

# MARRIAGE GUIDELINES

## CHURCH OF CORPUS CHRISTI

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*“Married Christians, in virtue of the sacrament of matrimony, signify and share in the mystery of that unity and fruitful love which exists between Christ and his church; they help each other to attain to holiness in their married life and in the rearing and education of their children; and they have their own special gift among the people of God.”*

*- Rite of Marriage*

Congratulations on your upcoming marriage! God has drawn you together, and you have made an important decision to enter into the Sacrament of Marriage. This is a very blessed time in your life. These guidelines are intended to help you prepare to celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage at Corpus Christi. Please take a few minutes to read through them. If you have any questions, please feel free to discuss them with any of the persons listed below.

May this time of preparation be filled with joy, hope and peace for both of you!

Sincerely in Christ,

Father Robert Fitzpatrick, Pastor  
Sue Valois, Coordinator of Liturgy and Music  
Marge Clarkin, Wedding Coordinator  
Maureen Connelly, Administrative Assistant

### **The Wedding Date**

- Arrangements for your wedding in the Church are to be made well in advance of the desired date (9-12 months notice is preferred). Dates are chosen in consultation with the pastor taking into consideration the liturgical calendar and the church's calendar.
- A wedding may be celebrated on Friday evening or on Saturday afternoon before 2:00 p.m. or at another time by special arrangement with the pastor.

- The wedding date may be set after your initial interview with the pastor. The balance is due at the rehearsal, along with the marriage license (see below).

### **Pre-Marriage Preparation**

- A pre-marriage inventory called PREPARE, will be completed. This is a tool for looking at your relationship. The results of this inventory will provide material for discussion in preparation for married life. Your sponsor couple, assigned by the parish will administer the inventory and facilitate your discussion of the results.
- Couples are asked to attend a conference for the engaged. This requirement is fulfilled through one of a variety of programs for engaged couples. Brochures are available from the pastor. It is recommended that the requirement be fulfilled at your earliest convenience. There is a fee. A certificate is issued upon completion.
- The documents which the couple must supply or complete with the priest include:
  - A. Baptismal Certificate. These can be obtained from the church of baptism; and for Catholics, this certificate must be newly issued within the six months before your marriage.
  - B. Form I – a one-page questionnaire filled out by the pastor/deacon and signed by each party. It is ultimately filed in the parish office.
  - C. Marriage license for the wedding presider. He may not officiate at a wedding without having the license. After you attend required preparation courses, a letter from the pastor is prepared for you which enables you to receive a discount on your marriage license fee at the courthouse. Once obtained, a Minnesota marriage license is valid for six months.
  - D. In certain cases, other documents are requested. In the case of an interfaith marriage, the Catholic party is asked to sign a promise that includes a statement about his/her faith and the baptism and education of future children.

### **Faith Involvement**

- A Catholic planning to marry at Corpus Christi is expected to register in the parish and attend Mass regularly.

- In the case of inter-faith marriages, couples are also encouraged to attend each other's churches and to obtain instruction in each other's faith.

### **Special Considerations to discuss with the Pastor**

- Normally the priest or the deacon assigned to Corpus Christi officiates at weddings. In special cases, a different Catholic priest, or an ordained Catholic relative or friend of the bride or groom can be delegated by the pastor to officiate at marriages at Corpus Christi.
- When an interfaith marriage is celebrated outside of Mass, the minister of the non-Catholic party is welcome to participate.

### **Standard Stipend**

- Although the church does not charge any fees for the reception of the sacrament, it is often asked what an appropriate stipend would be to the church from the couple who is being married in the parish. Consequently, as a guideline, we suggest a stipend of \$750.00, which covers the cost of maintenance personnel, wedding coordinator, liturgist, presider, an accompanist, cantor and the use of the church facility.
- If you are inviting a priest or minister or musician from another church to assist at the service, it is also appropriate to budget a stipend for him or her (suggested amount \$ 150.00). If you are faced with a financial difficulty, please discuss it with the pastor.
- Payment is due to the "Church of Corpus Christi": is due when the couple brings the copy of their marriage license to the priest/deacon—at the rehearsal.
- Cost of the pre-marriage seminar is paid directly by the engaged couple.
- Cost of any additional instrumentalists or singers are paid directly by the couple. \$200-\$250 depending on their rates.

### **Pre-Marriage Interview**

- The final piece of a couple's preparation for marriage at Corpus Christi is a final appointment with the pastor or wedding presider. Each couple is responsible for making this appointment. This final interview should take place at least two weeks before the wedding liturgy to review details of the ceremony.

## **The Marriage Liturgy**

- Soon after the initial interview with the priest, the couple is to contact the Coordinator of Liturgy and Music through the parish office to assist with preparing the marriage liturgy. An accompanist and a cantor are provided by the Church of Corpus Christi.

## **Music**

- Music is appropriate for worship when the words clearly express Christian faith and serve to deepen prayer. At the same time, music should possess good artistic qualities. Music which is purely secular in nature and does not speak to the Christian symbol of married love is not suitable in the wedding liturgy.
- One of the best ways to use music is to involve the assembly by singing common acclamations, hymns, and psalms. The responsorial psalm, gospel acclamation, and Eucharistic acclamations are always sung. In addition, one or two hymns should be sung by the entire assembly. The Sunday liturgy becomes the model for the wedding liturgy.
- All couples meet with the Coordinator of Liturgy and music preferably about six weeks prior to the wedding date. Please bring your completed Wedding Liturgy Planning Guide to this meeting.

## **Ceremony Review**

- The final piece in your process of preparing for marriage at Corpus Christi is an appointment with the pastor or wedding presider. You are responsible for making this appointment. This final interview should take place at least two weeks before the wedding to review details of the ceremony.

## **Dressing Room and Clean-Up**

- The Reconciliation room serves as the Bride's Room. Do not leave valuables unattended.
- Because of harmful chemicals, all styling of hair and makeup should be completed off site.
- Members of the wedding party are responsible for leaving the dressing room as they found it and making sure valuables aren't left behind. They are also responsible for leaving the church as they found it by picking up and

disposing of all boxes, programs, pop cans and wrappers. Please appoint a person to complete a final inspection before leaving.

### **Smoking and Drinking**

- Smoking is not permitted in the building.
- Drinking of alcoholic beverages is not allowed on the church premises.

### **Photography**

- The photographer must meet the officiant (priest or deacon) of the wedding before the ceremony starts. The photographer and his or her assistant(s) must obey the directions of the priest or deacon officiating at the ceremony at all times.
- The photographer must not interrupt the ceremony. At no time, should the photographer stand in anyone's view and prevent anyone from participating fully in the wedding (including bridal party members, family members, ministers, musicians, guests and anyone else present).
- During the wedding, NO flash photography is allowed in the church. Posed photographs arranged for before or after the wedding Mass or Service are allowed provided there is sufficient time before the next service.
- If video camera use is desired, no electrical cables may be strung along the floor or walls for reasons of safety. Therefore, a battery pack must be used.