

Guidelines for Roman Catholic Weddings of Dearborn County



There was a wedding in Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. —John 2:1-2

Guidelines for Roman Catholic Weddings Dearborn County

(Effective July 5, 2023)

Welcome and congratulations to you and to your families as you plan for this exciting moment in your lives. As you have come to the Church for baptism, first communion, reconciliation and so many other moments in your life- we are delighted that you have said “yes” to Christ and his Church again. We desire nothing more than to walk with you on this journey. We pray that your love for each other will give you a vivid sense of God’s abiding love for you. We invite you to look at marriage as a genuine religious vocation – the special way that you live out your lives as Christians. We wish you the blessing of children and joy that grows as you sacrifice and care for them through the years. Lastly, we want you to know that if your marriage needs our support in the future, we as pastors and parishioners will be here for you to work through your hardships and celebrate your joys. God bless you!

In His Priesthood,

Rev. Jonathan P. Meyer

Rev. John J. Hollowell

Priests in Solidum

Guidelines about who may be married in the Catholic Church

For a wedding to take place in one of the Catholic churches of Dearborn County, Indiana, the following must be true:

- At least one of the two persons must be registered at a Roman Catholic Dearborn County parish (All Saints, St. Lawrence, St. Teresa, St. Mary’s) or have a significant connection to the parish such as a parent who is a registered member, a graduate of one of our current or former schools, or living for an extended period of time in the parish boundaries.
- Either the bride or the groom must be a practicing Catholic.
- Both parties must be free to marry according to the laws of the Catholic Church. Marriage is between a man and a woman.
- The couple must be willing to participate in a marriage preparation program.
- The couple must contact the parish office at least six months prior to the date of the wedding.

How do these guidelines work?

To get started, please submit your Marriage Request through the parish website found under Sacraments/Holy Matrimony. Within one or two business days someone from the parish office will contact you to begin the process. The process begins by filling out a Marriage Preparation document. This verifies the fact that you are free to marry according to the laws of the Catholic Church. At this time, the availability of the church will be determined and your date penciled in. Once the priest or deacon confirms his availability, your date will be reserved. The priest or deacon will contact you to arrange your first meeting.

You and your intended will be asked to obtain a copy of your baptismal certificate from your church of baptism. You may do so by contacting by phone the church of your baptism. Simply tell the person who answers the phone that you are getting married and need your baptismal certificate with all “notations” included. These are notations of the sacraments the Catholic party has received since baptism. If one of the parties getting married was baptized in a non-Catholic place of worship then some form of documentation is required, such as a certificate, a notation in a family Bible, or a letter signed by two witnesses.

If there has been a previous marriage, please be prepared to present documentation that could include proof of death of the prior spouse or a decree of annulment. If you need an annulment- we are ready to help. Please contact us, and do not be afraid!

Non-Parishioner Use of Our Churches

When you decide to use one of the churches in Dearborn County for your wedding, we will make every effort to accommodate your request. The location, date and time will be reserved. In the event that one of our registered parishioners requests their wedding to take place at the same location, date and time, they will be given first priority. You will then be offered one of our other church buildings that is available. **Once your wedding date is within 6-months, your wedding location, date and time WILL be secured and not be moved. You are responsible for receiving marriage preparation from your home parish, and also arranging for their own priest/deacon to perform the ceremony.**

Email Reminders

The parish secretary will send you email reminders 4, 3, 2, and 1 month prior to your wedding date to check on your progress and ensure all required pieces of the wedding preparation process are on track.

Marriage Preparation

Our parish priest or deacon will set up time to meet with you to get to know each other and allow for open, confidential, and even frank discussion about the importance of marriage and the theological and practical implications of this holy vocation.

You and your intended will have the opportunity to complete an online inventory which also includes a video series for continuing formation. The results of the inventory will guide conversations around your greatest strengths and areas of improvement in your relationship.

