

[Revised: July 2024]

# *Wedding Policies*



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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction .....	3
<b>Marriage Preparation Program</b>	
A. Notification of the Parish Priest .....	4
B. Premarital Inventory (PMI) .....	4
C. Registration for Marriage Preparation Workshops .....	5
D. Certificate of Completion for PMI & Preparation Workshops .....	5
E. Sacramental Certificates & Prénuptial Questionnaire .....	6
F. Required Documents for Marriage in the Diocese of Venice .....	6
G. Natural Family Planning .....	6
H. Liturgical Preparation .....	6
<b>Liturgical Guidelines for the Sacrament of Marriage .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Thoughts on Catholic Weddings .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Some wise and Essential Things to Consider .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Planning the Celebration of Marriage</b>	
A. Liturgy .....	11
B. Place .....	11
C. Time .....	11
D. Music .....	11
E. Music Ministers .....	12
F. Other Liturgical Ministers .....	12
G. Readings .....	12
H. Decorations.....	12
I. Use of the Building .....	13
J. Photographs .....	13
<b>Guidelines for Photographers .....</b>	<b>14</b>
K. Rehearsals .....	15
L. Program / Participation Aid .....	15
<b>Additional Considerations and Concerns</b>	
A. Circumstances Concerning the Couple .....	16
B. Required Documents .....	16
C. Fees <i>and/or</i> Offerings .....	16
D. Parish Registration .....	17
E. Other Helpful Information .....	18
<b>Procedures for Planning Your Wedding</b>	
A. Securing/Selecting Musicians .....	19-20
B. Sample Prayers of the Faithful .....	21-22
C. Wedding Planning Sheet [Ceremony Without or Within Mass] .....	23-24

## INTRODUCTION

Congratulations on your engagement and your intention to marry. We rejoice to see and to share in your love for each other and your commitment to prepare for a life lived together in this holy sacrament.

You have already shared in the rich sacramental life of the church.

- In Baptism, you rejected sin and professed your faith in Christ Jesus. You were united with Christ, becoming a member of His Body, the church. By the power of His death and resurrection, your sins were forgiven, and the gates of everlasting life were opened for you.
- In Confirmation, you received the special gift of the Holy Spirit binding you more closely with Christ and the church. You were entrusted with the special mission of witnessing to the Gospel and defending the faith.
- In the Holy Eucharist, you participate in the banquet of Christ's paschal mystery. Together with the rest of the Church, you recall the death and resurrection of the Lord in this sign and effect of the unity of the people of God, which achieves the building of the Body of Christ.
- In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, you experience the mercy and forgiveness God offered to us through Jesus' passion, death, and resurrection. God's saving grace reconciles you to himself and to the church, which was wounded by our sin.

Now, in the Sacrament of Matrimony, you will be given a special grace and will take on a new vocation in which you become an image of God's love for his people.

As you prepare to enter into this life-long partnership, we look forward to assisting you in the task of forming the most loving Christian relationship possible, one in which you both can have confidence.



## **MARRIAGE PREPARATION PROGRAM**

In order to aid you in successfully living your life together as husband and wife, the Diocese of Venice requires a time of preparation that ordinarily lasts a minimum of nine (9) months. This time is for you. It is a time for you to come to know and understand each other even more fully than you do now, and to enable you to express your expectations and hopes for your married life. It is a time for you to confirm and finalize your decision to marry, becoming as certain as possible that you will be able to live your life together as husband and wife until death do you part, and that your decision has been made freely. To assist the two of you in this endeavor, we provide the following: **Marriage Preparation Guidelines for the Diocese of Venice.**

### 1. Notification of the Parish Priest:

- a. In order to allow sufficient time to carry out the process of marriage preparation, it is necessary for a couple to contact their parish priest at least (9) nine months to (1) one year prior to the anticipated time of their wedding.
- b. No firm date for a wedding should be set until it is shown that the couple has no impediments to be married in the Catholic Church.
- c. The Pastor of the parish where the wedding will take place must see to it that the couple has been properly prepared according to the guidelines of the Diocese of Venice.
- d. The initial interview will also touch on the following areas:
  - i. Parish membership: At least one person must be a registered/active member of the parish. Adult children over the age of 18 that are living independently and any child over the age of 25 needs to be registered separately from your parents.
  - ii. Faith Life: To what extent are those seeking to marry practicing, living and witnessing to their faith which is the faith also of the community.
  - iii. The Pre-Marriage File: A brief interview to collect biographical information and determine the freedom to marry.
  - iv. Dispensations, Permissions and Other Documentations: If they are necessary, the pastor will be happy to explain the reason these documents are essential and will help you collect them.

