

Weddings at the



Policies and Guidelines for Weddings

Dear Soon-to-Be-Marrieds!!

Congratulations on your engagement and all the hope and excitement that is before you. Here are a few things you should know before you get married at the Cathedral:

MARRIAGE PREPARATION vs. WEDDING PREPARATION. There is a saying: “*A wedding is a day; a marriage is a lifetime.*” In other words, the wedding is the ceremony that initiates your marriage, which is your lifetime commitment to each other. The Church provides marriage preparation classes out of its desire to give you the best start at your new vocation as a sacramentally joined couple.

LIVING YOUR FAITH. If you are asking to be married in the church, please understand that you are asking to make a statement of faith before God and his people. To be married in the Catholic Church means that at least one of you is Catholic. It means that one or both of you who are Catholic and are faithfully living out your Catholic faith. The Catholic party/ies should have received the Sacrament of Confirmation prior to marriage, if possible. Please let your assigned clergy know if you are NOT Confirmed.

You don't both have to be Catholic to be married in the Catholic Church. However, one of you must be a baptized Catholic.

Please note: To reserve a wedding date in the Cathedral, your freedom to marry in the Catholic Church must be initially apparent. If prior marriages exist for either party without an annulment, we will direct you on what must be done to seek an annulment, and we will wait for that process to be completed before planning your wedding.

- Contact our Parish Office (Lu at guadalupe@boisecathedral.org) to initiate the planning process and to plan for a priest or deacon to help you with marriage preparation. A staff member will discuss some of the wedding details and follow-up by email.
- Make an appointment to meet with a pastoral staff member. This appointment will review the process of getting married in our church. **The fee for a wedding at St. John's is \$1,500 paid in two installments: \$750 non-refundable down payment to reserve the wedding date and \$750 due two months before the wedding date.** This fee covers the basic Wedding Music Fee with Dr. Ray Morvant. Any extra musician fees will be charged separately.
- ***Please note: If you cancel your wedding for any reason the down payment is non-refundable.***

What times are available for scheduling our wedding?

Friday –7:30 p.m.

Saturday –10:30am, 2:00 p.m., 7:30 p.m.

In some cases, weddings are also a possibility on another day—except Sundays—if some other parish event has not been previously scheduled.

A reminder that rehearsals and weddings need to start on time. Rehearsals should be held to one hour. The Cathedral will open one hour before wedding. The afternoon weddings need to conclude no later than 4:00 pm to accommodate the 5:00 pm Mass.

NO Weddings scheduled on Sundays, on Christmas Eve, on Holy Days of Obligation, during Lent or the Paschal Triduum, or other designated days.

What about the parish marriage preparation classes?

St. John’s offers a series of six (6) evening presentations on topics directly related to a Christian Married Life. These classes are taught on one night for six consecutive weeks. Cost: \$85 non- refundable fee for these classes, due on or before the first night of classes, paid to the parish office.

How do we get started on the classes?

Register for upcoming sessions by calling the parish office at 342-3511x113, or email guadalupeg@boisecathedral.org or danielg@boisecathedral.org .

"Paperwork": the prenuptial investigation

At least six months before the desired date of marriage, you must schedule a meeting with a priest or deacon who will conduct a “pre-nuptial investigation.” The law of the Church provides certain procedures to determine that a pending marriage is not being coerced and is free from impediments. A “prenuptial investigation” or the "paperwork" consists of gathering documentation / statements from the bride, the groom, and witnesses that testify to freedom from coercion and impediments to the marriage.

The interviewing priest or deacon can and will explain the meaning of these documents. Please bring your baptismal certificate.

Prior marriages

Catholics are bound to follow the discipline of the Church; therefore, a Catholic with only a civil marriage is not a recognized Sacramental union. If you are Catholic and have previously entered a civil marriage with a person other than your current bride or groom, and went through a civil divorce, that “civil marriage” must be declared null and void by the Church. Any prior marriages by either party must be investigated, and it is possible an annulment process will have to take place.

If either bride or groom has secured an annulment through the Church tribunal, simply submit the paperwork associated with that process including the declaration of a freedom to marry.

If you are civilly married to your current bride or groom, we would be happy to celebrate a ceremony for you that the Church calls Convalidation.

What if we cannot do these things?

Please tell us about your circumstance, it could be that unique circumstances can be accommodated.

Choosing a presider

One of the first decisions that a couple should make is choosing the presider. At the Cathedral, for those who are parishioners, our priests and deacons will be happy to assist you in preparing for the wedding. You can always request one of the clergies you feel most comfortable with, or we can assign one of our clergy to assist you.