You and your intended will be assigned a sponsor couple to mentor you and assist you in your marriage preparation process. You will meet with them approximately three times.

You will be invited and encouraged to meet with three couples, of your choosing, to have conversations about marriage. We will supply you with sample interview questions to foster the conversation. It is important that while planning the Big Day, you don't forget that this is truly all about a happy, successful marriage and not just the wedding itself.

The Catholic Church teaches that birth control is not in line with the joy and beauty that God planned for marriage. "Natural Family Planning" (NFP) is the Church's approved form of family planning and helps couples with timing and spacing of children. You and your intended will be given educational resources in NFP. You will be given a Voucher Code and link to an on-line NFP course which we ask you to complete 2 months prior to your wedding date; we are also open to you doing in-person classes if you desire to search those out. This requirement may be waived by the priest for couples who are past child-bearing age or unable to conceive.

Spiritual preparation is very important and must not be overlooked. It is our expectation that you and your future spouse attend Holy Mass on Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation. If this is not the case right now, through marriage preparation you will hopefully gain an understanding of the importance of these sacred moments and begin to live them as a vital part of your relationship to each other and to God. Preparation of Marriage, a Sacrament in the Church, must be fostered by a life of prayer and regular reception of Holy Communion and Sacramental Confession.

Cohabitation and Wedding Size Restrictions

Since marriage is special not only in the eyes of God, but also in the eyes of the Church, living together (cohabitation) prior to marriage is fully discouraged. Studies have shown that 78% of couples who live together prior to marriage end up getting divorced. Living together implies sexual activity outside of marriage. We are willing to work with you if you are in this situation, and will strive to assist you to conform to the beauty of God's plan for you and your marriage. The church is willing to assist you in finding a separate place of residence for one of the spouses during the six-month preparation process. Engagement is a time for grace, growth and preparation for your marriage. Living chastely for the 6 months prior to our wedding will give you more space and time to learn about one another. Living chastely is generous and sacrificial; good practice for a strong marriage.

The Church sees in marriage two people coming together to form a lifelong commitment beginning on their wedding day. Cohabitation is a public matter because it causes spiritual injury not only to you and your future spouse, but sets an example for siblings, cousins and friends. The priest is very open to discussing these issues with you, however, if you and your future spouse have been living together, and other arrangements cannot be made for the six-month preparation period, your wedding should be celebrated with less solemnity. This means a simple ceremony: The maximum number of bridesmaids is one (1) and groomsmen is one (1); this would be your maid of honor and best man. The ceremony would be best celebrated with only immediate family.

Marriage license

No sooner than sixty days prior to your wedding date, you must acquire an Indiana Marriage License from the County Courthouse. Bring the marriage license with you to your wedding rehearsal and present it to the priest or Deacon. The wedding cannot take place without an Indiana marriage license! Further information may be found on the website of the county clerk. <https://www.in.gov/courts/services/marriage-license/>

Marriage Preparation for “Out of Parish” Couples

When studies, work, or military service require a couple to prepare for marriage outside of Dearborn County, the preparation process should be initiated in the parish where the Catholic party or one of the Catholic parties resides. A letter is required from the priest or deacon overseeing the preparation. All requirements of the parish where the preparation is taking place are to be completed. The couple must complete all preparation, and have the marriage file prepared and delivered to the parish office where the wedding will take place at least one (1) month prior to the wedding.

Liturgical Norms

Because marriage is a Sacrament, the place for a Catholic wedding to be celebrated is inside a Catholic Church, since the church more fully represents the ongoing sacramental life of the individual and the Catholic community.

