

CELEBRATING YOUR WEDDING AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY

WEDDING GUIDELINES

Congratulations on your upcoming marriage! We at Holy Family Parish are happy to assist you in planning your wedding liturgy. The guidelines in this booklet will help you prepare for some of the practical aspects of your wedding ceremony. They present to you the policies governing liturgy in general, wedding celebrated here at Holy Family Catholic Church and the general sentiments of the Roman Catholic Church regarding the Rite of Marriage.

SIX MONTHS PRIOR TO YOUR INTENDED WEDDING

Contact the Parish Office (248) 349-8847, to set up an appointment with one of the priests to begin marriage preparation. At the time of your appointment the date of your wedding will be discussed. The Church of the Holy Family celebrates weddings on Friday evenings as well as Saturday afternoons at 2:30 pm. An evening wedding is also permissible at 6:30 pm.

CONFIRMATION

All Catholic brides and grooms are expected to have received the Sacrament of Confirmation. If you have not, be sure to let the priest or deacon who interviews you know this in order to talk about your options.

INTERFAITH MARRIAGES

We welcome interfaith marriages. At the same time, we recommend that couples who are of different religious traditions celebrate a Liturgy of the Word Service in order to emphasize the unity of the couple and their families.

The following are practical guidelines to assist you in planning. TWO MONTHS BEFORE

Contact the Parish Office (248) 349-8847 about your rehearsal.
Contact the Director of Music, Santiago Fernandez (248) 349-8847 ext. 231, or by email: sfernandez@hfnovi.com to discuss your Wedding music. Visiting musicians are welcome at Holy Family, but all music planning is subject to the Music Director's approval. (Please note that no recorded music is permitted.)

TWO DAYS BEFORE

Bring your marriage license to the parish office so that the proper information may be added prior to your wedding.

ROOMS

The Groom and groomsmen use the sacristy on the right of the Gathering Space in which to wait prior to the ceremony.

The Bride and her attendants use Room 11 prior to the ceremony. If needed, other classrooms may be used if you make arrangements with the church office at least one week in advance.

ENVIRONMENT / DECORATION

Many people desire to place floral arrangements in the church. Please observe the following when making arrangements with your florist:

1. *“Flowers, plants and trees are particularly apt for the decoration of liturgical space, since they are of nature, always discreet in their message, never cheap or tawdry or ill-made.”* (Environment and Art in Catholic Worship, #102)
2. Floral “decorations should never impede the approach to or the encircling of the altar or any of the ritual movement action.” Flowers or green plants may be placed in front of the ambo (lectern) and at the corners of the steps in the sanctuary. The church has sets of stands in three different heights that may be used. Here at Holy Family Church it is not permitted to place flowers upon the altar.
3. *“The whole church is to be considered the arena of decoration, not merely the sanctuary.”* Floral arrangements may be placed in the Gathering Space as a fragrant sign of welcome. If bows or flowers are to be used to decorate the ends of the rows of chairs they should be used at regular intervals along the entire length of the aisle, enhancing the whole worship space and the assembly, which fills it. They should be attached with long florist pins, not tape, so that they can be removed easily and quickly.
4. Much care is taken to see that the worship space is decorated in keeping with the seasons of the liturgical year. Very often there will be plants, flowers and fabric hangings present in the church when your wedding occurs. These arrangements will remain intact for the ceremony.
5. The use of a runner is discouraged, because when a runner is placed on top of the carpeting in church, there exists a potential safety hazard. As the bridal party and your guests are leaving the church they could easily lose their footing on the runner/carpet combination. In the past a runner served a practical purpose, it kept the hem of the bride’s dress clean. With carpeting a runner is not practical.

HOSPITALITY / USHERS

Keep in mind that, while weddings are joyous occasions, the Worship Space is a place of prayer and praise and is deserving of your reverence and respect during the rehearsal as well as before and after your wedding ceremony. You and your ushers can help pass this on to your families and guests. Remind your ushers and/or greeters to start seating guests 15 minutes prior to the time of the wedding.

Something you probably have not considered, but why not greet your guests yourself? Since you are the Host / Hostess of this celebration and appropriate gesture would be to welcome your invited guests to your celebration of love.

VIDEO AND PHOTOGRAPHY

You are welcome to videotape your wedding ceremony. However, so that there are no distractions during the Liturgy, please inform the person taping that he or she should remain stationary at the place the Presider suggests. The photographer can take pictures from any angle except from the sanctuary area, but should be as discreet as possible. Guests may take pictures without a flash since a flash often interferes with the photographers' pictures and distracts from the sacredness of the ceremony. Photographs may be taken 1/2 hour before or after the ceremony provided that the church is not scheduled for use.

RECEIVING LINES

These are not allowed at the church because of the timetable for Masses, other weddings, and Sacristan duties and clean up.

RICE, BIRDSEED, CONFETTI AND THE LIKE...

For the maintenance and safety reasons, **please** refrain from throwing these materials inside or outside the church. Balloons, though decorative, are not permitted in the worship environment space.

CLEAN—UP

Follow the "golden rule": If you brought it, take it when you go. If you move it, put it back. If you made the mess, clean it up. Your cooperation in this is greatly appreciated.

MUSIC

Musicians are hired by individual arrangement and are approved by the music director, Santiago Fernandez, (248) 349-8847 ext. 231.

DONATIONS

To Holy Family parish....

Please use your best judgment for the use of the church building and to defray the cost associated with the facilities. This is a donation, not a fee.

CHECK LIST

Have you met with the Priest or Deacon: _____

To choose the day and time _____

To arrange Marriage Preparation _____

To plan the ceremony _____

Wedding Ceremony:

Music Director at church contacted _____

Rehearsal arranged _____

Documents Needed:

Baptism/Confirmation certificate
(dated no earlier than 6 months before
the wedding) _____

Marriage license
Delivered to church _____

Participated in HIV Program _____