A wedding can be celebrated as a Nuptial Ceremony within Mass or a Nuptial Ceremony outside of Mass.

Home parish permission

A couple who belong to another parish must seek permission from their own pastor to be married at the Cathedral. Notify us once that permission has been granted.

Visiting priests

If your pastor is in the local area, ask him if he is willing to celebrate the wedding at the Cathedral. You may also ask a deacon from your local parish. Our guidelines for local visiting priests/deacons are:

- The priest/deacon should first ask for delegation approval directly from the Rector. Fr. Mariusz Majewski can be reached at fmariusz@boisecathedral.org or 208-342-3511 x102
- Father Marisuz will let the parish staff know if he has granted delegation.
- The priest/deacon will be responsible for helping you complete paperwork required by the diocese.
- An honorarium or donation to the clergy may be given directly to them.
- The priest/deacon must advise us when the file is complete before the wedding and provide a copy at least two weeks prior to the wedding so that all church certificates can be prepared, signed by delegation and sacramental records created.
- All wedding policies of the Cathedral must be followed, including those governing decorating, availability, cleaning, etc.

If a couple will be inviting a non-local priest from the Diocese of Boise to preside at the wedding, our deacons may be available to help with completing the preparation process if the couple lives in the local area.

If the couple lives outside of the Boise area, they can obtain preparation, and complete necessary paperwork, at their local parish, provided we are aware of what they are doing, and the presider approves.

If the couple will be inviting a priest from outside the Diocese of Boise to preside or concelebrate at the wedding, we must be provided with the name of the priest, his address, his assignment, and the name and address of his superior (Bishop or Religious Superior) as soon as possible after the invitation is made. Our Cathedral staff will take care of seeking permission and a letter of good standing through our Bishop's office, as required by our Diocese.

Changes in assignment

It is possible that, if you are working with one of our Cathedral priests or deacons, their assignment to the parish could change while you are preparing. If a member of the clergy you are working with is no longer available, please be assured that one of our other clergy will step in and complete the process with you.

FAQs

What spaces are available for our use?

In most circumstances, the Cathedral is reserved for the bridal parties' use for decorations and pictures one hour before the wedding, depending upon the day and time of the wedding.

Dressing rooms

Private dressing only available in the restrooms. Parish events may make this unavailable.

May we also use the facilities at the Cathedral for a wedding reception?

Unfortunately, we do not have the facilities at the Cathedral for private receptions after weddings.

How many people does the Cathedral/Chapel hold?

The Cathedral seats 800 people comfortably. The Chapel seats 110+.

Brides and Grooms Party Maximum size: 5 bridesmaids and 5 Groomsmen

If the Cathedral is already booked on the date I want, can I have my wedding in the lower level chapel?

No. We do not schedule ceremonies in both locations at the same time due to constraints on space and staff.

When would our rehearsal be?

Typically, your rehearsal will take place the evening before your wedding at 5:00 p.m.

Marriage license

If your celebration is not a **convalidation** of an existing civil marriage between the two of you, you must purchase a Marriage License in the County Recorder's Office. Please note that a priest or deacon cannot celebrate a marriage without a valid license.

Who should we talk to about music for our wedding?

Because a wedding is a time of prayer as well as a celebration, the Church has extensive guidelines about what is appropriate music for weddings and what music is needed for a celebration of the wedding rites. Dr. Ray Morvant, our parish's music director, will give you guidance as to music requirements. Contact: 342-3511 x 108 [or muzkdr@gmail.com](mailto:muzkdr@gmail.com). Music consultation should be made as early in the process as possible. **Music is included in your fee, which covers Dr. Morvant's involvement in the planning and preparation of music for your wedding.** Guest musicians (You are responsible for this fee) friends and family—are welcome, however, Dr. Morvant must still be consulted as part of the planning process.

Who can be involved in the ceremony?

It is up to you to plan for the following options:

- Readers
- Servers may be Catholic family members or close friends. They should be trained to serve at Mass.
- Gift presenters may be family members or close friends.
- If you are celebrating with a Mass, Eucharistic ministers may be family members, or close friends;
- they must be Catholic and trained Eucharistic Ministers in good standing.
- Musicians and cantors can be provided by the Church; any non-Parish musicians, cantors or soloists must be approved, see section on music.

What do we need to know about Church decorations?

If you wish to have pew bows, they must clip or tie on to the pews (no tape, tacks or nails). Aisle candles and aisle runners of any kind are not allowed. The only candles burning during your wedding will be the four candles around the altar and the two near the tabernacle.

