August 15, 2020

Dear Bride and Groom,

Congratulations on your intention to enter the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony. As with all sacraments, your wedding takes place in the context of the sacred liturgy, which is the public worship of God offered by the entire Church. It is important to be adequately prepared for the reception of any sacrament, so that you may be open to receive its graces.

This grace proper to the sacrament of Matrimony is intended to perfect the couple’s love and to strengthen their indissoluble unity. By this grace they help one another to attain holiness in their married life and in welcoming and educating their children.

Christ is the source of this grace. Just as of old God encountered his people with a covenant of love and fidelity, so our Savior, the spouse of the Church, now encounters Christian spouses through the sacrament of Matrimony. Christ dwells with them, gives them the strength to take up their crosses and so follow him, to rise again after they have fallen, to forgive one another, to bear one another’s burdens, to be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ, and to love one another with supernatural, tender, and fruitful love. In the joys of their love and family life he gives them here on earth a foretaste of the wedding feast of the Lamb (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1641-1642).

The best preparation of any sacrament is a good confession. I encourage you to make frequent use of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, both during your preparation for marriage and throughout your life.

The attached guidelines outline the marriage preparation process and provide you with the necessary information for having your marriage celebrated at St. Mary’s Cathedral. It also includes the points of contact for your marriage preparation, liturgy planning, and music planning. Please read it carefully.

We look forward to helping you prepare for the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony, the vocation to Christian marriage, the joys of family life, and ultimately eternal life.

Sincerely in Christ,

Very Reverend David R. Price
Rector and Pastor

Encl: St. Mary’s Cathedral Wedding Policies and Guidelines
St. Mary’s Cathedral Wedding Policies and Guidelines

St. Mary’s Cathedral welcomes you to our marriage preparation process. Here is an overview of the process you must follow to celebrate your sacrament at St Mary’s Cathedral:

1. Register for marriage preparation: **At least 12 months before your preferred wedding date**, contact Deacon Mark Griffith (mgriffith@stmaryscathedral.org) for preparation in English, or Fr. Ricardo Rosales (trosales@stmaryscathedral.org) for preparation in Spanish.

2. Reserve the date for your wedding: After your initial meeting with Deacon Griffith or Fr. Rosales, contact the Cathedral office to reserve your date, make the initial payment, and sign an agreement to abide by the wedding policies of St. Mary’s Cathedral.

3. Meet with St. Mary’s Wedding Liturgy Coordinator, Sara Akins (saakins11@hotmail.com), and Music Coordinator, Dave Grosche (dlgrosche@msn.com) at least six months prior to your wedding date to help you plan your ceremony.

**Marriage Preparation Process:** The celebration of your wedding is contingent on completion of the preparation process as set forth by the Diocese of Colorado Springs.

This preparation process includes:

- **Initial interview with the priest or deacon**
- **FOCCUS Inventory process**
- **Catholic Engaged Encounter retreat**
- **Natural Family Planning (NFP) sessions**
- **Marriage Preparation course**
- **Final meeting with priest or deacon to review all necessary paperwork**

*Please note:* Members of a parish other than St. Mary’s Cathedral, within the boundaries of the Diocese of Colorado Springs, need to send your entire marriage preparation file from your pastor verifying the completion of your marriage preparation to the pastor at St. Mary’s Cathedral at least four weeks prior to your wedding date.

If your marriage preparation is completed outside of the Diocese of Colorado Springs, your marriage preparation packet must be sent from your local diocese or archdiocese to the Diocese of Colorado Springs Chancellor’s office at least six weeks prior to your wedding date with a letter indicating your marriage is to take place at St. Mary’s Cathedral.

Revised August 15, 2020
The Order of Celebrating Matrimony and the Lectionary are the liturgical books approved for use in the Catholic Church. All wedding ceremonies must take place according to the manner described in the ritual book. The sacraments were instituted by Christ as a divine help to live a holy life and attain eternal salvation. They have been handed down to us from the Apostles through the Church. The liturgy used in their celebration, therefore, is regulated by the Church. Catholics have a right to the liturgy celebrated per the approved liturgical books. Catholics do not have the right to deviate from the prescribed ritual. We revere and respect your wedding as a holy and sacred celebration. We encourage you to make your wedding plans with the realization that the whole Church is rejoicing and celebrating with you. Your decisions and plans for your liturgical celebration must reflect the norms of the Catholic Church and the holiness of this sacrament. Our Wedding Liturgy Coordinator will assist you in planning your wedding liturgy.

The Cathedral is used for a variety of liturgical celebrations. Therefore, weddings may be scheduled on Saturdays at 1:00 pm. Rehearsals take place the evening before the wedding at 5:00 pm. It is essential that weddings and rehearsals begin on time.

