

THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF SAINT PATRICK

GUIDELINES FOR THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY MATRIMONY

Congratulations on your engagement and God be praised for the gift of your love for each other which you want the Lord Jesus to enrich by his grace in the sacrament of Holy Matrimony. By asking to be married in the Catholic Church, you are publicly proclaiming your faith in the Lord Jesus and asking to live as married disciples of Christ for the rest of your lives, and it is to this sacramental and evangelical dimension of marriage that we ask you now to give the most serious attention through prayer, study, and conversation. Marriage is a sacred covenant between one man, one woman, and God. It is the foundation of the family and of society, and it is central to the life of the Church. It is a tremendous gift from God, and it is a visible sign of His love and commitment to His people (see, e.g., Eph 5:31-32).



Marriage is a universal institution that has been a part of human life from the creation of our race; in fact, as the Nuptial Blessing in the sacred liturgy puts it, marriage is the one blessing that was not forfeited by original sin or washed away in the flood. But more than that, the Lord Jesus raised marriage to the dignity of a Sacrament of the New and Everlasting Covenant, making it one of the seven sacred instruments of our sanctification. Because it is so significant, the Church wants to make sure that a couple is properly prepared for marriage, and that they enter into it freely, without reservation, and with a full understanding of what is involved. The Church also has an obligation to make sure that the marriage is celebrated in the right way, according to the right forms. All of this stems from the Church's special obligation to take care of the spiritual health of all of God's people. As a result, the marriage preparation process is governed by rules and regulations that are part of the Church's Canon Law (her universal law), regulations of the Diocese of Charlotte, liturgical rules, and particular pastoral requirements of individual parishes and priests. While these rules may seem complicated to those who are unfamiliar with them, most people find them no more difficult than the civil law requirements governing marriage. In addition, a couple who goes through this process with an open heart and an open mind will find that they will address issues of critical importance to their marriage. In having discussions between themselves and with a priest/deacon about these issues, they can avoid problems in the future and have a firmer sense of confidence in their love and in the love of God. In short, the Church is concerned about your well-being and wants you to have a great marriage. That's what marriage preparation is all about. There is a great difference between preparing for marriage and planning a wedding, and our policies exist to help you do both of those tasks well.



We rejoice with you as you begin this time of preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage. These guidelines have been prepared for you, the engaged couple, as you consider God's call to married life and to make arrangements for your wedding ceremony at The Cathedral of Saint Patrick. While your wedding lasts a day; your marriage lasts a lifetime. Beyond the long aisle and stained-glass windows, is a longer aisle of married love in the eternal Bridegroom. We pray with you that your journey of grace in the holy sacrament of matrimony will be blessed.

WHO CAN BE MARRIED AT THE CATHEDRAL OF SAINT PATRICK

For a couple to be married at The Cathedral of Saint Patrick, the bride and groom must be free to marry (e.g., no prior valid marriages), psychologically mature and capable of consenting to the marriage. The bride and/or the groom must also be registered at a Catholic Church.

Catholics who have not yet received the sacrament of Confirmation are to receive it before being admitted to marriage if this can be done without grave inconvenience. Cohabiting couples must separate for at least six months prior to the wedding. If unable to comply with this policy, couples may get married at The Cathedral of Saint Patrick in a simple ceremony without a Mass or music. In accordance with Diocese of Charlotte regulations, the Nuptial Mass may be celebrated as part of the Liturgy of Matrimony only if both the bride and the groom are practicing Roman Catholics. Special permission must be obtained for a Mass to be celebrated at a wedding between a Catholic and a baptized non-Catholic.

If one is seeking marriage after one or both parties have been in a marriage which has ended in divorce, marriage preparation may not commence until a decree of nullity (i.e., an annulment) has been obtained. Once the Church has issued a decree of nullity, when the previously married party has not yet entered the second union, both parties should participate in pre-marital counseling and evaluation (when it is deemed necessary and beneficial). When the couple has lived in a civil marriage which has continued over some years and shown signs of stability, the priest or deacon may use his pastoral judgment in providing the preparation for marriage which seems most suited to the needs of the couple.