### 2. Premarital Inventory

- a. A Premarital Inventory (PMI) is given to each couple preparing for marriage. The results of the PMI should be reviewed with the priest or deacon shortly after completion. This is not a test but an assessment that aids the priest in discussing sensitive issues that need to be addressed before the couple receives the Sacrament of Marriage. This instrument is used to help you discuss together the many aspects of Christian married life, e.g. your values, your expectations of married life, sexuality, and parenting; your expectations of each other, your

hopes for growth and change, etc. The PMI is designed to facilitate dialogue, to raise questions, and to identify areas you need to think about, discuss, and as a couple come to a mutual understanding.

- b. The Premarital Inventory that Saint Katharine Drexel Parish uses is *Fully Engaged* ([www.getfullyengaged.com](http://www.getfullyengaged.com)).
  - c. Sessions with the Pastor: You will have sessions with the pastor, during which time you will go over the results of your PMI and will discuss the involvement of Christ in your life together, the sacramentality of marriage, your life together as Christian parents, and your church attendance. He, along with the parish director of music will help you plan your wedding liturgy. It is crucial to keep in mind that while this is your wedding, it is also a wider celebration for those who gather with you and the entire faith community of the Church.
3. Registration for Marriage Preparation Workshops
- a. The engaged couple is required to go through a marriage preparation program:
    - i. *Witness to Love* program – under 55 years old
    - ii. Diocesan Weekend Retreat – limited space (only 2 offered during the fiscal year)
    - iii. One-day Workshop for couples 55 or older
    - iv. Convalidation Workshop – civilly married couples seeking the Sacrament
  - b. A couple using the *Witness to Love* program will present the completed “Scavenger Hunt Worksheet” or the Witness to Love Certificate of Completion indicating they have satisfied this portion of preparation. Couples who have taken the Diocesan Retreat, One-day workshop or Convalidation workshop will be given a workshop certificate indicating they attended this portion of the preparation.
  - c. In case of Military couples or geographical separation circumstances and with approval from the Diocese of Venice, the online program *Catholic Marriage Prep* can be used.
  - d. In the case of older couples (75+ years old) at least 4 hours of personal instruction by the Priest or Deacon may be given. It is preferred that *Fully Engaged* is used as a guide for preparing this couple.
4. When the couple has completed the PMI and Marriage Preparation Workshops, the Priest will provide the couple a signed document entitled *Certificate of Completion Form*, so that the couple may receive a discount and (3) three-day period waiver for the Marriage License.

5. The Baptismal Certificates and the completion of the Canonical Pre-Nuptial Questionnaire are required.
  - *Proof of Baptism*: If you are Catholic, you must provide us with a Baptismal Certificate or Profession of Faith and Reception into Full Communion Certificate. The Certificate needs to be issued within six (6) months of your anticipated wedding date, and the certificate should include notations of other sacraments you have received, such as Confirmation. Please provide the parish office with a current certificate or the name and place of the church of your baptism. For non-Catholic Christians, a baptismal certificate is required as well.
  - *Proof of Confirmation*: This may be included on the back of the baptismal certificate. If not, you will need to provide evidence of your confirmation. Catholics are to be confirmed prior to being married, unless it poses a serious difficulty. In such cases, confirmation may be deferred until after the marriage. Contact the Parish Office for more information.
6. The Priest will have a packet to give the couple that has forms that need to be filled out and returned. It also will have the information for Marriage Requirements in the Diocese of Venice.
  - a. Affidavit Concerning the Freedom to Marry
  - b. Liturgical requirements for the Sacrament of Marriage
  - c. Premarital Inventory Information
  - d. Liturgical Information for Wedding
7. **Natural Family Planning** is strongly recommended for couples preparing for marriage in the Diocese of Venice. We strongly encourage couples to examine, learn, and practice this form of family planning.
8. Instruction of couples from the Priest or Deacon is a serious responsibility. The time of Marriage Preparation gives the priest a unique opportunity to work with those in our pastoral care at a critical time in their lives. The role of the priest in this process cannot be underestimated.
9. **Liturgical Preparation**: The engaged couple will meet with the Priest or Deacon to plan the Liturgy. Active participation in the planning and celebration is encouraged. Music Suggestions are discussed with SKD Director of Music. You will need to meet with the Music Director to plan out the wedding music no later than two (2) months before the wedding.

