

IV. *Meeting with the Priest: (continued)*

- **Declaration of Nullity:** If one of the parties was married before, a copy of their Declaration of Nullity from the Catholic Church is necessary.
- **Pastor's Permission:** If one of the parties getting married is a member of another Catholic Rite, (Byzantine, Maronite, Ukrainian, etc.) written permission from the pastor is necessary.
- **Marriage Preparation Certificate:** Received after a couple completes one of the marriage preparation programs.

Also, couples will fill out required marriage forms when meeting with the priest. These forms deal with biographical information as well as testimony of the intentions of the couples desiring marriage within the Catholic Church. If one of the parties is not Catholic, additional forms will be required.

V. *The Wedding Liturgy:*

In the Roman Catholic Tradition, the bride and the groom administer the sacrament of Matrimony to each other. A priest and two other persons witness the sacrament.

A priest-friend of the couple may concelebrate or preside at the wedding liturgy. If a couple chooses to have another priest preside at their wedding, he is responsible for completing all marriage forms, conducting the rehearsal, and he must agree to adhere to the wedding guidelines of Christ the King Parish.

Couples are encouraged to take an active part in planning their wedding liturgy. The couples are given the opportunity to plan much of the liturgy themselves. A planning booklet is given to the couples to guide them in this process. This booklet contains the selection of readings, exchange of consent, blessing of rings, nuptial blessing, etc., that the couple will chose from.

Couples need to adhere to the following guidelines concerning the wedding liturgy:

- Normally, if the couple is both Catholic, the wedding is celebrated within Mass. However, when one person is not Catholic or not baptized, the *Rite of Marriage Outside of Mass* will be celebrated.
- Many customs and traditions have been introduced into the wedding liturgy which are not part of the Roman Rite. These include:
 - **Unity Candle:** *The unity candle is permitted to be used.*
 - **Flowers to the Blessed Mother:** *Private devotions are normally celebrated outside of Mass. However, if both parties hold a special devotion to Mary, the presentation of flowers will be considered. (This is done following the Prayer after Communion.)*
 - **Aisle Runner or "Crash":** *Not permitted.*
- **Music:** A Christian wedding is a liturgical celebration that in many ways is patterned after the Sunday Eucharist. Therefore, those present are an integral part of the celebration and not considered spectators but worshippers. They should be drawn into full, conscious, and active participation in the wedding liturgy by prayer and song. The wedding liturgy is to focus on the sacramental encounter with our Lord. Because music is very important to this encounter, couples are asked to bear in mind the following:
 - Couples must contact Mr. George Pecoraro, Coordinator of Music Ministry at Christ the King Parish, to schedule an appointment to discuss planning the music of the liturgy.
 - Musical texts must be consistent with Catholic teaching; indeed they should be drawn chiefly from Holy Scripture and from liturgical sources. (*Constitution of the Sacred Liturgy, CSL, 121*)
 - What an individual desires in the selection of music is **not** by itself the guiding principle in choosing music. Choices made must be based on sound liturgical and musical judgments.
 - **Usually** only cantors and organists from Christ the King Parish can minister at the wedding liturgy. Use of instrumentalists and soloists is not permitted.

V. *The Wedding Liturgy: Music (continued)*

- The use of pre-recorded music is not permitted before or during the liturgy.

