

*Celebration
of
Matrimony
Workbook*



Couple: _____

Wedding Date: _____

Rehearsal Date: _____



**Archdiocese
of Omaha**

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Contact Information

Pastor: _____

Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

Parish Secretary: _____

Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

Parish Liturgist: _____

Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

Parish Music Minister: _____

Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

Parish Wedding Coordinator: _____

Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

Parish Facilities Manager: _____

Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

Other: _____

Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

Other: _____

Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

Notes:

The following pages have been prepared to guide you through the general planning norms for the celebration of Matrimony. There may also be local or ethnic traditions and customs of families, which may be incorporated into the liturgy. Please discuss these with your pastor or celebrant.

Sacred Space

As you prepare for your wedding day, it is important to understand the signs and symbols present during the liturgy. The first of these is the sanctuary itself. This holy place is consecrated for the worship of God. It is God's dwelling place as Jesus Christ is fully present in the tabernacle: body, blood, soul, and divinity. Because of this, certain etiquette and decor are required to prepare and celebrate the liturgy.

Photography/Videography

1. Your parish may also have other guidelines or restrictions than those listed below; please check with them first.
2. Flash photography should be discouraged during the ceremony.
3. The photographer should restrict their movement and placement of equipment to spaces outside the sanctuary area (the space around the altar).
4. The photographer should be attired as one of your guests and restrict their movements to remain inconspicuous.
5. All photography in the Church should be modest and in good taste, befitting the holy space.

Alcohol, Drugs, and Tobacco

No drugs or alcohol are allowed in the Church (though alcohol may be permitted in the parish hall). If your pastor suspects you or your wedding party are in any way impaired, he is obligated to delay and/or cancel your wedding. All use of tobacco products and vaping should be restricted to designated areas.

Food and Drink in the Church

Most parishes will ask you to keep all food and drink outside the church except for water. Please be certain to ask your parish where food and drink are allowed.

We may have food in these areas: _____

If using a caterer, they will arrive on Date: _____ Time: _____

They should be in contact with: _____ Number: _____

The Rehearsal

The rehearsal will be an opportunity to walk through the ceremony and go over any last-minute concerns. The bridal party should be present for this rehearsal. Your celebrant will inform you if others should be present.

Behavior and attire for your rehearsal should be modest and reflect that you are in a holy place.

Bring copies of your readings and wedding program.

Our Rehearsal will take place on Date: _____ Time: _____

Confession

As you prepare to celebrate your wedding day, it is a good idea to go to confession, especially if you've been away from the sacrament a while. Please see the scheduled times at your parish. You may also request that confessions be heard before or after your rehearsal. Catholic members of your wedding party are encouraged to partake of this sacrament.

Confession is scheduled at my parish: **Day(s):** _____ **Time(s):** _____

Decorating the Church

Most parishes have restrictions on decorations, especially in the sanctuary. Your options will be more limited if you've chosen a wedding date during Advent or Lent, as these seasons have greater restrictions on décor. Some parishes may restrict pew bows, additional candles, etc.

Throwing flower petals, rice, confetti, balloons, glitter, or anything else can distract from the ceremony and create a mess. Explicit permission from the pastor and presider must be given for such additions.

Permission: **Yes** **No**

You will also want to know when you can begin decorating the church and when decorations must be cleaned up. Designating particular people to assist with this in advance is helpful. Some parishes allow your wedding flowers to be donated and left in the sanctuary; please verify before leaving your flowers.

We may begin decorating the Church: Date: _____ Time: _____

The florist will arrive: Date: _____ Time: _____

Decorations must be removed by: Date: _____ Time: _____

Guest Books

Guest books should be restricted to a non-liturgical space and positioned not to become a "bottleneck" as guests arrive. Attendants should close the book as the ceremony begins and make it available again at the reception.

Guest Book Attendant(s): _____

Gifts, Cards, and other Valuables

You may provide a basket or small table for cards or gifts. As these items may hold gift cards, cash, or other valuables, you will want a trusted attendant or family member to lock them away before the ceremony begins.

Gift Attendant(s): _____

Wedding Attire

The attire chosen for a wedding should reflect the values of modesty and decency and not distract from the ceremony itself. Your intended attire should be discussed with your parish in advance. Parishes typically approve requests for a traditional cultural dress. Common guidelines include hats off in the sanctuary for men, knee-length or longer dresses, no shorts for men, etc.

Bride's Room/ Groom's Room

Your parish may provide a small private space for the bride/groom and their attendants to finish preparation or relax before the ceremony. Please respect these spaces regarding hairspray, cologne, make-up, and other items that may stain or damage furnishings. Be certain to ask about food and beverage restrictions in such spaces. Also, be certain to remove all items, particularly valuables, from the room, as these items are never the responsibility of the parish. **Smoking is never allowed in these spaces.**

Location/Name of Room

Bride: _____

Groom: _____

Prayer Before the Ceremony

Some couples like time alone to pray before their wedding. This can be done with or without seeing each other. If you would like to do this, please ask someone in the parish about an appropriate space or side chapel, as this may need to be reserved.