## Liturgical Guidelines for the Sacrament of Marriage

- To receive the Sacrament of Marriage fruitfully, the spouses are strongly advised to receive the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Eucharist [Canon 1065, 2].
  - The Sacrament of Reconciliation should be received as close to the wedding date as possible such as after the rehearsal or the morning of the wedding.
- It is advised to discourage marriage celebrations on Sundays and certain holy days and seasons (e.g., Holy Thursday through Easter). Also *“When a marriage is celebrated during Advent or Lent or other days of penance, the parish priest should advise the couple to take into consideration the special nature of these times”* (Rite of Marriage 11). This would affect the texts/readings of the day that must be used rather than the readings for the Rite of Marriage. Decoration of the worship space will also be minimal to none.
- The sacred nature of the Mass must be respected in any celebration. Care must be taken when advising couples in liturgical planning.
  - It is imperative that parish guidelines be given to the couples preparing for marriage. The parish guidelines should incorporate:
    - Liturgical needs including lectors, extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist, altar servers, cantor and organist who is familiar with liturgical celebrations.
    - Explanation of the need to use sacred music to respect the sanctity of the Mass. (USCCB Guidelines can be found in Music in Divine Worship).
    - Photographers should be advised to be respectful of the Liturgy and are not allowed into the sanctuary area during the Liturgy.
    - Couples cannot write their own vows.
    - Information on the readings to choose from should be provided. (e.g., the book Together for Life by Joseph M. Champlin [www.togethforlifeonline.com](http://www.togethforlifeonline.com))
  - The Liturgy is Sacred.
    - All present at the Sacrament of Marriage are to be active witnesses and participants beyond the wedding party.
  - The ceremony is to take place in a Catholic Church or Chapel. No ceremonies allowed on the beach.
- If the Marriage is taking place between two baptized Catholics, the Rite for Celebrating Marriage during Mass is strongly encouraged. If the Marriage is between a Catholic and a non-Catholic, the Rite for Celebration of Marriage outside of Mass is to be encouraged. The non-Catholic is not given Communion if Mass is celebrated (RM 8).
- If it is determined that the bride, groom or witnesses are inebriated the Sacrament cannot take place.

***Familiaris Consortio* #7** states:

“Inasmuch as it is a sacramental action of sanctification, the celebration of marriage-inserted into the liturgy, which is the summit of the Church's action and the source of her sanctifying power (166) must be per se valid, worthy and fruitful...

...Inasmuch as it is a sign, the liturgical celebration should be conducted in such a way as to constitute, also in its external reality, a proclamation of the word of God and a profession of faith on the part of the community of believers. Pastoral commitment will be expressed here through the intelligent and careful preparation of the Liturgy of the Word and through the education to faith of those participating in the celebration and in the first place the couple being married.

...Inasmuch as it is a sacramental action of the Church, the liturgical celebration of marriage should involve the Christian community, with the full, active and responsible participation of all those present, according to the place and task of each individual: the bride and bridegroom, the priest, the witnesses, the relatives, the friends, the other members of the faithful, all of them members of an assembly that manifests and lives the mystery of Christ and His Church. For the celebration of Christian marriage in the sphere of ancestral cultures or traditions, the principles laid down above should be followed.”

For further information on *Familiaris Consortio* and the Pontifical Council for the Family's document on Preparation for the Sacrament of Marriage visit the Vatican website [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)

***Pope John Paul II (On the Family/Familiaris Consortio )*, December 15, 1981.**

This is a foundational document on the nature and tasks of the Christian family and the scope of pastoral care needed by families. It describes marriage as a covenant relationship and the family as domestic church.

***Preparation for the Sacrament of Marriage*, May 13, 1996.**

This document provides extended commentary and guidelines on the importance of preparation for Christian marriage, the stages of preparation, and the celebration of marriage.



## **THOUGHTS ON CATHOLIC WEDDINGS**

By Bishop Kenneth Untener (1937-2004)

Those planning a wedding sometimes wonder why it can't take place in a garden, a wedding chapel, or why they can't have certain music. Here's something that will help: don't confuse "the wedding" with the "marriage liturgy."

The wedding is a large event that covers many months and includes many "rituals." Some are family or cultural customs, some are social customs, and some are rituals of the Church. Think about it. All sorts of customs and rituals begin with the engagement and continue on through the wedding planning and preparations, the inter-family meetings, the shower(s), the rehearsal, the rehearsal dinner, the pre-wedding rituals on the day of the marriage, the church liturgy, the pictures, the reception, and the breakfast/brunch for out-of-town people the next day.

One part of all of this is the marriage liturgy, which has its own distinctive character.

In the course of all the other things surrounding the wedding event, the bride and groom come to the church, and parishioners, family and friends, gather to celebrate a sacred ritual by which the bride and groom are consecrated/blessed as a couple who by their life together, and by the raising of their children, will make a difference in the community, and make more manifest the presence of Christ among us.

Brides and grooms are careful to learn the proper "protocol" for invitations and showers and the reception. They also need to learn the "protocol" for the liturgy, and not mix one with the other.

That's the heart of the matter. Everything we do during the marriage liturgy – this small part of the large wedding event – should fit what is taking place. There's nothing wrong with the "rituals" that take place elsewhere. It's simply a matter of what goes where. It really wouldn't fit to sing "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" during the reception, anymore that it would fit to sing "Butterfly Kisses" during the liturgy.

