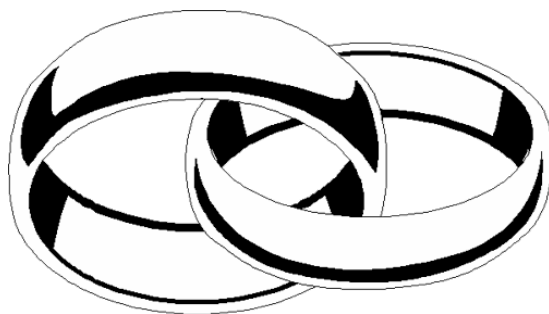


# **MARRIAGE PREPARATION INFORMATION**



**Holy Name of Mary Catholic Church  
1307 Oakwood Street  
Bedford, Virginia 24523  
Phone: 540-586-8988  
Web: [www.holynamenameofmary.net](http://www.holynamenameofmary.net)**

**Booklet updated January 2022**

## **So, you're getting married in the Catholic Church!**

We are pleased to assist you in preparation for the ceremony which celebrates your love and commitment to one another. The Church provides a time of preparation for you so that you may reflect on the depth of commitment which the Sacrament of Marriage entails. You will also be asked to reflect on the faith commitment, expressed by your request to have the Church witness your exchange of vows.

For information on our facilities usage, reserving the Church and fees **please see our website [holynamenameofmary.net](http://holynamenameofmary.net)** If you are serving alcoholic beverages at your reception, you need to purchase a one-day Banquet License from the Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control. This can be done online at [www.abc.virginia.gov](http://www.abc.virginia.gov). Alcohol may be consumed only in the social hall; not anywhere else on parish grounds. Please do not consume alcohol before the wedding ceremony.

### **YOUR PERSONAL PREPARATION must begin with the priest 6 months in advance of the ceremony**

#### **You must be a registered parishioner.**

One of you must have been a registered member of the parish for at least three months before talking to the priest about a date. This is so your wedding may take place within your community of worship.

#### **Be a practicing Catholic.**

The Catholic partner should be participating in the Eucharist and the community life of the church or must give assurance of his or her intention to return to involvement before the marriage is celebrated.

#### **Obtain an annulment if necessary.**

If you have been married before, your freedom to receive the Sacrament of Marriage is determined before a date is finally set. When the Marriage Tribunal is involved, no formal plans for marriage should be made until the decision is rendered by the Tribunal.

#### **Diocesan Pre-Cana requirement**

It is advised that you attend a diocesan-approved Marriage Preparation Weekend, such as the one offered at Holy Name of Mary, or a similar weekend such as Engaged Encounter.

## **Baptismal Certificates**

Each of you must obtain your own baptismal certificate. Catholics must obtain baptismal certificates from the church of Baptism. The certificate must have been issued by the Church within six months of the date of the wedding. A person baptized in another Christian tradition should obtain his or her baptismal certificate if possible.

## **Affadavits**

You are asked to have two people who know you well, preferably your parents or other relatives, to sign a form (affidavits) attesting to your freedom to marry.

## **INFORMATION ABOUT INTERFAITH MARRIAGES: a marriage between a Catholic and a person baptized in another tradition or a non-baptized person.**

The priest discusses with the couple the Catholic's responsibility concerning the baptism and education of the children. The Catholic party must give assurances of an intention to see to the Catholic upbringing of children.

In general interfaith marriages, the Sacrament of Marriage should be outside of Mass. It follows the format of the Liturgy of the Word, followed by the wedding vows, sign of peace, Lord's Prayer and dismissal.

Under special circumstances, the Bishop's permission may be sought for a minister or rabbi to celebrate the marriage in the church or synagogue of the partner who is not Roman Catholic (Dispensation of Form). In such cases, the priest may be present at the ceremony but does not take part in the exchange of vows.

When the marriage takes place in the church of the Roman Catholic, the involvement of the other partner's minister or rabbi is encouraged, both in planning and celebrating the liturgy. When a minister of the other church is involved, the priest will communicate with the minister about preparations.

## **CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT**

The bride and groom are the Ministers of the Sacrament. They prepare the liturgy with the priest or members of the parish staff. Appropriate scripture readings, music, prayers, blessings and vows are chosen by the couple.

### **Wedding Coordinator**

The Wedding Coordinator will work with you to plan the details of the wedding ceremony. Her fee is listed at the end of this booklet. She will be present at the rehearsal and the ceremony to make sure everything is in place.

