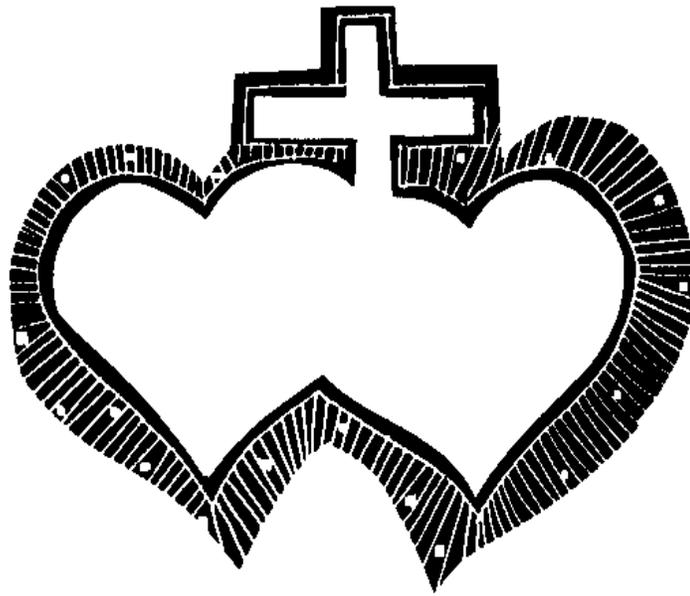


Celebrating the
Sacrament of Marriage
At
St. Michael Catholic Church



3713 Harwood Road
Bedford, TX 76021
817.283.8746
www.smcchurch.org

Celebrating Marriage at St. Michael Catholic Church

Weddings are special and joyful times for brides and grooms, for their families and friends and for the parish community .The new beginning, the love, the promise and hope that weddings are for us make of their celebration a special and grace-filled time in our lives. The church welcomes its members to celebrate and solemnize their weddings in the context of our prayer as Christians. Indeed, so important is marriage in Christian life that it is called a sacrament.

Great care is taken to see that the prayer for this special moment is reverent, graceful, and beautiful and open to the movement of God's Spirit among us. Our celebrations of the sacraments, marriage included, are always rooted in listening to the scriptures so that we can be nourished and strengthened by God's word. Always we celebrate the sacraments as a community .We gather our brothers and sisters in faith and ask for their prayerful support. These celebrations are incomplete unless they are filled with song, with prayerful gestures and with the silence in which we hear the voice of God in our lives.

In this spirit, St. Michael parish provides the following guidelines for celebrating weddings in the building, which shelters the prayer of our community.

United States Catholic Conference of Bishops
Video on Catholic Marriage Liturgy

<http://www.foryourmarriage.org/saying-i-do-what-happens-at-a-catholic-wedding/>

Liturgy of Marriage

General Principles

- All liturgical celebrations in the Roman Catholic Church are communal in nature
- All liturgical celebrations are reflective of the Sunday liturgy
- All liturgical celebrations follow a Book of Rites which particular directions (rubrics)
- All liturgical celebrations that include the celebration of a Sacrament include particular sacramental symbols

Wedding Liturgy

Mass with Celebration of Sacrament

Liturgy of Word with Celebration of Sacrament

- Priest/Deacon
- Availability

Ministers of the Wedding Liturgy

Bride and Groom

Presider (Specific requests for presiders should be made as early as possible)

*Lectors

Musicians

If you are having a Mass:

* Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

**Altar Servers

*The parish can provide qualified Lectors and
commissioned Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Please Note: If the couple is inviting a visiting priest or deacon to witness the marriage they will be asked to follow the guidelines for Marriage provided in this document. The couple should request and send this booklet to any visiting clergyman who must agree to the guidelines within this booklet

The Wedding Procession

General Principles:

- Should reflect unity, equality, inclusiveness
- Is a primary symbol that expresses the sacramental nature of marriage

Forms of the Procession

First Option

Cross Bearer
Book Bearer (Lector)
Presider
Groomsmen - Bridesmaids
Groom's Witness - Bride's Witness
*Parents of Groom Parents of Bride
Bride and Groom
**And/or close Family members/friends*

Second Option

Cross Bearer
Book Bearer (Lector)
Presider
Groomsmen - Bridesmaids
Groom's Witness - Bride's Witness
Mother of Groom - Father
Mother of Bride - Father

CULTURAL CUSTOMS

In some traditions it is customary to include words and gestures that symbolize marriage—Lasso, Arras, Coins in some traditions for example. The unity candle is not recommended by the Bishops of the United States as it is a protestant tradition that can be mistaken for the sacramental symbols in a Catholic marriage—the exchange of vows and rings.

MUSIC

Ordinarily, the music ministers in the parish will provide the music for weddings celebrated in the parish. St. Michael Music Ministers will provide quarterly Wedding Music Recitals so that couples may have the opportunity to hear music that is appropriate for a Roman Catholic wedding. Music that is used in the liturgical celebration must be approved by the Director of Liturgy and Music and must conform to the guidelines for liturgical music in sacramental celebrations.

The communal nature of our liturgy involves music that is accessible to the invited congregation. Because of the ritual nature of the music for weddings, the use of a cantor is required for all wedding celebrations. St. Michael has excellent cantors who will be available to lead the music for your wedding. The Director of Liturgy must approve an outside cantor. Soloists who are not cantors may sing during the prelude time before the liturgy begins.

Music that Accompanies the Procession: One musical selection will accompany the entire wedding procession.

