

Cathedral of the Holy Cross

Boston, Massachusetts

Couples Checklist for Church Marriage

Meet with your parish priest/deacon at least 6 months in advance of the desired date, prior to making any other wedding arrangements. Make non-refundable deposit of \$500 to the Church after date is confirmed. The remaining balance of \$1,500 is due two weeks prior to the wedding. The \$2,000 fee includes: **Check should be made payable to Cathedral of the Holy Cross.**

- Organist
- Singer
- Wedding Coordinator on night of rehearsal and wedding day
- Adult server
- Church use

Obtain permission of the pastor if: (1) you wish a priest/deacon outside the parish to officiate or (2) you request the presence of any non-Catholic clergy.

Choose witnesses. The best man and maid/matron of honor may be Catholic or Non-Catholic.

Check with your parish priest/deacon concerning:

- Flowers and decorations
- Rehearsal date and time
- Photographer

PRE- MARITAL FORMATIONAL SESSION

Pre-Nuptial Investigation

This is a short questionnaire to be filled out with both parties prior to marriage to assure the Church there is no impediment to the marriage. This is completed with the priest/pastoral associate at the parish office.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

All are encouraged to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation prior to the rehearsal.

Wedding Liturgy

The available liturgies are: (1) the Nuptial Mass Liturgy and (2) Wedding Ceremony Liturgy. The couple, along with the witnessing priest/deacon, should plan the liturgy in church. A booklet called, "Together for Life" will be given to you at the time of your initial meeting with the priest / deacon. It provides guidance in selecting appropriate scripture readings and prayers for the liturgy. Because of issues concerning Eucharistic sharing which may arise from the presence of non-Catholic witnesses and guests, a mixed marriage celebrated according to the Catholic form ordinarily takes place outside the Eucharistic liturgy.

PRE- MARITAL INSTRUCTIONAL SESSIONS

Pre-Cana (or) Engaged Encounter (or) Parish Marriage Preparation

Sessions include talks or discussions followed by the couple's reflection and dialogue. A certificate of attendance is given at the conclusion. This certificate should be sent to the parish where you are to be married. A list of local marriage preparation programs is listed below:

PREPARATION PROGRAMS

Boston: St. Joseph Parish
617-523-4342

Waltham: Espousal Retreat House
781-209-3120

Boston: Paulist Center
617-742-4460

CHURCH DOCUMENTS NEEDED

For the Catholic Party:

Recent Baptism Certificate

Contact the church in which you were baptized. The certificate needs to be dated *within six months of the marriage*

Confirmation Certificate

Contact the church in which you were confirmed. The certificate needs to be dated *Within six months of the marriage.*

Certificate of Pre- Cana (or) Parish Marriage Preparation Attendance

For the Non-Catholic Party:

Baptismal certificate

When documentary proof is not available, affidavits of parents or trustworthy persons are acceptable.

Certificate of Pre-Cana (or) Engaged Encounter (or) Parish Marriage Preparations Attendance.

Testimony the Party is Free to Marry

Obtained from two witnesses

CIVIL DOCUMENTS NEEDED

□ Marriage License

The license is obtained from a municipality within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The license, once granted, is valid for (30) thirty days. It cannot, however, be issued sooner than (72) seventy-two hours after application is made.

For convalidation of a civil ceremony the paper work indicated above must be done as well as providing the church documents as well. (See page 3)

Proof of civil marriage must be presented:

DISPENSATIONS AND DECLARATIONS OF NULLITY: This only applies if one or both parties have been previously married or if one party is from another religious tradition. The priest or deacon officiate at your wedding is responsible for acquiring any and all dispensations necessary for the marriage. If an annulment is necessary, all procedures cease and the wedding date/ time shall be released until a declaration of nullity is officially obtained. No marriage may take place at the Collegiate Church unless both parties are free of prior bond (i.e., previous marriage) and impediments, with necessary **dispensations** (e.g., if one party is from a non-Christian tradition) and **permission** (e.g., if one party is from a Christian tradition outside of the Roman Catholic Church).

PLANNING YOUR WEDDING MUSIC

Cathedral of the Holy Cross Music Ministry shares in your joy over your upcoming wedding. We are honored to help you plan the music for your happy event.

What to do first: The first step in planning music for your wedding is to contact our parish music director, Mr. Leo Abbott. Typically couples make an appointment to meet with Mr. Leo Abbott within six months before wedding. Please contact Mr. Abbott at the office (617)542-5682. Ext 28. Wedding appointments are scheduled, on weekdays, often at the end of one's work day for the convenience of Brides and Grooms, subject to the availability of the church. Other times are also possible, again subject to church availability.

YOUR MUSIC PLANNING MEETING: When you meet with Mr. Abbott, he will explain what happens during a Catholic wedding and where music fits into the celebration. He will play short sections of various pieces of music used in Catholic weddings. You can then select the music that appeals to you from these pieces. The selections you choose will make up a "working list" of music that can be used for your wedding-.

MUSIC FOR CATHOLIC WEDDING: The Catholic Church requires that all music used in Catholic worship must reverently reflect that sacred prayer that is being celebrated. Music perceived as "secular: (non-sacred) by our culture may not be used in Catholic worship. Music for a Catholic wedding also includes music for the sung texts of the wedding liturgy- the people's texts- that are often sung by your guests as part of your wedding celebration. If you plan to use musicians from elsewhere, your musicians will also be required to observe the Catholic Church's

music requirements. Therefore, you will need to provide us with a list of their music selections that we can review before the wedding.

BEFORE YOUR MEETING: You do not need to spend time extensively researching music before you meet. Yet, if there are specific selections which you know you want, bring your list with you when we meet. Wedding couples do not normally listen to “wedding music: for their musical entertainment; so, it is perfectly normal for brides and grooms to not recognize the names of music selections popularly used in today’s church weddings. However, upon hearing these music selections when they meet with Mr. Abbott, couples will often recognize many of these music selections from other weddings they have attended.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Contact the Parish Office at **617-542-5682**
Monday - Friday, 9:00am – 4:00pm

GUIDELINES FOR THE PHOTOGRAPHERS AND VIDEOGRAPHERS

The Photographers / videographer must check in with the wedding coordinator the day of the wedding to ensure he or she knows his or her role in the ceremony. Photographers are asked to comply with the policy outlined below. Please give a copy of this form to both the photographer and videographer.

Photographers May:

- take photographs of the guest as they arrive.
- take photographs of the ushers/ groom prior to the ceremony provided guest are not left unattended.
- take photographs of the procession, reading of scripture, wedding ceremony, and preparation of gifts, communion procession and recessional.

Photographers May NOT:

- take photographs during the Eucharistic Prayer.
- cause the ceremony to start late for “limo” pictures.
- interrupt the flow of the procession in any way, shape or form.

-enter the sanctuary for any reason.

-change the church environment for any reason.

-block the view of guests.

-take photographs in the Church following the wedding or in any way delay the arrival of guests for the next wedding.

Videographers are permitted ONLY if they set up a stationary camera. They may NOT move around the space at any time.