All seasonal church decorations (flowers, banners, liturgical displays) are to remain in place.

In addition, please do not allow the throwing of Fresh or artificial rose petals, rice, birdseed, and confetti, etc. If your guests really want to throw something, have them save it for when you are at the reception venue.

Flowers

Flower arrangements may either be placed on the sides of the altar, or a single arrangement may be placed in front of the altar. (No flower arrangements should ever be placed on the top of the altar) No floral arrangement on pews, altar candles, of any sort fresh or artificial. No outside pros no wagons, etc.

Please incorporate decorations that keep the focus on the sacrament. Keep in mind the liturgical season in which your wedding ceremony will be held. During the Christmas and Easter seasons the church may already be decorated.

Respect for God's house—Proper Behavior

The church is a sacred place. Please refrain from cellular usage, chewing gum, and loud talking, inappropriate language, allowing children to run around in the Cathedral, etc. Smoking and Drinking inside the church building is prohibited.

Attire

Catholic weddings are generally semi-formal. Men should wear a Suit or shirt and tie. Women should wear dresses, skirts or dress slacks. When dressing for a Catholic wedding, female guests should keep in mind that it is proper etiquette to dress modestly.

Alcohol

The clergy presiding at your wedding may refuse to allow the ceremony to occur if the bride, groom has consumed or appears to be under the influence of alcohol or any controlled substance at that time and must refuse if it appears such consumption may invalidate the consent of the parties to the marriage. No alcoholic beverages are allowed on the church grounds.

Clean Up

It is very important that the Cathedral be left clean for the next wedding, mass, or parish event. Plan for cleaning up. All items brought into the church, dressing areas, and parking lot need to be removed promptly at the end of the service. Please leave the parish facilities as you found them.

The Cathedral isn't responsible for lost or stolen items.

GUIDELINES FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS AND VIDEOGRAPHERS IN ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL

All photographers and videographers are expected to treat a couple's sacred ceremony and the historical building that is the Cathedral with the utmost respect.

What do we need to tell those who will be photographing our wedding?

Once the ceremony begins, all photographers/videographers must stay in one place. A more complete list of requirements that can be handed on to your photographer is attached to this document.