Between Two Baptized and Practicing Catholics

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is the "Foundation and confirmation of all Christian Practice" (CCC, 2181). Therefore, it is right and proper for two baptized, practicing Catholics to receive their Lord, whom they have invited into their married lives just moments before, in Holy Communion. Great care must be taken in planning the Nuptial Mass of the couple. The priest will assist with this aspect of the planning stages. Only in extraordinary circumstances would the wedding of a Catholic couple happen outside the context of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

Between a Catholic and a non-Catholic

In cases where one party is Catholic and the other is of a different faith (Baptized or not), the wedding takes place outside of the context of the Mass. The reception of Holy Communion by one spouse and not of the other is seen to be a sign of great disunity; and thus, not a good witness on the day of one's wedding. In planning for your wedding, you as the couple must be considerate of those attending this joyous celebration. Non-Catholic families often feel awkward and unwelcome at the celebration of Mass when they are unable to participate in its fullness due to their difference in faith. The rite of marriage outside of Mass is still a lovely, sacred and reverent celebration of joy!

Reverence Inside the Church

As Catholics we believe that Jesus Christ is truly present in the Most Blessed Sacrament, so out of respect for Him we ask that yelling, profanity, or loud talking not take place in the church building. We ask: before, during, and after the rehearsal and the wedding itself that there be a reverential silence. This allows for a quick rehearsal, for preludes prior to your wedding to be heard, and for an overall prayerful atmosphere so that people (and yourselves) can focus on what is really important: Your wedding.

Cell phones are to be silenced prior to the rehearsal and ceremony. Please remind your wedding party and family of this reverent custom. There will be a reminder made prior to the celebration, verbally.

While pictures are being taken before and after your wedding, we ask that only those in the pictures be in the sanctuary. This ensures that reverence is given to the Blessed Sacrament and Sanctuary. It also ensures

microphones and other furnishings are not tampered with. Modest dress is also to be worn for all pictures inside the church building before and after the wedding ceremony.

Genuflecting to the Tabernacle, the place where the Body and Blood of our Lord is reserved, will be part of the opening and closing procession. All are asked to show this simple form of reverence to our Lord. If one is physically unable, due to age or physical limitation, they are at least encouraged to bow out of respect and reverence. *Since all bridesmaids and groomsmen will be asked to genuflect during the processions; please keep this in mind when dresses and shoes are picked out; dresses that are too tight and prohibit someone from genuflecting should not be worn.*

Dress Code

On the day of your wedding, you are encouraged to wear the color white; this is due to your baptism. On the day of your baptism, you were clothed in a white garment, on your first Holy Communion you wore white, altar servers and priests at Mass wear white etc. White is the color of the saints in heaven. Brides are encouraged to wear a traditional white dress and grooms are invited to dress in white as well. The groom is not required to wear "all" white but at least a white shirt is expected. A white tie, vest, jacket etc. is also a nice way to make reference to one's baptism. Dresses for both bridesmaids and the bride should be modest. Dress length should be at least at knee level. Backless or strapless dresses should be used only in conjunction with a wrap or shawl. Tops of shoulders should be covered with sleeves or wraps/shawls and cleavage should be appropriately covered. This is a "Church" wedding. This is also true for the photography sessions before and after the wedding- immodest dress is never appropriate in church. If you have questions, please feel free to ask.

People Needed for Your Wedding Liturgy

Readers (who are needed for a wedding Mass or a wedding ceremony): You may ask two or three people to do readings at your wedding: One (1) person for the First Reading, One (1) person for the Second Reading, and One (1) person for the Intercessions (Prayers of the Faithful). These people need to be able to read well, clearly, and loudly enough to be understood. The proclamation of the Word of God is of utmost importance in the Celebration of Marriage. Please be careful in deciding who is going to read God's very Word. Think and pray about who would read God's Word the best. If you do not have a family member or friend to read the Church can provide a reader or the priest may proclaim the readings himself.

Practicing Catholics are required for the readings and preferred for the Prayers of the Faithful. The Prayers of the Faithful can be read by a non-Catholic. One person could fulfill all of these readings; it is not required to be split up into three parts.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: If the number of people attending your wedding, and receiving Holy Communion, is over 200, individuals who assist with the distribution of Holy Communion may be called upon. Please speak with the priest about this before asking individuals. The norm is that the priest is not in need of assistance. It is also the norm that the distribution of the precious Blood is only given to the newly married couple, and not the assembly.

