

## Weddings at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Church

You have made a momentous decision and are now inviting the Church to share with you the journey of faith and love; and we are glad to join you on this journey.

To make your preparations easier, we provide you with this information. It is to help and enable you to plan for your wedding event with the awareness of what is involved with a "Church wedding."

Some questions, frequently asked:

### **Interfaith or Ecumenical Marriages.**

We respect the differences when couples come from different religious backgrounds and we would welcome a clergy person from another religious tradition as part of the celebration. This request should be made to the preparing priest so that he can invite the minister to participate.

### **Marriage in another parish.**

If you plan on being married in another parish out of the area, we are happy to do the necessary paperwork. We will then forward this material to the pastor of the Catholic parish where the wedding will take place.

### **Visiting Clergy.**

Couples are able to invite another priest to celebrate their wedding. If this is the case, please inform the preparing priest of this request. He will invite the priest or deacon to celebrate or con-celebrate.

### **Scheduling the marriage.**

Marriage can be celebrated on any day except Christmas and during the Easter Triduum (Holy Thursday thru Easter Sunday). Wedding during the Lenten season are discouraged due to the Penitential nature of the season, but can be permitted for serious reasons. This is to be discussed with the preparing priest. No marriage can be scheduled after 8:00 PM.

### **Nuptial Mass or Nuptial Service.**

The ideal celebration for two Catholics is the Nuptial Mass. The suggestion for an interfaith or ecumenical marriage is a Nuptial Service rather than a Mass, so that both parties feel comfortable and included in the service. This option should be discussed with the priest.

**Age for Marriage.**

Diocesan guidelines set the minimum age at 18, provided that the person has also been out of high school for one year. Any exceptions must be referred to the pastor or diocesan officials.

**Previous Marriage**

If one of the persons has been married previously, he or she must provide either a decree of nullity or a death certificate before the process can continue. If an annulment procedure is in process, no date may be set for the marriage until the decree is final.

**Required Documents.**

Catholic parties will be required to have a recent (within 6 months) copy of their Baptismal Certificate. Before the wedding can take place a wedding license must be provided to the priest. A copy of the required Pre Cana program fulfillment will reduce the cost of the civil license. This will be obtained by the couple from the priest preparing them for marriage.

If additional documents are needed, the priest will inform the couple.

**LITURGICAL ENVIRONMENT**

We urge that restraint be practical in the decoration of the church. We provide flowers for the altar and the placing of additional flowers become superfluous. Bows or floral arrangements on the pews are at the discretion of the couple, but must not harm the wood. If you choose a Unity Candle, although discouraged by the bishops, you must provide it on the night of the rehearsal. It will be returned to you after the wedding. Any floral questions can be directed to the church by the florist.

Weddings celebrated during special seasons (Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter) must respect the Liturgical design of the sanctuary. No one is permitted to move the arrangements set up for the season.

Any questions regarding the Liturgical environment are to be referred to the Priest.

**LITURGICAL MINISTRIES**

**Lector(s)** should be comfortable with reading to congregations.

**Altar servers** can be provided for by the parish or provided from servers known to family.

**Ministers of Hospitality** are usually the ushers.

**Gift bearers** can be members of the bridal party, family or friends. (Used only at Mass.)

**Eucharistic Ministers** must be duly commissioned and can be used as Cup Ministers.

**Music & Cantor** is available through the parish. This enables people to join in the musical selections. The musical director will be in contact with the couple as this is a separate contract.