The Church wants couples to have a wonderful wedding event that includes whatever cultural and societal rituals they wish – tuxedos and gowns, rides in limousines, a horse and carriage, a receiving line, posed pictures in whatever setting they wish, the grand entrance of the bride and groom at the reception, the introduction of the members of the wedding party, toasts, music and dancing, fine food and drink. The Church also wants there to be a time during this large wedding event when we gather around the altar for a liturgy that is worship and prayer from the beginning to end.

## **SOME WISE AND ESSENTIAL THINGS TO CONSIDER**

**Cohabitation:** The time of preparation for marriage is a time of courtship, not cohabitation. Avoiding cohabitation more readily assures the freedom needed to exit the relationship, and the physical and psychological distance necessary to make objective decisions. Living apart also removes occasions for sins against the sixth and ninth commandments. If these distinctions are confusing, discuss them with the priest or deacon assisting you.

**Premarital Sex:** Sexual relations prior to marriage, besides violating our belief as Christians, move the relationship beyond courtship. Another reason to avoid this behavior is to ensure the freedom necessary to exit the relationship and the objective to make a good decision.

**Reconciliation:** Each of us experiences our own sinfulness and our constant need for repentance and conversion. The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) is an excellent way to express this sorrow for our sins, to make a firm amendment of purpose, and to celebrate the loving mercy and forgiveness of God. This sacrament can be a great assistance to you as you prepare yourself spiritually for the reception of the Sacrament of Matrimony. The priest assisting at your wedding would be more than happy to provide you with the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation or the deacon assisting at your wedding can arrange for a priest to provide this opportunity.

**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults:** If one of you is not Catholic and would like to know more about the Catholic Church or is interested in becoming a Catholic, you are invited to inquire further about our Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults classes. Please contact the Parish Office for information.

## PLANNING THE CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE

A booklet *“Together for Life”* will be given to each couple to aid them in choosing options and in planning their marriage ceremony/liturgy.

The church has always insisted that the minister of the Sacrament of Matrimony is not the priest, but the couple themselves. So, it is only fitting that the couple, with the guidance and encouragement of the pastoral team, prepare their marriage liturgy.

The couple should choose their prayers, religious songs, and scriptural readings to express the depth of their relationship and commitment to God and to each other. Because the sacrament of marriage is an act of public worship, people attending the Liturgy should not merely be considered as guests. The Liturgical assembly is called to its role of actual participation, and any planning must take this into account.

The wedding should include those ministers needed to serve in the Liturgical Celebration. This includes: Minister of Music, Lectors, Readers of petitions, Ministers of the Eucharist, other musicians (Cantors and Instrumentalists) provided by the parish.

When celebrating faith, certain actions are most appropriate and need to be stressed; while those actions that do not express the faith of the community need to be avoided.

With this in mind, the following guidelines for Saint Katharine Drexel Parish are presented:

- A. **Liturgy:** The Rite for Celebrating Marriage during Mass is strongly encouraged between two baptized Catholics. If the Marriage is between a Catholic and a non-Catholic, the Rite for Celebration of Marriage outside of Mass is to be encouraged.
- B. **Wedding Party:** The wedding party should be willing and able to participate in the prayer of the Church as we celebrate this great sacrament. With that in mind, the age of participants, especially ring bearers and flower girls, comes into question. They should be of an age and maturity to be attentive and pray with us, recognizing the ceremony takes an hour. (That is, if they are not going to church on a regular basis or are unable to remain in the congregation during the service, they are not old enough to be in a wedding.)
- C. **Place:** Being a community celebration, the marriage must take place within the parish Church building. It is also possible for this celebration to take place in the Church of the non-Catholic person once permission is given and preparation for marriage completed.
- D. **Time:** Saturdays at 11:00 am, 12:00 (Noon) or 1:00 pm. Only one marriage will be scheduled on a Saturday. Friday evenings and other weekday times are also available.
- E. **Music:** All celebrations of Parish Sacraments (First Holy Communion, Confirmation and Weddings) and Funerals are celebrated in the same manner as a Sunday Mass at Saint Katharine Drexel Church. Meaning, the wedding celebration mirrors the Sunday Mass in celebration and ministry. Music is a very essential and important part of any celebration. Music serves to unify the people gathered and enhance the community's prayer and faith. We strongly encourage congregational participation. All music must

be liturgically correct and approved by the Parish Director of Music for Saint Katharine Drexel. All music must be live. Other instrumentalists, who are actively part of the parish music ministry are approved by the Director of Music, such as a trumpeter, flutist, guitarist, etc. to help augment the Wedding Mass. No taped or recorded music is allowed before, during or after the ceremony.

The parish has several Song Leaders (Cantors) with beautiful voices. Outside singers and especially those who are not of the Catholic faith, are not permitted as they are not familiar with the Pastor's manner of presiding and are not part of parish ministry. The couple may select a parish cantor/song leader who is actively involved in the parish music ministry who may also double as a soloist. The Director of Music can assist the couple in choosing a parish cantor/song leader.