Presentation of the Gifts at Offertory: During the celebration of mass, the altar is set prior to the start of mass, and the altar servers present the cruets to the priest during the preparation of the altar. Thus, it is not necessary to have someone present the gifts to the priest.

Altar Servers: Three (3) altar servers are required for the celebration of Holy Mass and two (2) for the marriage rite outside of Mass. If they are visiting servers from another parish, they must be well trained. The parish can provide well trained servers for you if you do not have any in your family.

Scripture Readings for Your Wedding

Readings for your wedding will be discussed with you by the priest or deacon. He will give you a booklet with several choices for each reading. The two of you are encouraged to read them together, pray about them and decide which readings are best for your celebration. The texts that are given to you are official texts that the Church approves for

weddings. If you have a favorite or especially meaningful verse you would like to include, we are happy to discuss this with you.

Attendants/Bridal Party and Groomsmen

Canon Law (The Catholic Church's Law) states that only two witnesses need to be present (The Maid or Matron of Honor and the Best Man), Canon 1108. When choosing attendants keep in mind this is a special and important day for you as a couple, so only those people who hold pride of place in your life should be asked to be attendants. Less is more! Typically, children four years of age and under are too young to participate in the wedding.

Flowers and Decorations

These are general guidelines, should you have a special request, please contact the parish office if there are questions. We are more than willing to work with you. The liturgical color for weddings is either white or gold.

The Church's life follows a Liturgical Year, therefore, each part of that year carries with it a specific character, and decorations help convey that special character:

Weddings during the Easter and Christmas Season: The flowers (lilies/poinsettias) and other decorations (Easter tombs, nativity scenes, etc.) placed in the sanctuary by the parish and the nave of the church are not to be moved. Other flowers may be added, but must be removed immediately following the wedding.

Weddings during Ordinary Time: Flowers and decorations may be placed in the sanctuary and the nave of the church, as long as they do not impede the wedding.

Weddings during Advent and Lent: Due to the penitential character of these two seasons, flower arrangements are not to be used to decorate the Church itself (flowers in front of the altars, windows, sanctuary, pews etc.) However, ladies are allowed to carry flowers and men are permitted to have boutonnieres. Flowers are also allowed to be presented to the Blessed Mother.

Pews: Nothing should be affixed to the pews with wire or tape. Tape pulls the finish from the wood. This is harmful to the longevity of our beautiful historic church buildings. Clips for pew-bows and flowers can be obtained by a local florist or at a craft store.

Rehearsal

The rehearsal date and time for your wedding will be arranged during one of the meetings you have with the priest. It is typically the evening (the night) before your wedding; but it can be days or the weekend in advance if that works best for your schedule. The rehearsal takes approximately 45 minutes. Please have your wedding party and family members who have a role in your wedding arrive at the church 15 minutes prior to the scheduled rehearsal time.

Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation

It is necessary that the Catholic spouse(s) receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (go to Confession) before the wedding ceremony. The rationale is that as you prepare to enter into a lifelong commitment that you do so with a clear conscience and in a state of grace. Therefore, couples may receive the sacrament on their own or from the priest celebrating the wedding before or after the rehearsal or prior to the ceremony. The priest will also make the sacrament available to the wedding party and guests; normally prior to the wedding during the taking of pictures; if requested. Please encourage your attendants to receive this wonderful sacrament as well.

Specifics of the Rite of Marriage

-The Procession

The Church teaches that the bride and groom are the proper ministers of the Sacrament of Matrimony. As such, both parties should participate in the opening procession.

The norm would be as follows:

Grandparents, Grooms Parents, Mother of the Bride escorted by usher or family member, altar servers (3), Priest, Groom, the attendants two-by-two (a groomsman with a bridesmaid), the best man and maid of honor, flower girls and ring bearers, bride and her father.

