day you are together to pray with each other. Thank God for what you do and for what you are to each other. Ask God for whatever you most need. Say the Lord's Prayer together.
4. Read some good articles or books that will help you make your good relationship even better.

Remember that when it is all over, it won't be the clothes, the flowers or the pictures, nor will it be the invitations, the band or the limo that will make your marriage great. It will be the quality of your relationship, the encouragement of supportive friends and closeness to God that will really matter.

MOST COMMON WEDDING SELECTIONS

Processionals

Canon in D - Pachelbel
Trumpet Voluntary - Clarke
Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring – Bach
Hymn to Joy – Beethoven
Air from "Water Music" - Handel

Psalms

Ps. 128 Blest Are Those Who Love You #173
Ps. 103 The Lord Is Kind and Merciful # 140 or#143
Ps. 24 I Have Loved You #641
We Praise You #694

Gospel Acclamation

Celtic Alleluia #395



Lighting of the Unity Candle

Servant Song #788

A Nuptial Blessing #941 (Fr. Mark is willing to sing this later in the ceremony.)

When Love is Found #942

Wherever You Go #943

Other songs found in the wedding section of Ritual Song

Presentation of the Gifts

When Love is Found #942

I Have Loved You #641

Love Is the Sunlight #946

Servant Song #788

Wherever You Go #943

Mass Setting

Mass of Creation

Holy Holy #322

Memorial Acclamation #323

Great Amen #327

Lamb of God #329

Communion

We Are Many Parts #840

On Eagle's Wings #740

Eye Has Not Seen #758

Song of the Body of Christ #924

One Bread, One Body #915

Eat This Bread #928

Presentation to Mary

Ave Maria – Schubert

Ave Maria – Bach-Gounod

Hail, Mary, Gentle Woman – Landry

Recessional

Hornpipe - Handel

Trumpet Tune - Purcell

Trumpet Voluntary – Clarke

Canon in D – Pachelbel

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring –Bach

Hymn to Joy - Beethoven