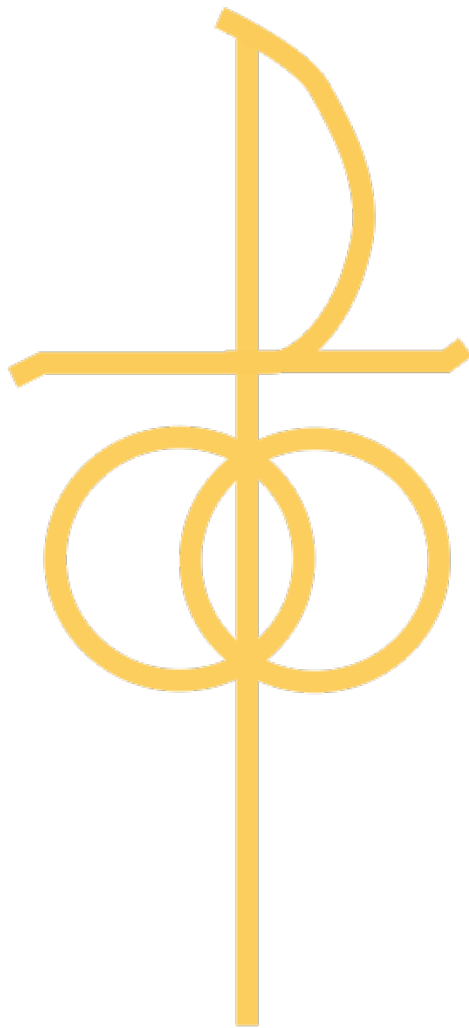


Marriage Preparation Workbook



the parishes of
ST. FRANCIS and ALL SAINTS

Marriage Prep Checklist

- ☐ Start marriage prep process at least 6month in advance
- ☐ Set wedding date with priest
- ☐ Complete Pre-nuptial Interview & Fully Engaged Inventory with priest at first session
- ☐ Read, sign, and return policy agreement form
- ☐ Contact Aana Freihammer to cover wedding day logistics
- ☐ Contact Kathy Binsfeld or Aana Freihammer regarding music choices
- ☐ Complete meetings with mentor couple
- ☐ Attend Weekend for the Engaged
- ☐ Attend Natural Family Planning (NFP) intro session, if not part of Weekend for the Engaged
- ☐ Obtain baptismal certificate(s), if needed
- ☐ Complete Freedom to Marry Affidavits
- ☐ Submit request for use of additional facility space
- ☐ Obtain MN marriage license and return to parish office at least 14 days prior to the wedding (get notarized letter from parish and bring it to courthouse for a discount)
- ☐ Choose readings for ceremony
 - Old Testament..... _____
 - New Testament..... _____
 - Gospel..... _____
- ☐ Wedding programs approved by Aana Freihammer 2 weeks prior to the wedding
- ☐ Inform photographer of church guidelines
- ☐ Appoint someone to clean up bride's room and any other areas used after the wedding
- ☐ Submit any donations & fees prior to the wedding
 - Fee for the use of the church (\$250 parishioner, \$500 non-parishioner)
 - Organist/vocalists fee paid prior to the wedding

Dear Friends,

Congratulations on your engagement! Know that our prayers are with you as you prepare to enter into the lifelong covenant of Holy Matrimony. We hope to help you prepare for a life filled with deep joy and happiness in each other and in Jesus Christ.

There is no more lofty goal that you can have your spouse than to become a means for getting your spouse to heaven. Marriage, like any vocation, is a call to holiness—a call to become the best person that you can be, the person that God made you to be. Through marriage, each of you will become for the other an instrument through which Christ loves, heals, strengthens, and consoles the other. The grace you will receive in the sacrament of marriage is a reflection of—and has its source in—the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Christ, wherein Christ loved His Bride, the Church, to the fullest.

This booklet primarily contains practical content for the day of your wedding. Through this marriage preparation process, however, you will learn more about the Catholic meaning of marriage, what it entails, and how to live it to the fullest.

We commend your marriage preparation to the Holy Family, Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. May you enjoy their intercession and be inspired by their example.

Grace & Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fr. Michael Garry".

Fr. Michael Garry
Pastor of St. Francis, All Saints,
& St. Thomas of the Pines



Wedding Guidelines

Membership

Since Marriage is a Sacrament, it is normally celebrated in the parish where the couple worships. Generally speaking, therefore, at least one couple should have some connection with our parishes since our churches are not simply “rented”. For all other practicing Catholics, wedding requests are considered on a case by case basis.

