

GUIDELINES FOR PLANNING YOUR MARRIAGE

**CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION
4300 ASBURY ROAD
DUBUQUE IA 52002-0497
563-556-7511**



Congratulations on your desire to sacramentalize the love which you have for one another, and to live that love within the sacrament of marriage in the Catholic Church.

Along the way you will have to make many decisions. For instance, you will need to decide whether to celebrate the Rite of Marriage within Mass, or the Rite of Marriage outside Mass. Within either rite, many other decisions must be made. Deacon Tim LoBianco will assist you with all your preparations and decisions.

This guide is intended to assist you in your marriage preparation and to answer some of the most commonly-asked questions. Please read it carefully and ask Deacon Tim to answer any questions you may have.

At the time of your formal engagement, please contact the parish office to make an appointment with Deacon Tim [563-556-7511] to begin the preliminary arrangements. This needs to be done not later than six (6) months prior to your intended wedding day.

I. PRE-MARRIAGE ARRANGEMENTS

A. Parish Registration

Catholic sacramental theology makes clear that marriage, like all of the other sacraments, is celebrated within the context of community. Thus, your marriage involves not only yourselves, but also the community of Resurrection Parish. One of you needs to be registered in Resurrection Parish or another Catholic parish when you contact the parish office to begin preparation for your wedding.



If you are registered in another parish, written permission from your pastor must be obtained before you marry in Resurrection parish. It is also expected that you are faithfully practicing your Catholic faith and supporting your parish.

Finally, please inform us of your plans for after your wedding, whether you will then be a member of Resurrection Parish or of another parish.

B. Marriage Instruction

1. As with every sacrament, instruction and preparation are required before marriage. Couples must participate in at least one of two preparation offerings: The Sponsor Couple Program or the Engaged Encounter Program. Deacon Tim will give you information on each. Circumstances may dictate that the marriage preparation take place through another parish [e.g., if the couple lives out of town].
2. Each person completes and discusses with Deacon Tim an Inventory entitled “The Facilitating Open Couple Communication, Understanding and Study” [FOCCUS].

C. Marriage Documents

1. Deacon Tim will meet with both of you to complete the necessary documents.
2. Unless you were baptized at Resurrection parish, you are responsible for providing a **baptismal certificate for the bride and groom** issued within the **past six (6) months**.
3. In most instances, two witnesses must also fill out papers attesting to your freedom to marry. Ordinarily, these witnesses will be your parents.
4. A **certificate of completion** from Sponsor Couple or Engaged Encounter programs must be provided to the parish office after you have completed your chosen program
5. A **valid marriage license** from the State of Iowa is required for the wedding. The license must be provided to the parish office no later than one week before the wedding rehearsal.

II. SCHEDULING AND DECORATIONS



A. Dates and Times

Please do not set dates or times prior to meeting with Deacon Tim. Weddings may be celebrated on **Saturdays** at 1:00 or 1:30 p.m., or at the 6:00 p.m. parish liturgy. **Friday** evening weddings are possible. Couples may also choose to be married at one of the regularly scheduled **Sunday** liturgies. Dates and times are given on a first-come, first-accommodated basis. Church weddings are ordinarily not held during Lent and Advent, on Holy Days, or on the Parish Festival Weekend (normally the third weekend of August).

B. Decorations

Respect of Place: Our church building is decorated for the whole parish community in keeping with the liturgical calendar and the seasons of the year. During the seasons of Christmas and Easter, there are usually flowers already in church so you may not need to order more. During the summer, we ordinarily have green plants in the sanctuary; and in fall and winter, suitable seasonal decorations are used.



Please advise florists and photographers that parish plants, banners, other decorations, and sanctuary furniture are not to be moved or removed.

Flowers: If you do purchase fresh flowers, two bouquets are sufficient. They can be placed behind the altar on tall wooden stands (available at the church), or in florist's tall basket stands. We do not place flowers on the altar; flowers placed in front of the altar are not put on stands. No wreaths, hearts, or other decorations may be hung against the back wall of the sanctuary.

Candles: For reasons of both liturgical correctness and fire safety, no candelabra or other extra candles may be used, with the exception of the unity candle [see below].

Glitter or **Baloons** are not permitted. This includes glitter in bouquets, in the hair, or on the body.

Carpet runners are not permitted because they often create a safety hazard.

C. Rehearsals

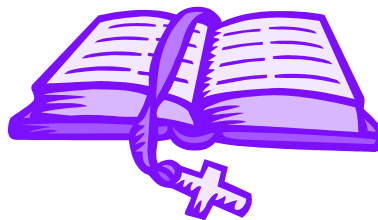
Rehearsals are usually scheduled for the evening preceding the wedding, between the hours of **5:30 p.m.** and **7:00 p.m.** The rehearsal is for the presider, the wedding party, readers, altar servers (if they are from outside the parish), and the parents of the bride and groom. Please note that a scheduled Friday evening *wedding* will take precedence over a *rehearsal* for a Saturday wedding.

Music ministers may attend the wedding rehearsal, not as a practice time, but to help the wedding party with the processional and recessional. To schedule a time to rehearse in the church, the music ministers may call the receptionist at the parish office [563-556-7511].