- **Ministers:** The wedding is a liturgical celebration. The usual ministries should be represented. These include; lectors, altar servers, and Ministers of Holy Communion (if needed). The practice of assigning these ministries to family members for the sole purpose of including them in the liturgy is to be avoided. Normally, only those who have gone through training and presently serve in these ministries in their parishes are eligible to minister within the wedding liturgy. If ministers are needed, the parish will provide for them.
- **Procession:** All ministers and members of the wedding party will process down the center aisle in one of four (4) order:
 1. Cross Bearer, Servers, Presider, Couples (bridesmaids and groomsmen as couples), Witnesses (best man and maid or matron of honor as a couple), Parents of the bride and groom, Bride and Bridegroom (as a couple). ~ OR ~
 2. Cross Bearer, Servers, Presider, Couples (bridesmaids and groomsmen as couples), Witnesses (best man and maid or matron of honor as a couple), Bridegroom with parents, and Bride with parents. ~ OR ~
 3. Parents - seated before the procession begins. The procession follows with Cross Bearer, Servers, Presider, Bridesmaids (unaccompanied - they will meet the groomsmen near the front of the church), and Bride accompanied by father (who will meet the groom near the front of the church). ~ OR ~
 4. Parents - seated before the procession begins. The procession follows with Cross Bearer, Servers, Presider, Couples (bridesmaids and groomsmen as couples), Witnesses (best man and maid or matron of honor as a couple), and Bride escorted by father (who will meet the groom at the front of the church).
 - * **Note:** *Those who are serving as flower girls and ring bearers should be of an age so as to be able to follow directions. They can be positioned before the witnesses. We recommend, based on past experiences, that children be at least 7 years of age to participate in the wedding liturgy.*

VI. *Church Decorations:*

- Seasonal decorations in the church may not be removed or altered.
- No decorations of any kind are to be attached to any candles or liturgical furnishings.
- Only two (2) flower arrangements are permitted. Pedestals will be provided by the parish. Flowers will be placed on the pedestals. They are not to be placed anywhere else unless done so by parish personnel.
- Only freshly cut flowers and greens may be used within the church. No artificial flowers and/or greens are permitted to be used.
- The throwing of or releasing of rice, bird seed, flower petals, balloons, butterflies, birds, etc., are not permitted on church property. (Bubbles will be permitted outside after the wedding.)
- Pew decorations may be attached by string or elastic. No candles, pins, torches, tape or glue are to be used on the pews.

VII. *Photography and Videography:*

- Those taking pictures or videotaping the liturgy are asked to remember that the wedding is first and foremost prayer and worship. The worship space is not to be treated as a photography studio.
- Photographers and videographers are to limit their movement and always be unobtrusive to the liturgical action.
- Anyone other than the professionals taking pictures or videotaping is asked to remain in their seat during the liturgy. We ask that this statement be placed in any wedding program.

VII. **Photography and Videography: (continued)**

- Videographers are not permitted to attach microphones of any kind to the existing church microphones.
- Any lighting devices used by photographers or videographers may not be directed toward the ministers. These devices can possibly disturb the ministers and disrupt the liturgy.
- Photographers or videographers are not permitted to move any liturgical furnishings.
- No photographs or videotaping is to occur in the sacristy prior to the liturgy
- Any photographer or videographer is to consult with the presiding priest **before** the liturgy begins.

VIII. **Rehearsal:**

Rehearsals are usually scheduled on the evening before the wedding liturgy. Rehearsals can be scheduled at a time mutually agreeable between the pastor and couple. Rehearsals will be scheduled no later than 6:30 PM on any given day. All participating in the wedding liturgy must attend. The couple is to remind their wedding party that proper dress and conduct is required at the rehearsal. Rehearsals must begin on time since other events may be scheduled in the church before or after the rehearsal. If members of the wedding party are excessively late, the rehearsal will be conducted without them.

IX. **Sacrament of Reconciliation:**

The opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation is provided after the rehearsal.

X. **Civil License:**

The state of Pennsylvania requires a civil license for marriage. This civil license is to be obtained by the couple and delivered to the church office at least one (1) week before the wedding.

XI. **Fees and Offerings:**

A check for \$500.00 for parishioners and \$800.00 for non-parishioners, payable to Christ the King Parish, is to be delivered to the church office at least one (1) week before the wedding. This payment covers the offering to the church, organist, cantor, servers and materials for marriage preparation. It does not include visiting priests or musicians. Those arrangements must be made privately.