- **Arrival Time**
It is important to start the marriage ceremony on time. Please be sure that all members of the wedding party are on-site and ready AT LEAST 15 minutes before the start of the ceremony. This allows time for the wedding site coordinator to ensure everyone is in place and ready for the procession.
- **Aisle runners**
Aisle runners are not allowed during a wedding. They are flimsy and tear easily. Often during the communion procession at Holy Mass, they become a trip hazard for people who walk upon them.
- **Toy wagons/Props**
The use of wagons or other props are not permitted.
- **Flower Petals**
A flower girl may not sprinkle petals unless they are artificial petals. Real flower petals, once stepped upon, can be difficult in the clean-up process.
- **Unity Candle**
The "unity candle" is not traditionally or authentically Catholic and is not permitted. The symbol of unity within a Catholic Marriage is seen in the exchange of vows, rings, reception of Holy Communion and the consummation of the wedding itself.
- **Animals**
Animals of any kind are prohibited in all parish buildings except for animal helpers for the disabled.
- **Post Wedding**
Throwing rice, confetti, flower petals, or birdseed is a maintenance issue. Use of these items is extremely discouraged. Bubbles, butterflies, balloons, and bell ringing are permissible, provided someone is present to clean up any messes immediately after it is done.

Arrangements-Types of Music

Being married in the Church is a sacred and solemn event. We want your celebration to be consistent with this reality. Thus, all music played in the church must be approved and considered to be sacred, that is to say based on scripture and or Christian tradition. There can be no secular music played instrumentally or sung at a Church wedding; there will be no exceptions to these guidelines. There will be plenty of time for secular music at the wedding reception. Playing secular music during a Catholic Wedding ceremony would be like a bride and her father dancing to Ave Maria at the wedding reception. There is a time and place for everything.

At a Catholic Wedding all music must be live. Recorded music is not a part of our liturgical tradition.

Some pieces of music either have themes that are contrary to aspects present in a Catholic Wedding, or by their associations with specific groups that hold teachings against those of the Catholic Church. Some examples of this are as follows:

- The wedding march from Wagner's Lohengrin, known as "Here Comes the Bride" is not appropriate; the marriage in the Opera ends in death and separation.
- The Mendelssohn Wedding March from A Midsummer Night's Dream accompanies a fake/mock wedding, far removed from any notion of marriage as a life-long commitment.

When you meet with the music director, they will assist you in selecting the music for your wedding. They will have a list of approved songs to choose from. Visiting priests or musicians are not exempt from our parish guidelines.

Musicians

Our parish music director serves as the music coordinator and will assist to make your music for the wedding lovely. If there is someone close to you who would like to play or sing during your wedding, this is welcomed, but must be discussed with the parish music director. The guest musician/cantor must meet with the priest/music director prior to the wedding and all songs must be approved.

Cantors

By definition, a cantor within a liturgical celebration helps to animate the congregation's own singing. It is appropriate that they chant the Psalm in the wedding, as well as, any acclamations that may arise based on the Liturgy you as a couple have decided upon. It is our preference that a parish cantor is used.

Non-Catholic singers or soloists are welcome, but a cantor would also need to be present to meet the specific liturgical needs.

Wedding Program

A worship aid or program is required for a Wedding Mass, it is optional but encouraged for a Wedding Service. You may create one yourself from scratch, or ask the secretary, priest or deacon for sample copies that you can mimic. The wedding program must be approved by the Priest or Deacon before going to print. This is to ensure that the order of Mass/Ceremony is correct and the phrasing of liturgical or theological statements is free of typographical error. Please see Appendices 1 and 2 for the proper order of the ceremony.

Photographs and Videotaping

We understand that capturing this tremendous moment in your life is important to you and your family. However, photographers and videographers should not be an intrusion to the wedding itself. Pictures may be taken during the wedding. Pictures should be taken from behind or beside the congregation. Photographers and videographers (this includes family and friends) are not permitted to enter the sanctuary at any time during the wedding.

