

PLANNING THE WEDDING LITURGY AT ST. BENEDICT

Planning:

- ◆ Couple will meet with the Pastor to plan and discuss the liturgy.
- ◆ When one party is non-Catholic, a liturgical celebration without Mass is recommended.

Music:

- ◆ Music must be liturgical and appropriate for weddings.
- ◆ Charles Hiestand, Pastoral Assistant for Music, can provide music on the piano and can coordinate cantors and other instrumentalists for your liturgy, if you wish. He will supervise use of equipment whether or not he serves as the music minister for your wedding. His normal fee is \$200. Charlie can be reached at (206) 632-0843, ext. 218, or c.hiestand@stbens.net

Wedding Host:

- ◆ This person assists with the rehearsal, and is present before, during and after the wedding liturgy to provide assistance. The wedding host can also answer questions prior to the wedding regarding flowers, candles, and other décor.

Reserving Church:

- ◆ Each couple reserves the church for 1 hour for the rehearsal and 3 hours for their wedding: 1.5 hours before, 1 hour for liturgy and .5 hour after for clean-up.

- ◆ Should liturgy require more time (*and* if it does not conflict with another event), the couple may arrange with the wedding host for additional time, and the host will be paid at the rate of \$15 per additional hour.

Photography:

- ◆ Picture taking ends 30 minutes prior to the ceremony. **No flash pictures are to be taken during the ceremony.** Please ensure that family and friends of the bride and groom are made aware that no flash pictures will be allowed during the ceremony.
- ◆ A stationary video camera may be used during the ceremony with prior approval.
- ◆ Please have photographer and/or videographer ask the wedding host any questions prior to or on the wedding day.
- ◆ The photographer and wedding participants should be aware of the need for proper reverence and decorum at all times.

Environment:

- ◆ The liturgical colors and decoration of the season will normally stay in place during the wedding liturgy.
- ◆ Flowers: Have the florist check with the wedding host if there are any questions.
- ◆ No rice or bird seed may be thrown
- ◆ No alcoholic beverages are allowed in the church at any time.
- ◆ The worship space and any areas of the church used in preparation must be restored to their prior condition; this includes returning all furnishings to their original location and removing trash and any materials brought into the church.

PREPARING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE



ST. BENEDICT CATHOLIC CHURCH

1805 North 49th Street
Seattle, WA 98103

Phone: (206) 632-0843

email: parish@stbens.net

CONGRATULATIONS

The parish and staff of St. Benedict share your joy in deciding to marry. We are eager to work with you as you prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage, plan your wedding day, and begin your lives together as a married couple.

Preliminaries

- ◆ Responsibility for setting appointments and interview times and timely completion of forms and documents rests with the couple.
- ◆ The wedding date cannot be finalized until the paperwork and documents have been completed.
- ◆ *Very special attention* must be given to the timely completion of paperwork when the wedding is to be held outside the archdiocese of Seattle; paperwork for a wedding happening outside of the archdiocese should be completed at least two months prior to the wedding date.
- ◆ At least one party must be Catholic; registered and active in the parish before beginning marriage preparation process.
- ◆ Both parties are free to marry, i.e., no prior marriage bond exists.

EDUCATION OPTIONS

One of three possible education requirements is suggested; the cost for these is paid by the couple.

- ◆ **Parish Marriage Prep:** This parish program consists of six weekly, two-hour meetings at our parish. This program allows groups of couples to engage in discussion and sharing on key areas of the marriage relationship. There is one series in the fall and one in the spring; the series is held on Thursday evenings, 7-9 pm.
- ◆ **Counseling and Direction:** In this option, the couple will make an appointment with a recommended counselor, in addition to meeting with the Pastor.
- ◆ **Engaged Encounter:** This is a weekend for reflection around sharing key issues in the marital relationship. These are held at various times throughout the year in the archdiocese. The weekend begins on Friday at 7 PM and concludes Sunday at 4 PM. A week-end stay is required. For more information, ask for an Engaged Encounter brochure or visit: www.ceeseattle.org
- ◆ For further information on the sacrament of marriage go to: www.foryourmarriage.org

NECESSARY DOCUMENTS

- ◆ A recent copy of baptism certificate i.e., issued within six months of the wedding, obtained from church of baptism.
- ◆ The completion by the couple of two pre-nuptial investigation forms stating their identity, status in the church, and freedom to marry.
- ◆ The completion of a similar form by a close friend or relative of each party, confirming the truth of the couple's testimony. This form must be completed in the presence of a priest or his delegate.
- ◆ If the wedding is taking place at St. Benedict, the marriage license is to be brought to the parish office at least one week prior to the wedding liturgy.

OFFERING

- ◆ The offering for marriage is \$300: \$50 for paperwork, \$50 for the Wedding Host, and \$200 for the presider and use of the church. (For couples who are not registered at St. Benedict, there is an additional \$200 fee).
- ◆ Offering is due at least one month prior to the liturgy. Checks should be made payable to St. Benedict Church.

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact: Val Keller, Pastoral Assistant for Faith Formation, at (206) 632-0843, ext. 216, or v.keller@stbens.net or Fr. Steve Sallis, Pastor, at (206) 632-0843, ext. 217 or s.sallis@stbens.net.