To insist on outsiders demands extra time for both the Director of Music and Pastor and extra fees. The couple should contact the Director of Music within one week of their first meeting with the Pastor/Presider to secure the date.

- F. **Music Ministers:** The Director of Music at Saint Katharine Drexel Parish will provide the music for your wedding due to that individual who is familiar with the worship at Saint Katharine Drexel Parish. The Director of Music can be reached at (239) 283-9501.

If the Parish Director of Music is not available, he will secure his substitute who too, is part of the parish music ministry of Saint Katharine Drexel.

Other approved instrumentalists may assist if for some reason a parish instrumentalist is not available. They will establish their own stipends/fees with the couple. The couple is responsible for contacting these people, but they must be approved by the Parish Director of Music.

All fees for music are to be discussed with the Parish Director of Music. **The cost/fees for Musicians can be found on page 20.**

- G. **Other Liturgical Ministers:** The participation of family members and friends is encouraged. Please consider one's ability to serve and ALL ministers should be competent in their respective roles.

- H. **Readings:** The couple is invited to choose the Scripture readings to be used in the celebration. Since this is part of the Liturgy of the Word, God's Word, non-scriptural readings may not be used as a substitute.

- I. **Decorations:** Are to be appropriate for the celebration.

1. **Seasonal:** Such as the Advent wreath or Paschal Candle are not to be removed from their places.

2. **Floral:** It is up to the couple to contact the florist and make the necessary arrangements for the flowers. We suggest either a very large single arrangement in front of the ambo or two (2) arrangements to be placed on either side of the Altar. Please inform your florist that tape is not permitted to be used in church. Bows can be

tied on the pews with ribbons or pipe cleaners. When used, we ask someone designated for their removal. *The flowers are a sign of the celebration and should remain in church as a gift to the parish community.*

3. **Candles:** The candles already at the Altar and Ambo are the only candles permitted. Other candles such as: candelabras, hurricane candles in the aisle, etc. are not permitted because of insurance liability.

4. **Marriage/Unity Candle:** Marriage/Unity Candle is a Protestant concept and is not part of the Roman Catholic Marriage rite. Therefore, is not permitted in church. However, it is encouraged at the reception as part of your welcoming of the guest.

5. **Aisle Cloth:** Aisle cloths or runners are not permitted because of insurance liability.

#### J. **Use of the Building**

1. **Bride's Room:** The bride's room is the choir room located by the restrooms (pass the Gift shop). We ask that you appoint someone who will check the room after the wedding and remove any material you may have brought with you (plastic bags, boxes, hangers, shoes, tags, etc.). Also, please be sure that the florist takes all boxes, bags, bows, etc. with him/her.

2. **Rice:** Throwing rice, confetti, grass seed, birdseed is not permitted either inside or outside the church. It is a hazard and very messy when tracked in church. We do not have custodial services on the weekend, and we do have a 4:00 pm Vigil Mass Saturday afternoon.

3. **Alcohol:** Since we gather to celebrate the sacredness of marriage, the drinking of alcohol on parish grounds, prior to or following the rehearsal or the marriage celebration is not allowed or tolerated.

#### K. **Photographers**

1. **Photographers:** Should be instructed to respect the sacredness of the church building.

It is recommended that there be no more than one (1) official photographer, either amateur or professional.

Flash pictures are allowed during the celebration.

Couples are asked to limit picture taking before and/or after the celebration to thirty (30) minutes. (No later than 12:30 p.m. for a 1:00 p.m. wedding.)

2. **Video:** Follow the guidelines for Photographers (as above) and check with the parish priest as to camera placement.

## **SUGGESTED GUIDELINES FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS FOR WEDDINGS AT PARISHES IN THE DIOCESE OF VENICE**

The general principles that are operative in the formation of the following guidelines are:

- A. Churches are sacred places and, therefore, should be accorded the respect due such places.
- B. Weddings are sacred events and, therefore, no action should interfere with the sacredness of the celebration.
- C. We approve of and recognize the value of a video or photographic record of a wedding, but we wish to guarantee a proper respect for the meaning and sacredness of the Wedding Liturgy and of sacred places.

Accordingly, we ask that photographers and families respect the following guidelines that have been established for the parishes of the Diocese.

- A. If the couple has any questions regarding these policies, they are to be cleared up before the photographer is contracted. We will be happy to answer any questions or clarify any confusion.
- B. We ask that the family who contracts the photographer inform the photographer to introduce him/herself to the celebrant before the marriage begins.
- C. The photographer is permitted to take pictures, with or without flash, during the processional and recessional but not in such a way as to impede the movement of the participants.
- D. Once the liturgy has begun, the photographer is welcome to take shots but only in such a way that s/he does not interfere with the attention of the people attending the ceremony. In other words, the photographer is to be totally unobtrusive, i.e., ***not seen or noticed.***
- E. Once the Liturgy is complete, the family may return to the sanctuary for pictures to memorialize the event. It shall be understood by both family and photographer that the sanctuary and church area is a sacred place deserving of the conduct and decorum proper to such a place.
- F. It shall also be understood that the church and sanctuary is not a “studio” but a place of worship and prayer. For this reason, neither photographers nor family are permitted to move any sanctuary furniture, chairs, light any candles, turn on or off any lights without the expressed permission of the celebrant.
- G. The formal pictures that are taken in the church should be of a kind or nature that do not embarrass the sacred nature of the sanctuary, e.g., brides being asked to show a “little leg.”