III. WEDDING LITURGY

A. Prayers and Scripture Readings

Your planning is designed to emphasize the dignity and sacred reality of the sacrament of marriage. A good resource to assist you in choosing prayers and readings is the booklet “Together for Life,” which you will receive during your marriage preparation. The presider will review your choices with you.



B. Unity Candle

If you wish to light a unity candle as part of the ceremony, please discuss this ritual with the Presider at your wedding. The couple is asked to provide the unity candle if one is used.

C. Liturgical Ministers.

The following ministers are needed :

- ◆ one or more readers to proclaim your chosen readings. A competent reader is important, so select her/him wisely.
- ◆ if the Rite of Marriage is celebrated within the Mass:
 - * Two altar servers [or you may request servers from the parish]
 - * Two or more extraordinary ministers of Communion [or you may request ministers from the parish]. When Mass is celebrated, the Eucharist is received under the species of bread and wine.

NOTE: Under present regulations, only Catholics may receive the Eucharist at the Rite of Marriage within the Mass. Interfaith couples may wish to consider celebrating a Rite of Marriage outside Mass. Deacon Tim will discuss this with you.

D. Music

Music is meant to complement the sacramental nature of the wedding. Therefore, the music you choose **must be of sacred nature**, and **your music ministers need to be familiar with Catholic liturgical music.**



All music for a wedding must be approved by the Director of Music and Liturgy of Resurrection parish, Mr. Don Marlette, who will assist you in selecting appropriate music, and will meet with your music ministers. Please call the parish office [563-556-7511] as soon as possible to arrange an appointment with him.

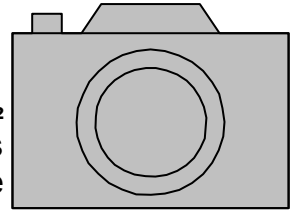
E. Programs

If you wish to use programs or worship aids, they must be submitted to Mr. Marlette for final approval **before printing.**

F. Photography

Pictures are taken **before** the liturgy.

Normally the church is available for **1½ hours** before the wedding begins. Pictures need to be **concluded 30 minutes** before the wedding begins, in order to accommodate guests arriving and to provide time for the final preparations for the liturgical celebration.



No pictures using a flash bulb or attachment may be taken during the wedding liturgy.

Please ask your photographer/videographer to consult with the presider of the liturgy prior to the wedding.

G. Your Wedding Party

This is a memorable day for you, and it is also a most important day for your families, and this parish community. Because both the rehearsal and the wedding take place in the church, and therefore in the presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, proper and reverent conduct is expected and insisted upon.

Please ask those in your wedding party to refrain from throwing rice, rose petals, etc. Out of respect for both of you, any vehicle decoration is expected to demonstrate maturity and good taste.

Please ask those in your wedding party not to bring or consume alcohol. The presence of alcohol or recreational drugs on the church premises by the bride or groom or any member of the wedding party at any time will result in the immediate cancellation of the ceremony.

H. Reception Lines

Aware of the limited space available at the church entrance, you may choose to greet your guests as they leave each pew, or greet them in a receiving line at the main entryway, having ushers direct them, pew by pew.

The church and parking lot should be **cleared by 3:00 p.m.** to allow for preparation for the 4:00 p.m. weekend Mass.

I. Dressing/Waiting Areas

- The bride and bridesmaids gather in the small meeting room (“Bride’s Room”) to the right of the Confessional. A doorway in the rear of the room opens directly into the women’s restroom.
- The groom and groomsmen gather in the chapel inside the entrance to the church. The men’s restroom is located across the hall, just inside the main entry.
- **As soon as possible, ushers or personal attendants are responsible for cleaning and straightening out these rooms, and for removing all trash.**
- **After the wedding,** they are also asked to return the pews [kneelers up], books, and hymnals to their original positions, and to gather programs and other discarded items from the pews and dispose of them.



IV. WEDDING FEES

A. Program Fees



- ◆ Sponsor Couple Program: \$25 for study materials, payable to Resurrection parish
- ◆ Engaged Encounter Program: \$150/couple for residents of the Archdiocese; \$175/couple for non-residents. Payable to the Family Life Office, Archdiocese of Dubuque

B. Church: Offerings for the use of church facilities are to be paid at the parish office when the marriage license is brought there, i.e., **one week before** the wedding.

1. Deposit: A non-refundable deposit of \$50.00 **reserves the church** for your use from the time the deposit is made, and is applicable to the total fee.

2. Fees to be given to Resurrection Parish:

◆ Practicing, supporting members of Resurrection Parish:
\$150.00 - \$200.00

[this fee includes college students whose parents are practicing, supporting members of the parish

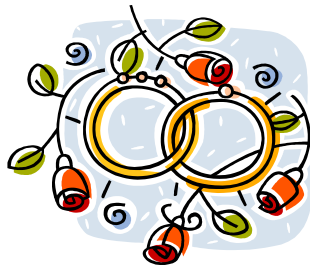
◆ Registered, non-supporting members of the parish:
\$300.00 - \$350.00

◆ Bride and groom from other parishes: \$400.00

3. A check in the amount of \$100.00 is to be given to the presider.

C. Ministers of Music: Fees vary. Please consult the minister of music whom you have chosen, since this is a private arrangement between the couple marrying and the musicians.

D. Altar Servers: Please place \$10.00 in a separate envelope for each server. This is to be paid at the parish office when the marriage license and church offering are brought.



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