### **Music**

The Music Minister will be happy to assist you in selecting music for your wedding. It should be sacred in nature. Popular songs and the traditional wedding march, “Here comes the Bride”, are not permitted in the Catholic liturgy. Certain parts of the liturgy call for communal singing, such as the Responsorial Psalm and the Gospel Acclamation.

The fee for our Music Minister (who also serves as pianist, organist & vocalist) is listed at the end of this booklet. If you would like other vocalists or instrumentalists, you will need to check with them to determine their fees.

### **Flowers and Decorations**

Before selecting floral arrangements for your wedding, we suggest you familiarize yourself with the size of the altar. Please keep in mind that the priest, couple and lectors will need to be able to move easily around the altar during the ceremony. If you have any questions about placing floral arrangements, please ask a staff member.

According to Diocesan insurance regulations, the use of a white runner up the center aisle is not permitted. We welcome “flower girls”, but discourage the dropping of petals in the center aisle, unless you have someone willing to clean up afterwards. Our custodial staff does not come until later in the week.

## **The Procession**

The wedding procession begins with a cross bearer and/or lector carrying the Book of Scriptures. The parents of the bride and groom should be part of the procession. It is suggested that the bride and groom come in together as a couple or with their parents. The parents do not “give away the bride” in the Catholic liturgy, as the couple freely give themselves to one another.

## **Seating**

The bride and groom are seated in special chairs for the Liturgy of the Word. The bridesmaids and groomsmen/ushers are generally seated in the first pew and the immediate family in the second pew.

## **Photography**

Photographers and videographers are welcome at the wedding. We simply ask that they not be conspicuous during this sacred ceremony.

## **People needed for the ceremony**

Ministers of Hospitality (Ushers/Greeters) to greet the guests and to distribute the orders of worship (program) for your wedding. They may also seat your guests. It is recommended that one of your ushers discuss with the Music Minister a cue for the start of the procession.

Lectors to proclaim the Word of God at the Liturgy. The couple selects competent readers to proclaim the scriptures. There are normally two readings at a wedding. In the event you are unable to select someone, the church will furnish capable lectors. One of the lectors is also responsible for reading the Prayers of the Faithful (also called “General Intercessions”).

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist to assist with the distribution of communion (if your wedding is celebrated within Mass). Persons selected should be a commissioned extraordinary minister in their own parish. Should you be unable to select someone, the church will provide one or more as needed.

Altar Servers are not required but may be part of the ceremony.

## **The Wedding Rehearsal**

The wedding rehearsal is directed by the priest/deacon and our wedding coordinator. The rehearsal date and time should be discussed and set in advance.

## **Post-Wedding Cleanup**

Please make sure your florist is aware we need all special arrangements (such as candelabras, etc.) to be removed from the church by 4:30 PM. If you would like your floral arrangements to be used for the weekend Masses, please inform the church secretary in advance so she can notify our Arts & Environment coordinator.

We also request that you do not throw rice or bird seed on the couple as they leave the building, as it is tracked into the commons by parishioners coming to Mass. Blowing bubbles as the couple departs is an acceptable alternative.

## **CIVIL REQUIREMENTS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**

1. The marriage license must be obtained from the Clerk of the Circuit Court of the County or City where the man or woman resides if either one is from the State. The marriage may take place anywhere in the state. If both parties are from out of state, the license can be obtained from any clerk authorized to issue marriage licenses.
2. Marriage licenses are not granted to parties under 18 without parental consent. With parental consent, both parties must be at least 16 years old.
3. Blood tests are no longer required by the State of Virginia.

# CHECKLIST

## Records

- \_\_\_\_\_ Baptismal Certificates
- \_\_\_\_\_ Confirmation Certificates (if confirmed Catholic)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Proof for Freedom Forms (Affadavits)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Certificate of Completion of Pre-Marriage Workshop
- \_\_\_\_\_ Marriage License

## Liturgy and Music

Church Wedding Coordinator contacted  
(fee = \$150, \$200 if on a holiday weekend such as Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day)

Minister of Music contacted  
(fee = \$150, \$200 if wedding is on a holiday weekend)

- \_\_\_\_\_ Additional musicians contacted, if desired

Liturgy planned  
(with Church Wedding Coordinator)

Lectors – should have their readings and  
Prayer of the Faithful in advance

- \_\_\_\_\_ Ushers
- \_\_\_\_\_ Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist (if having a Mass)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Order of worship (program) - optional but encouraged