Pictures may be taken before or after the wedding, however we ask that pictures last only a half hour after the wedding is over. Please communicate with the parish office about the amount of time you will need prior to the wedding for photos. This will allow for the church to be unlocked and the thermostat to be set so that the church is at a comfortable setting.

Most of our churches have the ability to live-stream and record weddings for an additional charge if desired. The wedding can be streamed to YouTube and Facebook. Please communicate with the parish office if you would like this service.

Food-drink-alcohol

Food is not allowed in the church building. Water alone is allowed. No soda, alcohol, snacks etc. Please communicate this to your wedding party. Alcoholic beverages are absolutely prohibited in church and on church property before, during, and after the wedding ceremony and the rehearsal (this includes the parking lot). The consumption of alcohol before or during the wedding is absolutely prohibited. Civil law prohibits the marriage to occur when the bride, groom, best man, and maid/matron of honor are intoxicated. Intoxication of any person participating in the wedding may result in cancellation of the wedding ceremony for that day and rescheduling for another.

Special Circumstances:

Visiting Catholic Clergy

When a couple requests that a visiting Catholic priest/deacon preside at their wedding, it is important that the parish be notified so arrangements can be coordinated. Requirements for weddings outlined in this booklet must be observed (including all regulations on music, dress code etc.).

Non-Catholic Clergy

The minister of a non-Catholic bride or groom is welcome to participate in certain aspects of the ceremony with the priest. The priest or deacon will explain how the minister may participate in the ceremony. The minister should attend the rehearsal to ensure that the ceremony runs smoothly.

Marriage in the place of worship of the non-Catholic party

Should there be special reasons to be married in a Church of another denomination the priest will assist in completing the application to the Archbishop.

Preparation Rooms

There are rooms available for both the bridal party and the groomsmen to wait prior to the ceremony. These rooms may be used for two (2) hours leading up to your ceremony. Any time needed longer than two hours will be assessed a rental fee. It is your responsibility to reserve these rooms through the parish office, no matter the length of time that you plan to use them. These rooms should be clean and in good order when you arrive. Please be sure to have someone responsible for seeing that the rooms are clean and nothing is left behind after the ceremony. It is best to delegate this task to someone who is not in your wedding party. **We ask for rental fees from non-parishioners. The fee will be determined at the time the room is reserved.**

Remuneration:

We do not want our parishioners to have to pay to receive the sacrament of Holy Matrimony. ALL of the marriage preparation costs will be covered by the parish. We also do not have a rental fee for the church building or the rooms for the bride and groom to prepare for the celebration as long as the use does not exceed 2 hours. We do have some simple stipends/gifts that we do ask the bride and groom to cover for certain people who will be present for your special day.

Church Fee	\$0	\$500 for Non-Parishioners
Marriage Preparation	\$0	<i>Non-parishioners are responsible for receiving marriage preparation from their parish priest</i>
Wedding Day On-Site Coordinator	\$100	\$125 for Non-Parishioners
Musician: Mass or Ceremony	\$150- \$250	Fee for musicians and cantors depends on who the musicians are, and whether they are both playing and singing, just playing or just singing
Cantor	\$75- \$150	
Altar Servers	\$20 (x3)	\$25 each for Non-Parishioners
Live Streaming Service	\$30	If Requested \$50 for Non-Parishioners

An invoice will be emailed to you 2 months prior to the wedding; payment is due 1 month prior to your wedding. The parish staff will distribute the monies to the individuals listed above. Since we do not keep cash at the office, please submit payment in cash and not by check.

