

Guide to the Sacrament of Matrimony

Introduction

Congratulations on your decision to be married! This guide has been prepared to help you plan your wedding at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church. Here you will find information about preparation, which includes PreCana and meetings with your celebrant, as well as planning, involving all details of the wedding celebration, and more. Marriage for Christians is a sacramental celebration – a sign of God’s love and fidelity for us. As married people, you accept the responsibility of being a sign of Christ’s love for the church.

The Liturgy of your wedding day should be a celebration of faith, and not just a nostalgic or picturesque way of getting married. We like to celebrate the sacrament of matrimony with all its beauty and splendor, but we must also remember the religious significance it contains.

The days ahead will be very exciting and at times hectic. Amidst all the arrangements and planning, we hope that you will find time to pray and reflect on this sacred time in your lives. The time and energy you spend in preparing your minds and hearts will be a great source of strength and nourishment for your continued growth in life and in marriage.

Planning Your Wedding Liturgy

You should plan to have an initial meeting with the Priest or Deacon who will celebrate the wedding at least four months before the date of your wedding. Please bring one NEW copy each of Baptismal and Confirmation Certificates for each Catholic being married (see page 5 for details).

You probably already have a lot of ideas about the kind of wedding ceremony you would like to have. One of the first things to consider is whether you will have a full Mass (with communion) or a liturgy of the word (without communion). Your celebrant will help you determine which option is best for your circumstances, and he will also assist you in planning many of the other details of your ceremony.

You will receive a booklet entitled “A Marriage in the Lord.” The last section of this booklet contains suggested Scripture readings, various prayers, and other information you will need. Please bring the sheet from this booklet, with your selections, when meeting with your celebrant to make final plans.

You can find sample ceremony programs on our wedding web

page, olphglenview.org/weddings. These will serve as a guide should you choose to provide wedding guests with an order of worship for the ceremony. Before printing a ceremony program, please have the celebrant review the order and selections you have made, for accuracy and approval.

Marriage Preparation

Formal preparation for marriage is an Archdiocesan requirement. It is also a small step to ensure a strong relationship that will last a lifetime.

Our parish offers, through the leadership of married couples, PreCana marriage preparation at various times throughout the year. Please contact Julie and Chris Lizak at 847.724.5125 or julielizak@hotmail.com to register.

Since spaces are limited and fill up quickly, please be sure to arrange a time as far in advance as possible. If the parish schedule is not convenient for you, please call the Rectory at 847.729.1525 from 9 am - 5 pm Monday through Friday to obtain a copy of the Archdiocesan schedule or visit www.familyministries.org.

Documents Needed

1. One NEW copy each of your Baptismal and Confirmation Certificates - A new certificate is one issued, within the last six months, by the parish where you were baptized and/or confirmed. Simply call or write to the appropriate church for these documents. Please bring certificates to the first meeting with your celebrant.
2. Two Witnesses Affidavits each for bride and groom - We ask that family members be the witnesses. The purpose is to establish your freedom to be married and to ensure that there have not been any previous marriages.
3. Prenuptial Questionnaire - Once you have scheduled your wedding with the Parish Secretary, contact the priest to set up a preliminary appointment. At this first meeting you will fill out the Prenuptial Questionnaire.
4. Marriage License - Please bring your marriage license to the Rectory two weeks before the date of the wedding. Obtain the license at one of the following locations:

Office of David Orr

Marriage License Bureau
118 N. Clark St. Concourse
Randolph Street Entrance

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Chicago, Illinois 60602
312.603.7790

Rolling Meadows Courthouse

2121 Euclid Ave.
Rolling Meadows, IL 60008
847.818.2850

Skokie Courthouse

5600 W. Old Orchard Road
Skokie, IL 60077
847.470.7233

For additional locations visit www.cookcountyclerk.com. To obtain the marriage license both bride and groom must appear at the County Clerk's Office with proof of age, proper identification and the license fee of \$40. The fee must be paid in cash.

Music

Music is an important element in your wedding liturgy. It's never too early to start thinking about the musicians you would like to have. The parish wedding fee already includes the required services of our Director of Music and Organist, and a Cantor (a soloist who leads the Mass or Ceremony through song). The music minister will be happy to secure other instrumentalists for your ceremony if you wish, and he will supply you with a list of possible music selections. All music is subject to his final approval.

Contact Russell Stern, Director of Music:
847.998.9082 or rstern@olphchurch-il.org.

Flowers & Decorations

Flowers may adorn the ends of pews and the pillars on either side of the church. *Please inform your florist that he or she will have one-half hour before the wedding to set up*, and instruct him or her to use string or covered wire if placing flowers or ribbons on the ends of pews. Tape is NEVER allowed. Please note that rose petals (real or artificial) may not be strewn inside the Church. The throwing of birdseed, rice, confetti or any other material outside the Church building is not permitted.

A unity candle (\$10) and an aisle runner (\$15) will be available for purchase should you choose. Otherwise, you may provide your own and bring these to the rehearsal. The main aisle of the Church is 75 feet long and the Lady Chapel aisle is 40 feet long.

Photography

We recognize that pictures and video are an important remembrance of your wedding. Flash photography is permitted as long as it does not disrupt the ceremony. Photographers are not permitted on the altar. *Without exception, the time allowed for picture taking at the church is limited to one-half hour before the ceremony and one-half hour after the ceremony.*

The Rehearsal

Please call the Rectory to set up the date and time of the wedding rehearsal. Sister Paulanne coordinates and runs all wedding rehearsals. Usual times are 5 p.m., 5:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. on Friday evenings. Sometimes multiple rehearsals are scheduled on one evening. It is important, therefore, that your entire wedding party is ready to rehearse on schedule.

The readers of the Scriptures should also attend the rehearsal. Please give them a copy of the readings that you have chosen, so that they may practice before the rehearsal.

Bring to the Rehearsal:

- Stipend for the Parish: (effective 1/1/09) a \$575.00 stipend (less the \$100.00 deposit, if already paid) is requested. The balance of the stipend must be payed at the time of the rehearsal. Make checks payable to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church. *You may also choose to give a personal gift to the celebrant of your wedding.*
- Unity Candle, if you have chosen to provide your own.
- Selection sheet from Wedding Liturgy Planning Booklet.

Contact Us

We at OLPH are happy to assist you in planning a joyous wedding. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any additional questions or concerns.

By Phone: Monday through Friday 9 a.m. -5 p.m. 847.729.1525

By Fax: 847.729.0623

By Email: lkearney@olphchurch-il.org

Revised 6/4/10