Music

Many parishes will have established guidelines regarding the use of music to celebrate marriage, which direct couples to select sung and instrumental music appropriate to faith and worship. During the liturgy, secular music may not be used. Recorded music and songs are also not permitted.

Your parish musicians or liturgist, with the guidance of your pastor, should also be able to assist you in making musical selections.

Mass or No Mass?

When deciding whether to have a wedding with a Mass, the primary consideration is the religious practice of the couple. If both parties are baptized Catholics, it is obligatory that your marriage take place within Mass. If one of the parties is a baptized non-Catholic or a non-Christian, the wedding is normally not celebrated within Mass.

Please note that non-Catholic attendees at a wedding may not receive communion; no priest or deacon has the authority to permit the reception of holy communion to those not in full communion with the Catholic Church.

Liturgy Planning Guide

*Please review this guide with your presider
and provide a copy for him*

Bride: _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____

Groom: _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____

Presider: _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____

Church: _____

Wedding Date: _____ Rehearsal Date: _____

Florist: _____ Photographer: _____

Worship Aid: Yes No Quantity: _____ Cantor: _____

Musician(s): _____

Informal greeting of congregation or special directions Yes No Who: _____

For additional resources, please see:

<https://www.foryourmarriage.org/rite-for-celebrating-marriage-within-mass/>

<https://www.foryourmarriage.org/rite-for-celebrating-marriage-outside-of-mass/>

The Gathering

The spirit in which guests are gathered sets an atmosphere of joy and reverence. Ushers should be attired so they are easily identifiable and instructed ahead of time.

Names of Ushers: _____

Prelude

Song during Prelude: _____

Seating of (Great) Grandparents: **Yes** **No**
Groom's Paternal: _____ ushered by _____
Groom's Maternal: _____ ushered by _____
Bride's Paternal: _____ ushered by _____
Bride's Maternal: _____ ushered by _____

Seating of Parents/ Step-parents: **Yes** **No**
Groom's Parents: seated together seated separately
 _____ ushered by _____
 _____ ushered by _____
Bride's Parents: seated together seated separately
 _____ ushered by _____
 _____ ushered by _____

The Introductory Rites

Entrance Procession (see page 16)

Song during Procession: _____

Altar Servers: _____

Attendant Couples:	Groomsmen	Bridesmaids
(first to enter)	_____	& _____
	_____	& _____
	_____	& _____
	_____	& _____
	_____	& _____
(last to enter)	_____	& _____
	<i>Best Man</i>	<i>Maid/Matron of Honor</i>

Ringbearer: _____ **Flower Girl:** _____

**Items with asterisk are included only in Weddings within Mass*

Clergy: Guest Priests: _____
Deacon: _____
Principal Celebrant: _____

Song for Entrance of Bride/Couple (if different): _____

Entrance of the Couple:

A bride or groom may choose to process alone or with an escort of their choosing. They may also choose to progress together as bride and groom.

together **separately*** **(see page 13)**

* If separately, the groom enters: alone escorted by _____

* If separately, the bride enters: alone escorted by _____

Entrance Antiphon

Greeting

***Gloria**

Collect (chosen by presider)

The Liturgy of the Word

Options for Nuptial Mass readings may be found at foryourmarriage.org/readings. Readers at the celebration of Marriage during Mass must be practicing Catholics in good standing. Non-Catholic persons at a mixed marriage wedding within a Eucharistic liturgy, even ministers of other denominations, are not permitted to read the Scriptures during the Liturgy of the Word.

First Reading: Passage: _____ Read by: _____

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm: _____ Read (or sung) by: _____

Second Reading: Passage: _____ Read by: _____

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel: Passage: _____ Read by: _____

Homily

The Celebration of Matrimony

The Questions before the Consent

The questions before consent may be found at foryourmarriage.org/the-questions-before-consent.

The Consent:

The exchange of the marriage vows (consent) and the nuptial blessing are the two principal moments in the marriage ceremony. The wedding vows may never be individual creations or improvised versions of the couple or the priest or deacon. No additions, deletions, or alterations from the vow formula are permitted.

option 1 option 2 *(See foryourmarriage.org/the-marriage-vows)*

Acclamation of Praise

Yes No

Blessing & Giving of Rings

The blessing and giving of rings made of precious metal is meant to be a sign of love and lasting faithfulness between spouses.

Blessing & Giving of Arras (Coins)

Yes No

The arras or coins are a sign of the gifts God has given and will continue to bestow on the couple in their marriage. They are also a sign of the couple's call to share their gifts with each other.

The Universal Prayer

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

***Offertory Song:** _____

***Prayer over the Offerings** (Chosen by presider)

***Eucharistic Prayer** (Chosen by presider)

Lord's Prayer

The Blessing and Placing of the Lazo or the Veil

Yes No

The blessing and placing of a veil or a cord called a lazo (wedding garland) is an added sign of the indissolubility of the union of the couple, and is a tradition important in Hispanic and Filipino families.

Padrinos (Sponsors) 1. _____ 2. _____

Nuptial Blessing: option 1 option 2 option 3

(See foryourmarriage.org/the-nuptial-blessing for options)

***Sign of Peace**

While the sign of peace is often prolonged during a wedding Mass it should not detract from nor disregard the Lord's Eucharistic presence on the altar.