Conclusion

Once again, we are thrilled and excited that you have said “yes” to each other and to the Lord! This document may sound like a lot of “do’s” and “don’ts” and it is; its purpose is to answer the many questions the couple has, not to cause anxiety or frustration. We want to reduce any anxiety and to bring about peace. These guidelines are to help ensure that your wedding is authentically Catholic and done with the decorum that the Rite itself requires. We applaud and stand behind your decision to marry in the Church, and we are here to love and support you in that decision. Please be honest and open about ANY concerns or problems that you might have; we are here to support you. May God continue to bless you as you and your future spouse prepare for the reception of this Sacrament of Holy Mother Church.

**Dearborn County Catholic Community
Sacramental Preparation Contract**

- I have read the wedding guidelines and promise to fulfill them to the best of my ability as well as:
- ~Attend Holy Mass every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation.
 - ~Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation as needed and in close proximity to the date of my marriage.
 - ~Refrain from all sexual activity and/or impurity- seek absolution (confession) if/when necessary
 - ~Refrain from cohabitation until AFTER our wedding day.
 - ~Develop a daily prayer life:
 - Personal
 - With my future spouse
 - ~Further my knowledge about the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony:
 - The Good News About Sex and Marriage ~ West
 - Dynamic Catholic's Better Together Program- ALL 12 Sessions
 - ~Become educated about Natural Family Planning:
 - Listen to the Audio CD- Janet Smith
 - Take on-line or in-person courses
 - ~Attend 2-3 sessions with the priest for theological education and formation
 - ~Attend 3 sessions with a sponsor couple for marital formation
 - ~Meet with 2-3 married couples and interview them about their marital experiences

Holy Matrimony is a sacrament where God offers His grace to me and my intended for a life of grace and fruitfulness. I commit to the above requirements in order to better serve God and my future spouse.

Name Signature

Name Print

Date

Name Signature

Name Print

Date

For questions regarding these guidelines, please contact Marilyn White at marilynwhite.asp@gmail.com or 812-212-2371.

Appendix 1

Normal Order of Ceremony- *The Rite of Marriage IN the context of Holy Mass*

-Procession-

Seating of Grandparents and Parents

Entrance/Gathering Hymn (include the Refrain or Lyrics in your program)*

**Sung during the procession of:*

-Servers and Minister

-Groom

-Wedding Party

Entrance of the Bride

-Introduction and Greeting –

Sign of the Cross

Gloria

Opening Prayer

-Liturgy of the Word-

1st Reading

Responsorial Hymn

2nd Reading

Alleluia and Gospel

Homily

-Marriage Rite-

Statement of Intentions and Exchange of Consent

Blessing and Exchange of Rings

Prayers of the Faithful

-Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Altar

Eucharistic Prayer

Our Father

Nuptial Blessing

Sign of Peace

Reception of Holy Communion

Include the following in your program:

COMMUNION- As Roman Catholics we believe that the Eucharist is the body, blood, soul, and divinity and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. And in receiving the Eucharist during the distribution of Communion, it is a public sign and statement of union/communion with our Lord in the Roman Catholic Church. If you are not Catholic or are no longer practicing your Catholic Faith, you may remain in your pew or you are invited to come forward to receive a sign of Christ's peace. If you come forward, please place your hands across your chest.

Prayer After Communion

Devotion to Mary (optional)

-Concluding Rites

Final blessing

Introduction of the Couple

Recessional

Appendix 2

Normal Order of Ceremony- *The Rite of Marriage OUTSIDE the context of Holy Mass*

-Procession-

Seating of Grandparents and Parents

Entrance/Gathering Hymn (include the Refrain or Lyrics in your program)

** Sung during the procession of:*

-Servers and Minister

-Groom

-Wedding Party

Entrance of the Bride

-Introduction and Greeting –

Opening Prayer

-Liturgy of the Word-

1st Reading

Responsorial Hymn

2nd Reading

Gospel

Homily

-Marriage Rite-

Statement of Intentions and Exchange of Consent

Blessing and Exchange of Rings

Prayers of the Faithful

Our Father

Nuptial Blessing

Devotion to Mary (optional)

Final blessing

Introduction of the Couple

Recessional