GUIDELINES FOR THOSE WHO AREN'T MEMBERS OF THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. PATRICK

The Cathedral welcomes non-members who are Catholic to be married at the parish with written permission from the couple's pastor. In order for non-members to book a wedding date at the Cathedral, the couple's pastor must write a letter addressed to the pastor at the Cathedral of Saint Patrick stating:

- The bride and/or groom are active, registered members of his parish.
- The pastor or someone he designates will conduct the couple's marriage preparation.
- The pastor or someone he designates will officiate at the marriage ceremony (clergy at the Cathedral will not officiate at weddings for non-members). The name of the clergy member must be included in the letter.
- A request that _____ wedding date be added to the Cathedral's wedding calendar.
- Contact information for the bride and groom including home/email addresses & phone numbers.

This letter must be received before a wedding date can be added to the Cathedral's wedding calendar. Weddings are never scheduled tentatively until this confirmation is received. Once the letter is received, confirmation will be sent by the Cathedral parish office to the priest and the couple.

WHEN CAN A WEDDING BE SCHEDULED

Weddings at the Cathedral of Saint Patrick are scheduled on Friday evenings at 6:00 p.m. and Saturdays at 11:00 a.m. or 2:00 p.m. Weddings are not scheduled during Lent or on Holy Days of Obligation that fall on Friday or Saturday. Wedding rehearsals for an 11:00 a.m. wedding are held at 4:00 p.m. on Friday evening and wedding rehearsals for a 2:00 p.m. wedding are scheduled at 5:00 p.m. on Friday evening. Couples who are scheduled for a 11:00 a.m. have use of the Cathedral starting at 10:00 a.m. Weddings scheduled at 2:00 p.m. have access to the Cathedral starting at noon.

WEDDING FEES

The following are the fees to hold a wedding at the Cathedral of Saint Patrick

PARISHIONER FEE	NON - PARISHIONER FEE
<p>CHURCH RENTAL DEPOSIT The deposit is due when the wedding date is reserved. If the wedding is canceled, the amount paid will be converted to a tax-deductible contribution</p> <p style="text-align: right;">\$150</p> <p>CHURCH RENTAL BALANCE <i>Due not less than 1 month before wedding</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">\$150</p> <p>WEDDING COORDINATOR <i>Paid directly to coordinator prior to wedding</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">\$350</p> <p>ORGANIST <i>Paid directly to coordinator prior to wedding</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">\$250</p> <p>CLERGY STIPEND <i>Paid directly to clergy</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">TBD</p> <hr style="width: 50%; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/> <p style="text-align: right;">TOTAL FEE \$900</p>	<p>CHURCH RENTAL DEPOSIT The deposit is due when the wedding date is reserved. If the wedding is canceled, the amount paid will be converted to a tax-deductible contribution</p> <p style="text-align: right;">\$500</p> <p>CHURCH RENTAL BALANCE <i>Due not less than 1 month before wedding</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">\$250</p> <p>WEDDING COORDINATOR <i>Paid directly to coordinator prior to wedding</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">\$350</p> <p>ORGANIST <i>Paid directly to coordinator prior to wedding</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">\$250</p> <p>CLERGY STIPEND <i>Paid directly to clergy</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">TBD</p> <hr style="width: 50%; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/> <p style="text-align: right;">TOTAL FEE \$1,375</p>

To qualify for the parishioner rate, the bride/groom or the bride/groom's parents must be registered and active at the Cathedral of St. Patrick for one full year prior to scheduling the wedding date.

If the bride and/or groom are registered at another Catholic parish, a letter of confirmation is required from the pastor of that parish before the wedding date can be scheduled

The wedding fee does not cover the expense of any additional musicians hired by the couple or the fee for the Diocese of Charlotte engagement encounter retreat. Couples for whom this fee would be a burden and who can demonstrate financial need are welcome to speak with the pastor about a reduction of the fee. Payments for the use of the Cathedral can be mailed to the parish or made online at www.stpatricks.org. Payments to the wedding coordinator, music director, and priest/deacon need to be made directly with those individuals.