***Distribution of Holy Communion**

Note any members of wedding party not receiving communion: _____

***Communion Song:** _____

***EMHCs (if needed):** _____

EMHC's must be Catholics in good standing and must be trained in the diocese where the wedding is taking place or have permission of the pastor.

Marian Devotion

Yes

No

Some couples may choose to offer flowers to the Blessed Virgin Mary as an invitation to her to be a part of their marriage. This is typically done while an appropriate Marian hymn is sung.

***Prayer after Communion**

The Concluding Rites

Final Blessing

Dismissal

Recessional Music: _____

Postlude

Guests will be ushered out:

by the couple

by two ushers: _____

Notes:

1. After Mass, the witnesses (usually the Best Man and Maid of Honor) and Priest sign the marriage record.
2. If there is no Mass, but communion is to be distributed, the Lord's Prayer follows the Nuptial Blessing, preceding the Sign of Peace and Distribution of Holy Communion.

The Catholic Wedding Procession

As one would expect, the rituals of the Marriage liturgy have a long history and are full of symbolism and meaning. The outward signs that are shared and celebrated in the body of the faithful are expressions of our faith and demonstrate the truth about what we do.

The procession to the altar is the first of said ritual acts. Like any other procession, the wedding procession symbolizes the journey we make through life toward our final goal of heaven. The procession moves from the door, coming from the world, to the altar, the point of meeting between heaven and earth.

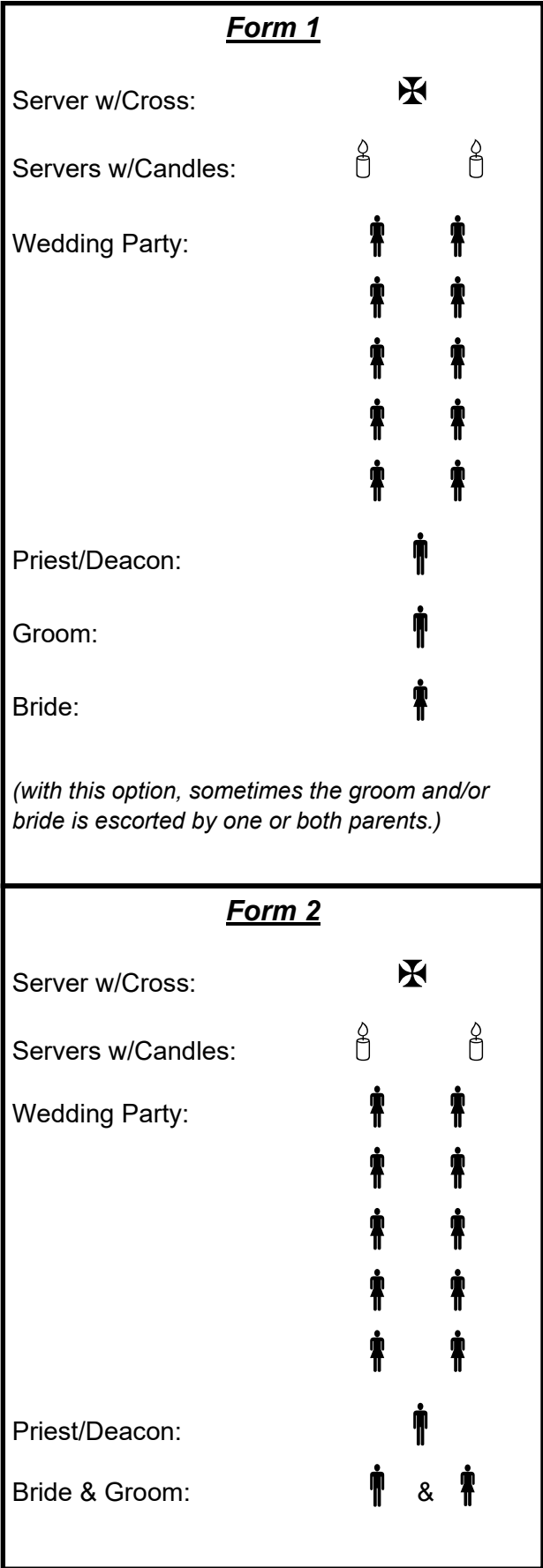
The procession is led by a server carrying the Cross because only by following Christ do we come to our salvation. When carried in procession, the Cross is usually flanked by servers carrying candles.

The bridal party comes next in the procession. They have the honor of preparing the way for and announcing the presence of the bride and groom.

The Minister (i.e., Priest or Deacon), as the Church's official witness to the exchange of vows, follows.

Finally, the bride and the groom enter. They have the privileged place in the procession since they themselves are the ministers of the Sacrament of Matrimony.

- They may enter individually (Form 1). In this case, it is customary for each to be escorted by one or both parents. Sometimes, however, the groom enters unescorted.
- They may enter together (Form 2).





ONE CHURCH
ENCOUNTERING JESUS
EQUIPPING DISCIPLES
LIVING MERCY