- H. Video recordings are permitted. The guidelines stated above apply also to video recorders. The operator of the camera should first check with the celebrant to determine the place where he may set up the equipment and to see whether s/he is permitted to use the church electrical system.
- I. While the Liturgy is in process, ***the camera operator should be as unobtrusive as possible. The preference is that the camera operator remains stationary in order to prevent any distraction. The photographer is to stay out of the area called the sanctuary. (Around the altar and ambo)***
- J. The final interpretation and decision as to the meaning and purpose of these guidelines is the right and prerogative of the Presider.
- K. **Rehearsal**: To be scheduled with the Presider. It is usually held the evening before, but the time is flexible. All persons involved in the wedding must be at the rehearsal, and we appreciate being able to start at the time scheduled. **Your Marriage License and all fees (Musician/Organist, Church donation, etc.) should be given to the priest the night of the rehearsal.**

## ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS AND CONCERNS

### A. **Circumstances Concerning the Couple:**

1. Interfaith Marriages: The faith of the non-Catholic Christian is to be respected. Discussion of faith differences and the sharing of faith with children will be part of the formation.
2. Underage Marriages: A proposed marriage involving someone who is by age a minor requires the approval of parents) as well as perhaps an independent evaluation of the person's preparedness.
3. Pregnancy: Cannot be seen as a reason in itself for marriage or for shortening the formation and preparation process. It may be the reason for delaying the celebration.
4. Delaying Marriage: People have a right to marry but they may not be truly prepared for marriage. A decision to delay a marriage would be made on an evaluation of the preparedness of the couple that is part of the earliest formation process. The reason(s) for a delay will be thoroughly discussed with the couple.

### B. **Required Documents:**

1. Baptismal Certificate: For those not baptized at Saint Katharine Drexel Parish, Cape Coral, a recent copy (issued in the last six months) is required. One needs only to write or call the parish of baptism to request a copy for marriage.
2. **MARRIAGE LICENSE – Obtained by the couple from the County Clerk's Office prior to the marriage. It takes three days to obtain a marriage license.**

**PLEASE SUBMIT LICENSE TO THE PRIEST AT REHEARSAL OR SOONER.**

- ### C. **Fees and/or Offerings:** Adult members of the Catholic Church (18 years old) are expected to be registered members of their parish (i.e., receives envelopes/Online Giving) if they are living separately from their parents.

The fee schedule is as follows:

There is no fee for the celebration of a sacrament. The fee is attached to special use of the building.

1. **\$500.00 for registered members or couple whose parents are registered members** (provided the couple is registered in some other parish).  
*(A Deposit of \$250.00 is required to reserve the church. Remaining balance is due one (1) month before the ceremony.)*
2. **\$800.00 if the couple is not from the area and is registered in some other parish.**
3. If you would like to give a donation to the Pastor that is optional but not included in the parish fee.



4. Professional Services: such as Musician/Organist, Soloist(s) (page 20), Instrumentalists, Videos, Photographers, etc. are arranged by the couple and involve a fee.

#### **D. Parish Registration:**

Each Sunday, Catholic people all over the world come together to raise their hearts in prayer. We believe that it is only when people come together in a spirit of love and begin to care for each other that the Faith really comes alive. When people come together in a spirit of friendship and love, then we see the truth of, Jesus' message. This is what we mean by a Christian Community or a parish family.

When you are in need, the church will reach out to help you. Even more important, it will give you the opportunity to reach out to help others. As long as you open yourselves to these new relationships found in a parish community, you will never be alone.

Saint Katharine Drexel Parish is a very vibrant community with parish programs and services. We have junior and senior High School programs and a growing adult-faith program with Bible Study and chances to become involved in ministry and outreach. Socially, we have annual social events within the parish each year. In the Summer we have our Vacation Bible School. In the Fall and Winter, we have various outreach programs where the community can give to local community in needs. If you would like to know more about how you become involved just give us a call at the parish office. Our Pastoral staff is professionally trained in pastoral care. Let us know if there is anything, we can do for you as you grow together in Christ.

## **OTHER HELPFUL INFORMATION**

**Promptness.** It is necessary to begin the rehearsal and the wedding on time in order to be courteous to your guests and not to interfere with other church activities.