THE WEDDING CEREMONY

The Rite for Celebrating Marriage during Mass is the preferred form of the Catholic wedding liturgy when both the bride and the groom are Catholic. The Rite of Marriage states that the celebration of marriage "normally should be within the Mass"; receiving Holy Communion together strengthens the couple's love, and lifts up all present into communion with Christ and one another (#6). The marriage covenant the couple makes reflects the covenant that Christ established with us through his sacrifice on the cross. Because this form includes both a Mass and the Rite of Marriage, it typically lasts between 45 and 90 minutes, depending on the length of elements such as the readings, homily, music, procession, and so on.

The Rite for Celebrating Marriage outside Mass is generally the preferred form when a Catholic marries a baptized person who is not Catholic. A couple may celebrate their marriage during Mass with the permission of their pastor, but this option is generally discouraged because the person who is not Catholic may not receive communion.

Swords and other displays of military honor are not permitted at The Cathedral of Saint Patrick, either inside or outside of the church. Military displays may take place only at the reception after the wedding.

At the wedding, the texts of Sacred Scripture must be proclaimed from the ambo, and the person who performs this function is called a lector. Most couples choose one or two persons from among their families and friends to perform this duty. Those whom you select should be good public speakers and must be at the rehearsal to practice the proclamation in the church; all lectors must be Catholics in full communion with the Church.

WHO PLANS THE WEDDING LITURGY

Weddings are public liturgical actions of the Church, and the celebration of weddings is governed by liturgical law. The basic form of the wedding liturgy is given by the Church, and no variation from that form is permitted. Within that basic form, the selection of the Scripture readings and prayers is made by the priest or deacon who will preside at the wedding after consultation with the bride and groom. A list of possible readings can be found at www.foryourmarriage.org.

CAN A VISITING PRIEST OFFICIATE AT A WEDDING?

Visiting Clergy in good standing are most welcome to perform a nuptial Mass or wedding ceremony at The Cathedral of Saint Patrick. If a visiting priest intends to be the principal celebrant of the marriage, he must make his intention known in writing to the pastor of the Cathedral of Saint Patrick at least three months prior to the wedding. The request will be honored on conditions that he is a relative or long-standing friend of the family, possesses diocesan faculties and is willing to:

- Request in writing, permission to officiate at your wedding. The letter should be mailed to the Pastor of the Cathedral of Saint Patrick at 1621 Dilworth Road East * Charlotte, NC 28203
- If the priest or deacon resides outside the Diocese of Charlotte, he must mail his diocesan faculties from his Bishop to Bishop Peter J. Jugis at 1123 South Church Street * Charlotte, NC 28203 with a notation of the date and location of the wedding.

If you desire to invite a non-Catholic clergyman to participate in the wedding liturgy, you must first submit a written request to the pastor of The Cathedral of Saint Patrick, giving the name, title, and address of the clergyman you want to invite. Non-Catholic clergy is permitted to participate in a Catholic wedding by their presence in the sanctuary, but they cannot preside at the liturgy. This means, among other things, that the Catholic priest or deacon must receive the wedding vows and impart the nuptial blessing.

CIVIL MARRIAGE LICENSE

The civil license is to be obtained by the couple from the city/town clerk's office. This should be presented to the priest officiating at the wedding no later than the wedding rehearsal. No wedding is permitted at The Cathedral of Saint Patrick without this document, so please be sure to obtain the license at least one month before the wedding. For couples seeking con-validation (blessing) of a civil marriage, a certified copy of the marriage license is required prior to the con-validation.

WHEN IS THE WEDDING REHEARSAL

Wedding rehearsals for an 11:00 a.m. wedding are held at 4:00 p.m. on Friday evening and wedding rehearsals for a 2:00 p.m. wedding is scheduled at 5:00 p.m. on Friday evening. Couples who are scheduled for an 11:00 a.m. have use of the Cathedral starting at 10:00 a.m. Weddings scheduled at 2:00 p.m. have access to the Cathedral starting at noon. The rehearsal will last about one hour. The priest or deacons who will celebrate the wedding and the wedding directors are in charge of the rehearsal. The bride and groom must both be present and participate in the rehearsal; no proxies or stand-ins are allowed. All bridesmaids, groomsmen, flower girls, ring bearers, and lectors must be present at the rehearsal to practice the wedding liturgy.