Music fees:

Organist/Pianist- \$200.00 Cantor:\$150.00

Instrumentalists— TBD depending upon instrument(s) and individual musician fees

Additional rehearsal time with outside soloists -\$75.00 /rehearsal

Environment and Floral Issues

- *If the florist is not familiar with St. Michael's we recommend end that they visit the church prior to the wedding.*
- Flowers may be placed to the sides of the altar or at the back of the altar. You may use pedestals (St. Michael has several pairs that you may use). Flowers should be delivered one hour prior to the wedding or if pictures are being taken, one hour prior to photographing. Watertight containers are to be used for flower arrangements and the florist will clean up any spilled liquid. Florists are asked to leave the church in the condition in which they found it. Floral arrangements may be removed after pictures are taken or may be left for the community to enjoy during Sunday liturgy .If you are leaving the flowers for the church, please notify the Director of Liturgy. Pew Bows
- St. Michael's has a variety of pew bows provided at no charge. These will be coordinated with your Wedding Coordinator.

Other Issues:

- Seasonal Environment (especially during Advent/ Christmas and Lent/Easter) may not be removed for weddings.
- Particular sensitivity to the environment is encouraged during the penitential seasons of Advent and Lent.
- The liturgical banners cannot be changed
- Rice, birdseed, flower petals, confetti, and bubbles may not be used inside or outside the church building. There are no exceptions to this rule.
- The use of aisle runners and candelabra are not permitted.

Worship Aid

The purpose of the worship aid is to provide a means for the assembly and guests to participate in song and prayer during the wedding.

It should include:

- Music notations
- Outline of the Service
- Scripture Readings

It may also be used to emphasize the Photography policies (i.e. no flash photography during the service), the inclusion of ministers (bridesmaids, groomsmen, etc.) and directions to the reception. Any worship aid used at St. Michael should be cleared and checked by the Director of Liturgy. A template for the Worship Aid format is available from the Liturgy Office.

Any worship aid, which the couple prepares and distributes, should contain a note asking guests to refrain from taking pictures during the time of prayer.

Photography and Videotaping

Please relay the following information to your professional photographer:

Professional photographers may take Pictures (non-flash) from those vantage points indicated by the Wedding Coordinator. **Photographers will not be free to roam about the sanctuary areas during the celebration of the liturgy for your wedding.** After the celebration, and with respect for the schedule of other weddings or parish masses, the church will be open for the taking of pictures. A time limit of 30 minutes following the wedding is allowed for photographs. If you wish a picture with the presiding minister (priest/ deacon) please schedule that picture first.

Videotape equipment may be set up at those vantage points indicated by the Wedding Coordinator. If used, these cameras must remain in one place throughout the service. No additional lighting may be brought into the church. Any worship aid, which the couple prepares and distributes, should contain a note asking guests to refrain from taking pictures during the time of prayer.

If photographers are not in compliance with our guidelines, they will be asked to refrain from taking pictures.

Wedding Ministry Coordinators

Two wedding coordinators will be assigned to each wedding held at St. Michael. The role of the Wedding coordinator is to be a resource person for the celebration. The Wedding Coordinator has the experience of marriage celebrations here at St. Michael and will be in contact with you early in the process to assist with any questions you may have.

After you have met with the Director of Liturgy and completed your liturgy, she will forward your details to your assigned Coordinator who will contact you and clarify all details. The Coordinator will assist at the rehearsal and the wedding.

Wedding Coordinators will arrive at the church 15 minutes prior to the rehearsal and 1 hour prior to the wedding. **If the wedding coordinator is requested to be earlier than 1 hour prior to the wedding, there will be an additional fee of \$50.00 per half hour to be paid to St. Michael for distribution to the wedding coordinators.**

Other Useful Information

The church provides a padded bench for the couple to be seated on during the Liturgy of the Word. If the couple is having a Mass, a double kneeler is available for the Liturgy of the Eucharist. *During the liturgy, the couple will take the posture of the assembly during the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of Eucharist.*

- The rehearsal may be conducted by someone other than the priest or deacon who is receiving your vows. The priests and deacons appreciate your cooperation with this wedding minister.
- All decisions regarding the Liturgical celebration of your marriage must be made 1 month prior to your wedding. The couple will be responsible for attending the Wedding Music Recital (held quarterly at St. Michael). Each couple should make an appointment to speak with the Director of Liturgy re: their wedding details 1 month before their wedding date.

CHECKLIST FOR THE OFFICE OF LITURGY

Bride's Name _____ Groom's Name _____

Wedding Date _____

_____ Attend the Liturgy Class for Marriage 4-6 months prior to the wedding

_____ Attend the Wedding Music Recital (scheduled 4 times per year)

_____ Schedule meeting 1-2 months before the wedding date with Director of Liturgy to finalize all liturgical issues

_____ Payment of Musician fees must be made when the liturgy is finalized with the Director of Liturgy. **ONCE YOUR LITURGY IS FINALIZED THERE WILL BE NO CHANGES. THE COUPLE WILL BE ASKED TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT WITH REGARD TO THE WEDDING CEREMONY.**

Wedding Fees

Checks Payable to St. Michael Catholic Church unless otherwise noted.

Fees	Amount Pd.	Check#,Cash,CC	Date	Staff Signature
Marriage Prep Fee \$50.00				
Wedding Fee \$500.00				
Cantor Fee \$150.00 Payable to _____				
Accompanist Fee \$200.00 Payable to _____				