Scheduling: Diocesan policy dictates that the preparation for all marriages will begin at least one year prior to the date of the wedding. Please schedule an appointment with the priest or deacon to begin the preparation process. If you are members of a parish other than St. Mary’s Cathedral, it is requested that you meet with the parish priest or deacon of your own parish to complete the marriage preparation process. You are responsible for arranging for a priest or deacon to celebrate your wedding. As pastor of the Cathedral Parish, Fr. Price has ordinary jurisdiction to celebrate the sacrament of matrimony. All other clergy must receive permission and delegation from Fr. Price to validly witness a wedding at St. Mary’s Cathedral.

Fees and Stipends: The fee for a parishioner is $750 which only covers the church’s expenses. The fee for a non-parishioner is $1200. Your reservation for the Cathedral will be considered “tentative” until a signed and dated “Agreement” (Parishioner or Non-Parishioner) is received along with one half of the required fees and the initialed Liturgical Wedding Guidelines. All fees must be paid in full at least one month before your wedding date. Your date will not be given to another party without first consulting with you. Checks should be made payable to “St. Mary’s Cathedral” and submitted to the parish or dropped by the Cathedral Administration Offices during working hours.

Stipends for musicians are to be negotiated directly with them prior to the wedding.

Liturgy and Music Planning: A meeting with our Wedding Liturgy Coordinator and our Music Coordinator must be scheduled at least 6 months prior to the wedding date.

The Wedding Liturgy Coordinator will meet and discuss with you the options for your wedding liturgy including the procession and selection of readings, prayers, Mass parts and recessional. Prior to meeting with the Wedding Liturgy Coordinator, you should get a copy of the “Together for Life” book from the parish. Prayerfully go through the entire book and choose the parts from each section.
The Music Coordinator will plan with you the music for your wedding and will coordinate all cantors and/or instrumentalists. The Music Coordinator must approve all music selections. Only music appropriate for a communal, liturgical celebration will be permitted. Pre-recorded music is not permitted in the Cathedral. All stipends for cantors and instrumentalists must be negotiated with them and paid directly to them prior to the wedding.

**Appropriate Attire for the Bridal Party:** The Sacrament of Matrimony is sacred ceremony and the exchange of consent to marriage is witnessed in the context of the community of believers and in God’s house. As such, appropriate attire for the bridal party, including the bride and groom is necessary. For men, minimum acceptable attire is a collared shirt and tie with dress slacks. For women, their backs, shoulders and chest should be covered and the dresses or skirts should be below the knee.

Parking: Cathedral parking is on the west side of the church. Additional parking for wedding guests on Saturdays may be available in the bank parking lot, east of the Cathedral. All vehicles should be removed from the Cathedral or bank parking lots no later than one hour after the ceremony concludes to avoid occupying parking spots needed by parishioners attending Mass or other events at the Cathedral. Vehicles cannot be parked overnight as these are private parking lots. Any vehicle left in these lots overnight may be towed at the owner’s expense.

**St. Mary’s Cathedral Contacts**
Reverend and Pastor – Fr. David Price
dprice@stmaryscathedral.org
Parochial Vicar – Fr. Ricardo Rosales (marriage preparation in Spanish)
rrosales@stmaryscathedral.org
Deacon Mark Griffith (marriage preparation in English)
mgriffith@stmaryscathedral.org
Administrative Assistant – Ms. Eva Warren
ewarren@stmaryscathedral.org
Music Coordinator – Mr. Dave Grosche
dlgrosche@msn.com
Wedding Liturgy Coordinator – Mrs. Sara Akins
saakins11@hotmail.com
Sacrament of Holy Matrimony - Liturgical Wedding Policies

A. Appropriate Attire for the Bridal Party: The wedding is a public act of worship offered to God by the assembled community. Out of respect for God and neighbor, clothing must be in accord with the principles of Christian modesty. For men, minimum acceptable attire is a collared shirt, tie, and dress slacks. Men are not permitted to wear hats in the Cathedral. For women, their backs, shoulders, and chests should be covered, and dresses or skirts should go to below the knee.

B. Appropriate Behavior: Because the Cathedral is a consecrated building, the wedding party and all guests must respect the sacred nature of the space. The Blessed Sacrament is reserved in the Cathedral; all are expected to maintain a prayerful silence in the worship space during the rehearsal, and before and after the wedding. Conversations, greetings, and comradeship rightly belong in the Narthex/Gathering Space. People talking in the worship space may be asked to leave.

C. Candles: Altar candles, provided by the church, are lit at all liturgical celebrations. Candles, hurricane lamps, etc., from florists may not be used anywhere in the church. Use of a Unity or Remembrance Candle is not part of the Roman Rite and is not allowed.