**Guest Book.** Ordinarily guests feel they are expected to sign a guest book when it is present. Signing the guest book in the vestibule of the church is what most often delays the start of the wedding ceremony. If you choose to have a guest book at the church for people to sign, please close the book approximately five minutes before the service so that all your guests can be seated, and the service can start on time.

**Dressing Areas.** The choir room and priest sacristy are available for use as dressing areas. The Church is not responsible for lost or stolen items. Please ensure these areas are cleaned up before you leave.

**Food and Drink.** No food or drink may be brought into the church proper. Food and drinks must stay in the dressing area. Please ensure that everything is cleaned up before you leave.

**Alcoholic Beverages** are not allowed anywhere on church property, including the parking lots. Anyone under the influence of alcohol or other mind-altering substances cannot participate in the wedding and must leave. If either the bride or the groom is under the influence of alcohol or other mind-altering substances, the wedding cannot occur.

**Decorum in Church.** The church building is a special, sacred place of prayer and worship. Please respect the prayerful nature of the building and preserve proper decorum.

**Smoking** is not permitted in the church, dressing areas, sacristy, or hallways. If you choose to smoke, please do so outside.

## **PROCEDURES FOR PLANNING YOUR WEDDING MUSIC**

### **Securing Musicians**

1] Once a *date* and *time* have been set with Church, please contact the Parish Director of Music to begin discussing and planning music for your wedding as well as schedule a time to meet with the director. The Parish Director of Music will be the principal musician at your wedding. If you wish to seek an outside musician to play for your wedding, they must be approved by the Director of Music in advance.

2] In addition to the Music Director you will need a cantor to chant the psalm and lead other musical parts of the liturgy. The cantor should be selected from the SKD Cantor Ministry who have been trained for parish weddings and are very familiar with the Roman Catholic Liturgy.

3] If you would like any other music such as: harpist, bagpiper, string quartet, brasses, etc. these are also a possibility but must be scheduled far in advance. Please contact the Director of Music about the availability and estimated cost of added musicians.

### **Picking Music**

1] For many, a wedding will be the first time that they have had to plan a liturgy. Below is a list of the musical pieces that need to be decided for a wedding. Keep in mind that if you are not having a Mass, you will not need an offertory or communion. Music for Catholic wedding must be sacred no secular songs of any kind are permitted. If you have a particular piece, you like and are not sure if it is appropriate, please contact the Director of Music.

2] Unless otherwise discussed the musical setting of the Mass (Holy, Holy; Lamb of God etc.) will be the setting that the parish is using at the time of your wedding. Due to this the list below does not reference any of the Mass ordinary parts.

1. a) Processional for Priest and Wedding Party \*
- b) Processional for the Bride \*
2. Responsorial Psalm
3. Gospel Acclamation (Alleluia)
4. Offertory \*
5. Communion Antiphon or Hymn(s)
6. Recessional \*

*\* Can be either instrumental works, vocal soloist or congregational hymn singing.*

3] When you meet with the Director of Music you will discuss possibilities for each of the musical elements and get to hear examples of possible pieces if you have not already had some in mind.

## **Cost/Fees for Musicians**

The musician that you are hiring for your wedding are highly trained and has practiced for many years on instruments. As such the fees that you are paying are not only for the time spent at the wedding, one or two hours, but the hours of practice that go in before, the expertise, wisdom and artistry that can only be provided by a professional musician.

### **Fees:**

- **Musician/Organist/Cantor: \$250.00**

A charge of \$25.00 per hour will be added for any unexpected or additional rehearsals that result from the use of soloist, cantors or instrumentalist not procured by the Director of Music. If the cantor is procured by the Director of Music, there is no additional cost for rehearsals with the cantor. In addition, musicians are not typically invited to the wedding rehearsal.

Payment should be left for musician/organist/cantor in the church office or with the priest no later than the wedding rehearsal. If there are issues, please do not hesitate to call the Parish Director of Music with questions or concerns.

### **Saint Katharine Drexel Parish**

1922 SW 20th Avenue  
Cape Coral, Florida 33991  
Office: (239) 283-9501

***Sample A: Prayers of the Faithful (J-1)***

1] For the Church throughout the world. May our faith in the love of God has for us be expressed in our love for one another.

**We pray to the Lord.** All: Lord, hear our prayer.

2] For peace in our world. May all lands that suffer violence and injustice find peace and reconciliation.

**We pray to the Lord:** All: Lord, hear our prayer.

3] For the poor, the homeless, and for those who are unemployed. May our care and concern for those in need be a sign of God's love.

**We pray to the Lord.** All: Lord, hear our prayer.

4] For the protection and sanctity of human life from conception until natural death. May all people be treated with the dignity they deserve as god's children.

**We pray to the Lord.** All: Lord, hear our prayer.

5] For all those preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage. May they grow in wisdom and grace and see their vocation to married life as a sign of God's love.

**We pray to the Lord.** All: Lord, hear our prayer.

6] For \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ who begin their married life together this day. May they experience the love of God, the support of family and friends, and the blessings of children.

