

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who may get married at Sacred Heart?

Parishioners registered at Sacred Heart for at least nine months, or those with a connection to the parish--children who grew up in the parish and later moved away, for example.

What times may weddings be scheduled?

Fridays at 6:00pm or Saturdays at 2:00pm. Rehearsals are ordinarily scheduled the day before the wedding.

When can we schedule our wedding date?

Ordinarily after the first meeting with the pastor.

May we use our own musicians?

Sacred Heart musicians shall be utilized for the wedding. Other musicians may be utilized for prelude music, pending the approval of the music director.

May recorded music be used at the wedding?

Only live, sacred music is permitted at a live, sacred ceremony.

May we have a unity candle?

While often seen at weddings, unity candles are not part of the wedding rite. They do, however, make a nice addition to the wedding reception.

May we decorate the church?

Floral arrangements may be set in front of the altar, the ambo and the baptismal font. No decorations may be affixed to the pews, though ribbons or bows may be tied to the pew ends. Runners, candelabras, birdseed, etc. are not permitted. The wedding party must remove

decorations on the day of the wedding. No altar furniture or candles may be moved.

What are the guidelines for photographers?

Photographers and videographers must be unobtrusive and reverent at all times. Photographers may be in the main aisle during the entrance procession. They are then restricted to the north entryway and choir loft. Videographers are restricted to the choir loft and are not permitted to use the church's audio system. Neither may ever be in the sanctuary. Flash photography is not permitted during the service.

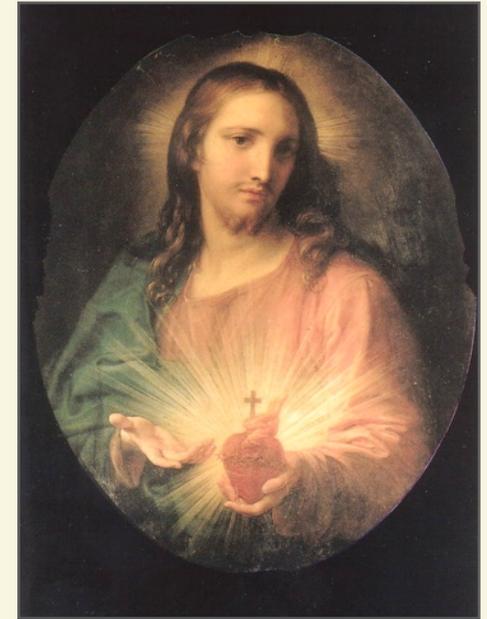
CHECKLIST

- Contact Sacred Heart at least Nine Months before Proposed Wedding Date
- Meetings with the Pastor
- Engaged Encounter Retreat or Mentor Couple Sessions
- Natural Family Planning Introduction
- Immediately Request Baptismal Documents to be sent to Sacred Heart
- Acquire Marriage License
- Contact Wedding Coordinator & Music Director 3 months before wedding
- Submit Fees Two Months Prior to Wedding
- \$500 Rental Fee ~ Waved for Parishioners with at least Nine Months of Weekly/Monthly Financial Support of the Parish
- \$350 Musician & Coordinator Fee

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SACRED HEART

CATHOLIC CHURCH



HOLY MATRIMONY

I promise to be faithful to you, in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, to love you and to honor you all the days of my life.





THE DIGNITY OF MATRIMONY

A Marriage is established by the conjugal covenant, that is, the irrevocable consent of both spouses, by which they freely give themselves to each other and accept each other. Moreover, this singular union of a man and a woman requires, and the good of the children demands, the complete fidelity of the spouses and the indissoluble unity of the bond.

Furthermore, the institution of Marriage itself and conjugal love are, by their very nature, ordered to the procreation and formation of children and find in them, as it were, their ultimate crown. Children are thus truly the supreme gift of Marriage and contribute greatly to the good of the parents themselves.

The intimate community of life and love, by which spouses "are no longer two, but one flesh," has been established by God the Creator, provided with its own proper laws, and endowed with that blessing which alone was not forfeited by punishment for original sin. This sacred bond, therefore, does not depend on human choice, but rather on the Author of Marriage, who ordained it to be endowed with its own goods and ends.

(Introduction to the Order of Celebrating Matrimony)

Celebrating the Sacrament of Matrimony at Sacred Heart

FORMATION FOR MARRIAGE

The Catholic Church understands the dignity of marriage and its difficulties. Therefore, the Church has emphasized the preparatory period for a bride and a groom's wedding, desiring to provide the best foundation possible for entering into this Sacrament.

A Sacrament is Christ's way of providing the possibility for human beings to ground their lives in Him. By situating our lives in Jesus, who is *the way and the truth and the life*, we have a firm, everlasting and meaningful foundation for our lives.

In the Sacrament of Matrimony, a man and a woman commit to making present to one another, and to the world, the love Jesus Christ, the Bridegroom, has for His Bride, the Church.

Throughout salvation history, God has revealed His love for humanity in spousal language. This mode of revelation was elevated when God became man in the Person of Jesus Christ, who spoke of Himself as the Bridegroom. Therefore, He and His Bride the Church are the paradigm for marriage...because Jesus' love for His Bride is unbreakable, so is a valid bond between a husband and wife unbreakable; because God is one and the Church is one, so marriage is only between one man and one woman; as Christ's union with the Church is fruitful, so must the union of husband and wife be open

to life and the cultivation of it--both biological and spiritual.

Given this nature of marriage, three components of marriage preparation have been developed.

The first includes integration into the life of the local Catholic Parish. Couples pursuing holy matrimony will need to register at the Parish at least nine months prior to their wedding and become active in this local manifestation of the Body of Christ, which provides for the possibility of their being married. This involvement includes meeting with the pastor, regular attendance at Sunday Masses, financial support of the parish, as well as other involvement of the couples' choosing.

The second and third components of marriage preparation consist of attending classes with a marriage mentor couple, or making a retreat with other couples preparing for marriage, as well as attending an introductory session on Natural Family Planning.

You may register for these two components through our website: shemporium.org/marriage. Contact information for our music director and wedding coordinator, as well as Scripture selections for your wedding and other helpful documents may also be found on the same webpage.