D. Photos: Depending on the Cathedral schedule, pictures may be taken one hour before or after the ceremony. These times can be scheduled with the parish office manager when scheduling the ceremony. Candid photographs during the liturgy by family members and friends are discouraged. Photographers should speak to the priest or deacon before the ceremony regarding taking pictures during the liturgy. The use of flash photography during the liturgy is restricted out of reverence for the ceremony. Each couple is responsible for providing their photographer with this information.

E. Decorations/Flowers: The church will be available one hour before the wedding for decorating. Aisle runners are not allowed for safety reasons. Arches are not permitted. Decorations on the end of the pews cannot be attached using clamps or tape; ribbon is recommended. Plants and other decorations in the church are not to be moved without permission from the Rector. Flower stands are available. When planning your wedding liturgy with the coordinator, discuss which liturgical season it will be on your wedding day. The coordinator can give you an idea of the liturgical colors and decorations that will be in use at the time of your wedding.

F. Other Particulars: The use of rice, birdseed, popcorn, confetti, bubbles, potpourri, flower petals (fresh or artificial), etc. is not permitted inside or outside the Cathedral. No live animals, except for service animals, will be allowed in or around the Cathedral.

G. Miscellaneous: The Cathedral does not provide a place for the bride, groom, or wedding party to dress. The restrooms are located on the east side of the church adjacent to the gathering space, next to the Vesting Sacristy. Food and drink (except water) are not allowed in any area of the building. If an open alcohol container is seen before the wedding, the wedding will not take place and must be rescheduled for another day.

Since we hold many weddings at the Cathedral, it is imperative that these policies and guidelines be followed. Your signature on the appropriate Agreement page and initials on this page represents your willingness to comply with our policies and procedures. The celebrant or Rector reserve the right to make the final decision as to whether the wedding will take place.

You are welcome to contact us at any time to discuss these policies and guidelines or if you have questions.
St. Mary’s Cathedral
22 West Kiowa - Colorado Springs, CO 80903
PHONE (719) 473-4633
WWW.STMARYSCATHEDRAL.ORG

Required Fees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Parishioner</th>
<th>Non-Parishioner</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Required Fees:</td>
<td>$750.00 (or tithe)</td>
<td>$1,200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stipends for Cantors &amp; Instrumentalists:</td>
<td>(To be negotiated directly with the cantors &amp; instrumentalists prior to the wedding.)</td>
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A parishioner is defined as one who lives within the territorial boundaries of the parish, or is registered with St. Mary’s Cathedral, attends Mass regularly, and contributes a tithe or offering on a regular basis. Note that unless you volunteer for a ministry, offerings by envelope or check are the only way we know you are a participating member of the parish. Though the Catholic Church is universal, Catholics only have a right to be married in their own parish church. If you are a parishioner and your family’s means are limited as to not be able to afford these minimal fees, you may request a tithing sheet from the office to calculate your fee. It is also possible to celebrate your wedding in a non-solemn way. A non-solemn wedding means only the bride, groom, two witnesses, immediate family and celebrant will be present, and the ceremony will take place without music.
Parishioner Wedding Agreement

Groom

Bride

Who wish to be married at St. Mary’s Cathedral on ________ (date)

at ________ (time)

Understand that by signing this agreement, we promise to abide by the policies and guidelines set forth in this packet. We understand the fee to the church agreed upon for this wedding will be $750 or the amount calculated in the attached tithing sheet. A down payment of $375 (or 50% of total) must accompany this form and is not refundable. We will pay the balance no later than one month before the date of our wedding.

Also, we understand and agree that the celebrant or Rector reserves the right to make the final decision as to whether the wedding will take place.

Signature ___________________________ Date ________________

Signature ___________________________ Date ________________

Return this form with your initial payment of $375 to the St. Mary’s Cathedral Parish Office

For Office Use Only

Received on: __________________

Check No. ___________ Amount: ___________
Non - Parishioner Wedding Agreement

and

(Groom) (Bride)

Who wish to be married at St. Mary's Cathedral on _____________ (date)

at _____________ (time)

Understand that by signing this agreement, we promise to abide by the policies and guidelines set forth in this packet. We understand the fee to the church agreed upon for this wedding will be $1200. A down payment of $600 must accompany this form and is not refundable. We will pay the balance no later than one month before the date of our wedding.

Also, we understand and agree that the celebrant or Rector reserves the right to make the final decision as to whether the wedding will take place.

Signature _______________________________ Date _____________________

Signature _______________________________ Date _____________________

Return this form with your initial payment of $600 to the
St. Mary's Cathedral Parish Office

For Office Use Only

Received on: ___________________

Check No. ___________ Amount: ___________