**We pray to the Lord.** All: Lord, hear our prayer.

7] For all those who have died, especially the relatives and friends of \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ and of all present for this wedding. May they enjoy perfect happiness and total fulfillment in eternal life.

**We pray to the Lord.** All: Lord, hear our prayer.

### ***Sample B: Prayers of the Faithful (J-2)***

1] For the Church and its leaders. May our commitment to the Gospel lead us to deepen our faith and trust in God.

**We pray to the Lord.** All: Lord, hear our prayer.

2] For our world and its leaders. May all people be treated with the dignity they deserve as God's children.

**We pray to the Lord.** All: Lord, hear our prayer.

3] For our country and those who defend it. May our men and women who serve in the military be kept safe from all harm.

**We pray to the Lord.** All: Lord, hear our prayer.

4] For those who are sick, lonely, or depressed. May they be strengthened by god's love and aided by friends and family.

**We pray to the Lord.** All: Lord, hear our prayer.

5] For all our guests gathered here with us today. May they enjoy the warm company of family and friends and have a safe journey home.

**We pray to the Lord.** All: Lord, hear our prayer.

6] For \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_, may they live long, blessed lives together, may their love grow stronger each day, and may they build a family rooted in faith and unconditional love.

**We pray to the Lord.** All: Lord, hear our prayer.

7] For \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in names of your deceased loved one) and all who have died. May they know the peace and fullness of eternal life with God.

**We pray to the Lord.** All: Lord, hear our prayer.

# **WEDDING PLANNING SHEET**

[Ceremony Without Mass]

**COUPLE'S NAMES:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE OF WEDDING:** \_\_\_\_\_ **TIME OF WEDDING:** \_\_\_\_\_

**BEST MAN:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Maid/Matron of Honor:** \_\_\_\_\_

**WEDDING PARTY: # of Groomsmen** \_\_\_\_\_ **# of Bridesmaids** \_\_\_\_\_ **# of Ushers** \_\_\_\_\_

**FLOWER GIRL[S]** \_\_\_\_\_ **RING BEARER(S)** \_\_\_\_\_

**ACCOMPANIST:** \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**VOCALIST and/or CANTOR:** \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

[IF MORE THAN ONE] \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**PRELUDE MUSIC: 1]** \_\_\_\_\_ **2]** \_\_\_\_\_

**3]** \_\_\_\_\_ **4]** \_\_\_\_\_

**PROCESSIONAL MUSIC:** \_\_\_\_\_

**GATHERING HYMN:** \_\_\_\_\_

**OPENING PRAYER**

## **LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**FIRST READING**

**PSALM OF RESPONSE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SECOND READING** (Optional)

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** \_\_\_\_\_

**GOSPEL READING**

**HOMILY**

**RITE OF MARRIAGE** (Exchange of Consent and the Blessing & Exchange of Rings)

**NUPTIAL BLESSING**

**PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

**OUR FATHER**

**SIGN OF PEACE**

**FINAL BLESSING AND INTRODUCTION OF THE NEWLYWEDS**

**RECESSIONAL MUSIC:** \_\_\_\_\_

# WEDDING PLANNING SHEET

[Ceremony Within Mass]

COUPLE'S NAMES: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF WEDDING: \_\_\_\_\_ TIME OF WEDDING: \_\_\_\_\_

BEST MAN: \_\_\_\_\_ Maid/Matron of Honor: \_\_\_\_\_

WEDDING PARTY: # of Groomsmen \_\_\_\_\_ # of Bridesmaids \_\_\_\_\_ # of Ushers \_\_\_\_\_

FLOWER GIRL[S] \_\_\_\_\_ RING BEARER(S) \_\_\_\_\_

ACCOMPANIST: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

VOCALIST and/or CANTOR: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

[IF MORE THAN ONE] \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

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PRELUDE MUSIC: 1] \_\_\_\_\_ 2] \_\_\_\_\_

3] \_\_\_\_\_ 4] \_\_\_\_\_

PROCESSIONAL MUSIC: \_\_\_\_\_

GATHERING HYMN: \_\_\_\_\_

OPENING PRAYER

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

PSALM OF RESPONSE: \_\_\_\_\_

SECOND READING (Optional)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: \_\_\_\_\_

GOSPEL READING

HOMILY

RITE OF MARRIAGE (Exchange of Consent and the Blessing & Exchange of Rings)

NUPTIAL BLESSING

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS: \_\_\_\_\_

EUCCHARISTIC ACCLAMATIONS

[HOLY, HOLY - MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION – AMEN - LAMB OF GOD] Inform Musician if you would like to select.

COMMUNION HYMN: \_\_\_\_\_

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

FINAL BLESSING AND INTRODUCTION OF THE NEWLYWEDS

RECESSIONAL MUSIC: \_\_\_\_\_