ALCOHOL IS NEVER ALLOWED AT ANY LOCATION ON THE CHURCH PROPERTY

No smoking is allowed in the church

No food or beverages can be brought into the church or sacristy

Anyone who appears, on the day of the rehearsal or wedding, to be unable to carry out his or her intended role will not be allowed to participate in the ceremony at the discretion of the Cathedral wedding coordinator and/or the officiant.

FLOWERS, CANDLES AND LITURGICAL FURNISHINGS GUIDELINES

The furnishings for the sacred liturgy are provided by the church; this includes all vestments, books, candles and candlesticks, kneelers, chairs, and other elements as needed. We cannot use family heirlooms in the celebration of the sacred liturgy. The use of rice, confetti, and/or bird seed is not to be used in or around the Cathedral and runners are not permitted in the Cathedral.

CAN YOU USE A UNITY CANDLE?

In the sacred liturgy of the Church, candles are always a symbol of Christ. Since the use of “Unity Candles” (a recent innovation of American Protestant worship services) represents the bride and groom rather than Christ, these types of candles may not be used at The Cathedral of Saint Patrick for any reason. Additionally, since the Cathedral provides all the candles for the altar, no additional candelabras or candles are needed.

WHAT TYPE OF FLOWERS ARE ALLOWED

No silk or artificial flowers are permitted in the Church. All altar flowers must remain in the Cathedral after the wedding. Two fresh flower arrangements may be placed on either side of the Tabernacle in the back of the Sanctuary where stands are provided. The Cathedral has (2) matching urns for use that are placed on pedestals. The urn holds a 12-inch pot. No flowers may be placed on the altar table. Flower arrangements may be attached to the ends of the pews with ribbon only. Using any other material including, but not limited to, nails, tacks, wire, adhesive materials, plastic or metal clips is strictly forbidden. Pew end decorations must be removed after the ceremony.

PHOTOGRAPHY GUIDELINES

those videotaping should be appropriately dressed and are asked to not move around during the liturgy. They are not to interfere with or move the furnishings of the church. Everyone involved must maintain respect for space and maintain the following:

- Only formal pictures are to be taken in the Cathedral after the wedding ceremony. Informal “fun” photographs are inappropriate for the Church and should be taken outside the Cathedral or at the reception.
- There may be NO cameras or still video camera used in the sanctuary (altar area) during the ceremony. Still cameras and manned videos may be used in the balcony and choir loft or the back of the Church.
- Photographers and videographers in the balcony are sharing space with the musicians for the wedding. We ask that photographers refrain from winding up film or unwrapping cellophane package wrapping during the ceremony, especially if the soloist is singing. All equipment must be placed in an area that will not obstruct free movement in the balcony/choir loft area as well as the back of the Church. Please check with the wedding director for specific placement of these cameras.
- Formal portraits of the bride are not permitted in the Cathedral prior to the wedding.
- We ask that guests refrain from taking photos/videos during the wedding ceremony.
- The photographer may arrive at the church one hour before the wedding, but no earlier.



THE MUSIC FOR YOUR WEDDING

We recommend that at least three months before your wedding, you schedule a time to meet with the Cathedral's music director. He will guide you through the selection of fitting music for your ceremony and will assist you in making arrangements for instrumentalists and/or cantors. While the Cathedral's music director will be present to play the organ for your wedding, he will not be present for your wedding rehearsal. Please keep in mind these simple guidelines in selecting your wedding ceremony music.

- No recorded music is permitted. Popular music is not to be performed or sung in church, either before or during the wedding.
- All music is to be sacred Catholic music. Keyboards and guitars are not permitted.
- The Cathedral guidelines require that the organ be the **PRIMARY** or one of the primary instruments for all weddings. Other instruments (trumpet, strings, harp, etc.) may be used in combination with the organ or may alternate with the organ.
- Please do not contact other outside instrumentalists without first contacting the Cathedral music director. The Cathedral music office maintains a list of excellent instrumentalist that have played at the cathedral before and are familiar with our wedding guidelines.
- **The organist's fee is \$250.00**, which includes a planning meeting with the couple, prelude music before the wedding, and music during the wedding itself. The fee is paid directly to the organist prior to the wedding. The Cathedral has a network of singers available to serve as cantors. The usual fee for a cantor is \$200 for a wedding Mass and \$175 for a ceremony.