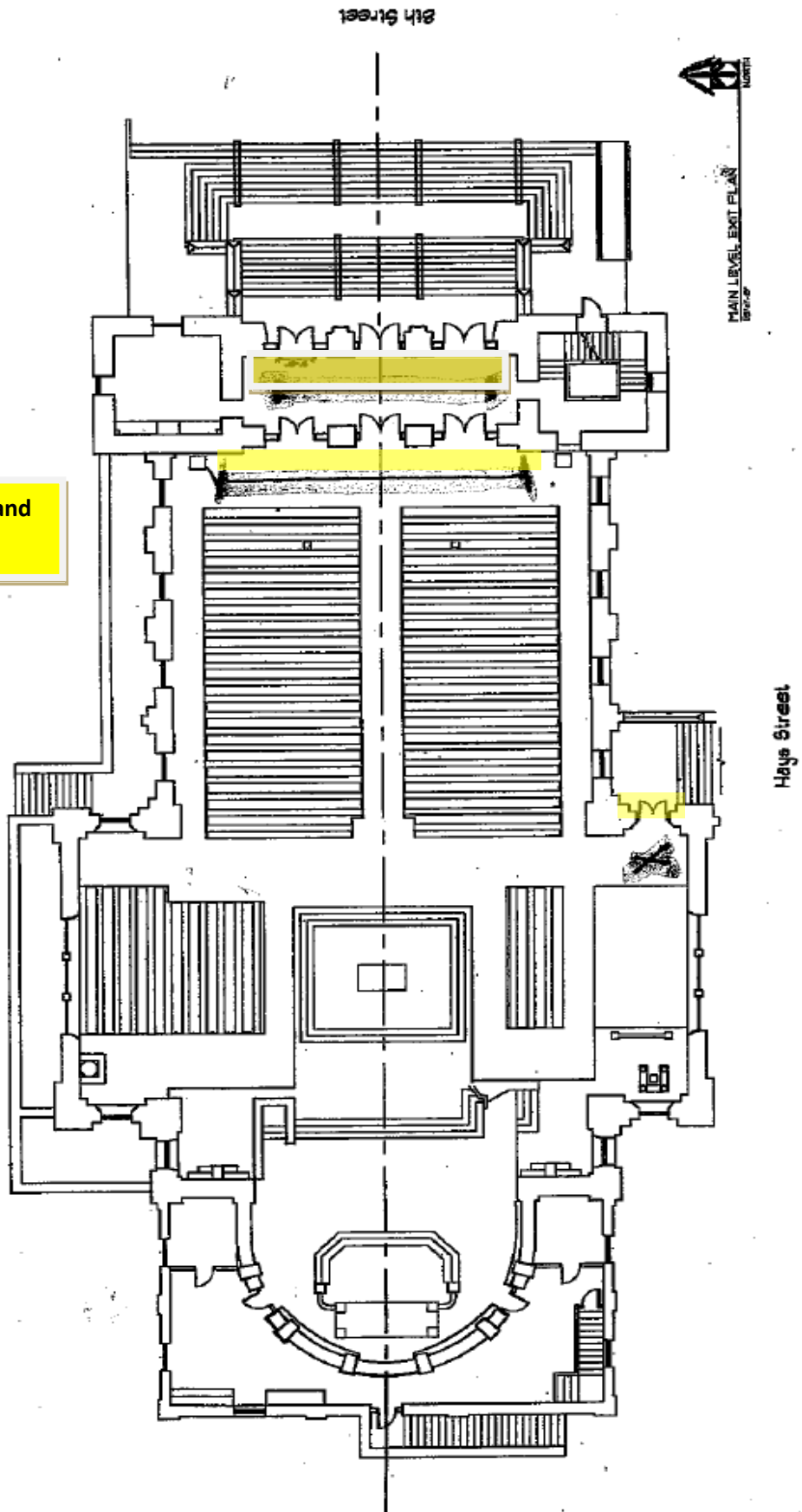
Photographers

- Photographers may take pictures until 30 minutes before the ceremony and must have all their equipment moved from the sanctuary area by 25 minutes before the starting time of the ceremony.
- There should be no movement in the aisles, pews or around the altar during the wedding ceremony.
- Flash photography is not allowed during the wedding ceremony.
- The entrance procession is considered part of the wedding ceremony. Photographers may not take pictures of the procession from the front of the aisle near the altar. Photographers may take pictures from underneath the choir loft as the procession enters the main aisle.
- During the ceremony, photographers may take pictures either from the floor level under the choir loft, or from one of the congregation seating areas in the choir loft. (If the choir loft is used, the photographer should be sure to remove equipment in a timely manner – the organist will lock the loft when he/she leaves.)
- Photographers, videographers and musicians are the only people allowed in the choir loft before, during, or after the wedding.

Videographers

- Videographers may set up stationary equipment in the same areas of the choir loft as photographers. They may also set up stationary equipment near the Hays Street door. Please see diagram on following page.
- Wiring for microphones may not be run to the altar or pulpit areas. Cordless microphones attached to any member of the wedding party or to the pulpit are not allowed, as they may disrupt the microphone system of St. John's.
- The Photographer and videographer are never allowed in the altar area, near the Tabernacle or in front of the assembly. During the exchange of vows and rings the best place the photographer to be in the main aisle behind the assembly taking pictures with zoom, and to leave the isle immediately See map on next page.
- Drone photography is never permitted for any part of the wedding rehearsal or ceremony.

Photographers may only stand in designated areas



St John's Cathedral - Base ID
11/10/18
DVG

The fee for a wedding at St. John's is \$1,500 paid in two installments:

1. \$750 non-refundable down payment to reserve the wedding date
2. \$750 due two months before the wedding date.

This fee covers the basic Wedding Music Fee with Dr. Ray Morvant. Any extra musician fees will be charged separately.

To be considered a registered parishioner, you must be registered at least ONE YEAR prior to your wedding date and contributing to the life of the parish.

Payment options

- Check made payable to St. John's Cathedral and delivered to the parish office at 707 N. 8th St., Boise ID 83702.
- [Pay Online](https://www.osvonlinegiving.com/1290/Home/NewQuickGive) at <https://www.osvonlinegiving.com/1290/Home/NewQuickGive>. Choose "Marriage Fees" under the Fund drop-down menu

What are the addresses that we need to know for the Cathedral?

The address you will want to put on your announcements is:

St. John's Cathedral
807 N. 8th Street
Boise, ID 83702

The address of the parish offices, which you will need for any correspondence:

St. John's Cathedral
707 N. 8th St.
Boise, ID 83702

All couples seeking a wedding at the Cathedral must read and sign these [Wedding Guidelines](#).

By our signatures, we acknowledge that We have read, understand, and agree to the policies and procedures of having Our Wedding here at the Cathedral that we received.

_____ & _____ Date _____
Signatures