XII. **Miscellaneous:**

- **Alcoholic Beverages:** Absolutely no alcoholic beverages are permitted on church property. Limousine drivers are to be notified of this regulation.
- **Drugs and Firearms:** Are absolutely forbidden on church grounds.
- **Smoking:** The parish property of Christ the King Parish is a smoke-free environment. Please adhere to our no smoking policy.
- **Wedding Programs:** Programs are permitted but not required. They must accurately reflect the movement of the liturgy. The program must be reviewed and approved by the celebrating priest prior to it being printed.
- **Personal Property:** Following the liturgy, please remove all hangers, garment bags, boxes, pew bows, etc. from the church. Christ the King Parish assumes no responsibility for your personal property.

We hope these guidelines prove helpful to you in planning your wedding liturgy. Certainly know we are always here to help you with any questions. Please call us at 724-845-8191.

May God bless you and your family as you prepare for this special day in your lives and in the life of the parish of Christ the King.

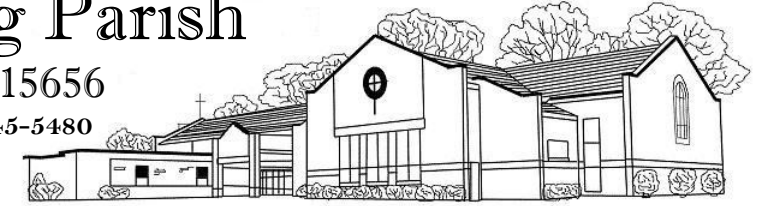


Christ the King Parish

Leechburg, Pennsylvania 15656

Phone: 724-845-8191 ✉ Fax: 724-845-5480

Website: www.ckleechburg.org



Celebrating Your Wedding at Christ the King Parish

GUIDELINES FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

The celebration of a wedding is certainly a special time in the life of a young couple, their families and friends and friends and also their parish community. The celebration of love between a man and a woman is certainly a grace-filled moment where the love of God is truly present. The church welcomes its members to celebrate and solemnize their wedding in the context of prayer as Christians. In fact, this moment in the lives of a man and a woman was instituted as one of the seven sacraments of the Church by Jesus himself.

We celebrate the sacraments as a community of faith and therefore your wedding is a celebration of the entire Catholic community whose responsibility it is to continue to affirm and nurture you in your life together.

In the spirit of joy and love, we provide you with the following guidelines for celebrating your wedding at Christ the King Parish.

I. *Setting the Wedding Date:*

A wedding date may be reserved by calling the parish office, but the date may only be confirmed after the pastor has met with the couple to establish their freedom to marry. It is advisable that the couples secure the date with the pastor before making any further plans.

II. *Time of the Wedding:*

Only one (1) wedding will be scheduled per Saturday. By diocesan policy, weddings are not scheduled on Sundays. It should be noted that there are some times during the Church year when the celebration of a wedding is discouraged -- e.g. Lent.

III. *Marriage Preparation:*

It is the policy of the Diocese of Greensburg that every couple planning to celebrate marriage attend some form of marriage preparation. Couples can fulfill this requirement by attending the following (pre-registration is required):

- **Sponsor Couples** involve one married couple and one engaged couple. The couples meet in the home of the married couple over the course of several evenings that are scheduled at the convenience of those involved. The priest will arrange for the sponsor couple if this option is selected.
- **Engaged Encounter** is a weekend program, which begins on a Friday evening and ends Sunday afternoon. This program takes place in the Greensburg area and is led by two or more married couples with up to twenty engaged couples in attendance. See the pamphlet for upcoming dates.

In addition, the couple will take part in a process known as **FOCCUS - Facilitating Open Couple Communication, Understanding and Study**, which helps the couple deal with various issues prior to marriage.

IV. *Meeting with the Priest:*

A couple should schedule an appointment with the priest who will witness their marriage within six (6) months of the wedding. **Prior** to this meeting, the couple should obtain the following documents:

- **Record of Baptism:** All baptized parties must present copies of their baptismal record. The record of the Catholic baptism must be issued within six (6) months prior to the marriage date. An original certificate is not sufficient. If you were baptized in another parish, you must call that parish and request a copy of your baptismal record.