SUGGESTIONS FOR WEDDING MUSIC

PROCESSIONALS

- Canon in D-Pachelbel
- Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring-Bach
- Trumpet Voluntary-Clarke also called the Prince of Denmark's March
- Trumpet Tune-Purcell
- Trumpet Tune-Stanley
- Rigaudon-Campra
- Rigaudon--Böhm

RECESSIONALS

- Hornpipe Water Music Handel also called Allegro Maestoso
- The Rejoicing Royal Fireworks-Handel
- Prelude to a "Te Deum"-Charpentier
- Concerto in G-Bach (1st movement)
- Rondeau-Mouret
- Psalm 19-Marcello
- Toccata Symphonie V-Widor

MUSIC FOR PRELUDES, OFFERTORY

- Air (Water Music)-Handel
- Sonata in E-flat-Mozart

- Arioso-Bach
- Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring-Bach
- Largo Winter Four Seasons-Vivaldi
- Air-Suite in D-Bach
- Sheep May Safely Graze-Bach
- Heroic Music- Telemann

RESPONSORIAL PSALMS

- Psalm 128
- Psalm 33
- Psalm 34
- Psalm 103
- Psalm 112
- Psalm 145
- Psalm 148

SEATING OF THE MOTHERS, COMMUNION

- Bridal Prayer-Roger Copeland
- Ave Maria-Bach/Gounod or Schubert
- The Gift of Love-arr. Hopson
- Panis Angelicus-Franck
- Wedding Hymn-Handel

More suggestions and recordings can be found here: www.cathedralsaintpaul.org/Wedding-music

We have recently had a number of people ask about having the song "Hallelujah" sung at their wedding. This song was made popular by a priest in Ireland singing it at a wedding, a video of which went viral. Unfortunately, the Cathedral does not consider this song to be appropriate for a Catholic wedding.

WEDDING LICENSE

The civil marriage license is to be obtained by the couple from the city/town clerk's office where the wedding is taking place. This should be presented to the priest officiating at the wedding no later than the wedding rehearsal. No wedding is permitted at The Cathedral of Saint Patrick without this document, so please be sure to obtain the license at least one month before the wedding. For couples seeking con-validation (blessing) of a civil marriage, a certified copy of the marriage license is required prior to the con-validation. The following is information from the register of deeds office for Mecklenburg County. For more information, go to www.charmeck.org or call (704) 336-2443 (hours 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. / M – F)

- Applicants do NOT need to be residents to marry in North Carolina.
- The license is good immediately upon issuance and is valid for 60 days.
- Both parties should appear at the Register of Deed's office with a valid ID (any of the following: Driver's License, State issued ID card or Passport).
- If a divorce was finalized within the last sixty days of the application, the original or a certified copy of the decree is required.
- \$60 is the fee to obtain a marriage license. The preferred method of payment is cash. For guidance on additional methods of payment, please call ahead.
- If you do not fully understand English, you are responsible for bringing an interpreter with you. The Register of Deed's office does not furnish interpreters for any language. The person you are marrying cannot be the interpreter.

WEDDING ATTIRE & WEDDING BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES

Strapless attire and/or uncovered shoulders are not permitted for the bride, bridesmaids and/or any other ladies in the bridal party, unless a jacket, shrug, bolero, stole, shawl etc. is worn over the dress. Additionally, the informed consent of both parties is an essential requirement of a valid, licit, sacramental marriage. Please be aware that if alcohol is present or if a person appears drunk or drugged, the wedding ceremony will be canceled. This applies to rehearsals as well as to ceremonies.

**ALCOHOL AND SMOKING IS NOT ALLOWED ON CHURCH PROPERTY
FOOD OR BEVERAGES CAN NOT BE BROUGHT INTO THE CHURCH OR SACRISTY**

WEDDING PROGRAMS

There are many online resources to help you create your wedding program, select your readings and better understand the flow of the ceremony. A great place to start is www.catholicweddinghelp.com. If you choose to create a wedding program, the program will need to be reviewed by the priest/deacon conducting your marriage preparation and the wedding coordinator. The following is a standard program format. For weddings where communion will be distributed, the following statement must be included in the wedding program.

WEDDING PROGRAM REQUIRED VERBIAGE

Reception of Holy Communion

The reception of Holy Communion is an outward sign of the unity in the Catholic faith. Catholics in a state of grace who have fasted for one hour and who have made a good sacramental confession if they have been conscious of any mortal sin may come forward at Communion to the Eucharist. Please remember that the Sacred Host must be consumed immediately in front of the priest or minister. While the Catholic faith doesn't believe in intercommunion with other Christian communities, we are very grateful for your presence and suggest that those members of other Christian communities use this time to prayer for the couple and Christian unity while refraining from receiving the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION CHECKLIST

ST. PATRICK PARISHIONERS

- _____ Make wedding deposit to Cathedral within 30 days of booking the wedding
- _____ Registration for Marriage Preparation Workshop (six months prior to wedding).
For information on how to register for the marriage preparation workshop, go to www.cssnc.org/engaged or contact the Diocese of Charlotte at (704) 370-3228.
- _____ Registration for FOCCUS Inventory. Contact Debra Lemmon at St. Patrick Cathedral for dates. Phone: (704) 334-2283 / Email: dlemmon@stpatricks.org
- _____ Give priest/deacon certificate of completion from Marriage Preparation Workshop.
- _____ Follow-up meeting(s) with priest/deacon.
Date: _____
Date: _____
Date: _____
Date: _____
Date: _____ (wedding rehearsal)
- _____ Certificate of Baptism (dated within six months of the wedding)
Certificate of First Holy Communion (dated within six months of the wedding)
Certificate of Confirmation (dated within six months of the wedding)
- _____ Letter(s) of Freedom to Marry (Form B). There should be (2) for bride and (2) for groom
- _____ Schedule meeting with St. Patrick Cathedral Music Director, Dr. Gianfranco DeLuca
Phone: (704) 334-2283 / Email: gdeluca@stpatricks.org
- _____ Schedule meeting with St. Patrick Cathedral Wedding Coordinator, Beth Harris
Phone: (704) 840-7607 / Email: mch6170@gmail.com
- _____ Make final wedding payment to Cathedral 60 days prior to the wedding. Payments to Dr. DeLuca and the wedding coordinator are made directly to those vendors by the wedding rehearsal.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION CHECKLIST

NON-PARISHIONERS

- _____ Make wedding deposit to Cathedral within 30 days of booking the wedding
- _____ Schedule meeting with St. Patrick Cathedral Music Director, Dr. Gianfranco DeLuca
Phone: (704) 334-2283 / Email: gdeluca@stpatricks.org
- _____ Schedule meeting with St. Patrick Cathedral Wedding Coordinator, Beth Harris
Phone: (704) 840-7607 / Email: mch6170@gmail.com
- _____ Make final wedding payment to Cathedral 60 days prior to the wedding. Payments to Dr. DeLuca and the wedding coordinator are made directly to those vendors by the wedding rehearsal.

CONTACT INFORMATION

THE CATHEDRAL OF SAINT PATRICK

1621 Dilworth Road
Charlotte, NC 28203

Debra Lemmon

Phone: (704) 334-2283

Email: dlemmon@stpatricks.org

Website: www.stpatricks.org

SAINT PATRICK WEDDING COORDINATOR

Jacqueline Stevens

Phone: (704) 577-2124

Email: jacquelinestevens39@yahoo.com

SAINT PATRICK MUSIC DIRECTOR

Dr. Gianfranco DeLuca

Email: gdeluca@stpatricks.org

Phone: (704) 334-2283 ext. 422

DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE ENGAGED ENCOUNTER

Sherill Beason

Phone: (704) 370-3228

Email: sabeason@charlottediocese.org

Website: www.cssnc.org/engaged