For those who currently reside outside the Brainerd area, marriage preparation normally takes place at the parish where they currently live. The couple must provide to the parish office in Brainerd confirmation of plans for marriage preparation before their wedding date can be confirmed.

Preparation Procedures

It is diocesan policy that there be at least 6 months of marriage preparation prior to the date of the wedding. This provides the minimum amount of time to complete the Fully Engaged Survey, attend the Weekend for the Engaged (dates for which can be found at our diocesan website: www.dioceseduluth.org/engaged-couples), as well as the Natural Family Planning (NFP) intro session.

Time of the Wedding

All Saturday weddings must begin no later than 2pm, since the clergy and the churches have other liturgical commitments on Saturdays. Evening weddings are normally allowed on Fridays.

It is preferable not to schedule a wedding during the season of Lent on account of its penitential nature. Normally weddings are not celebrated during Holy Week, on Sundays, or on Holy Days of Obligation.

Documents Needed

You will need a Minnesota marriage license issued from the county in which you will be married. Upon completion of the marriage preparation course, the parish that administered the preparation can issue a notarized letter which, when presented to the courthouse, can obtain a discount on the marriage license fee.

For Catholics - a baptismal certificate issued within the last 6 months from the church of baptism. For those baptized at either St. Francis, All Saints, or St. Thomas of the Pines simply ask the parish office to verify the record.

For baptized non-Catholics - a baptismal certificate or another form of proof of baptism. It need not be recent.

Music

As in all Catholic liturgies, music is sung prayer and it plays an integral role in the wedding ceremony. Because the Mass is the public and official prayer of the Church, the words we sing at Mass matter. Song choices must therefore be consistent with the meaning and purpose of the Mass as a whole.

For this reason, while favorite songs that are popular or secular may hold special meaning for the couple, this type of music is not appropriate for the Mass, nor is the use of recorded music.¹ All song/hymn selections must be chosen from an approved Catholic hymnal to ensure the songs are in keeping with the principles of our faith.² Classical music is also permitted (and most often chosen) for the service, especially the entrance procession.

Couples are strongly encouraged to use parish musicians and vocalists. If musicians from outside the parish are hired they are required to contact the church music director as soon as possible (and no later than 3 months prior to the ceremony) to present the music selections for approval. Outside musicians are only approved if they have regularly provided music for Catholic Masses.

Music Directors - (218) 822-4040

All Saints/St. Thomas of the Pines.....Aana Freihammer — afreihammer@blccnorth.org
St. Francis.....Kathy Binsfeld — kbinsfeld@blccnorth.org

As soon as you contact the music director, a music guide will be sent with appropriate music listed for your wedding. *****Failure to contact music directors 3 months prior to the ceremony results in a preset music program.*****

Readers and Readings

Suggested Scripture readings drawn from the marriage rite are included in this booklet. Selections to be made include:

- 1 Old Testament Reading
- 1 New Testament Reading
- 1 Gospel Reading

The priest or deacon will always proclaim the Gospel. There is need of one or two readers for the Old and New Testament readings, as well as the Responsorial Psalm if it is not sung. Ordinarily, non-Catholics are not permitted to proclaim the Scriptures at Mass.³

Copies of the readings will be provided at the ceremony. They will be the same translation, font, and format as seen in this booklet, only larger in size.

¹ Liturgical Music Today, 60

"The liturgy is a complex of signs expressed by living human beings. Music, being preeminent among these signs, ought to be 'live.' While recorded music, therefore, might be used to advantage outside the liturgy as an aid in the teaching of new music, it should, as a norm, never be used within the liturgy to replace the congregation, the choir, the organist or other instrumentalists."

² cf. General Instruction of the Roman Missal, 48

³ Directory for the Application of Principles and Norms on Ecumenism, 133

"The reading of Scripture during a Eucharistic celebration in the Catholic Church is to be done by members of that Church. On exceptional occasions and for a just cause, the Bishop of the diocese may permit a member of another Church or ecclesial Community to take on the task of reader."

Photography

Wedding pictures are to be taken prior to the ceremony. No church furnishings are to be moved. All photography equipment is to be removed from the worship space at least 30min before the ceremony.

Movement by the photographer during the liturgy is to be kept to an absolute minimum. No flash photography may be used during the ceremony.

The Rehearsal

A parish wedding coordinator will conduct the rehearsal, normally the day before the wedding around 5pm. Plan on it lasting around 1hr. All members of the wedding are to be present. If someone must be absent, another person may stand in his or her place and instruct the absentee prior to the wedding. Musicians are not usually needed at the rehearsal, but they may practice before the rehearsal begins if they so choose.

To coordinate the rehearsal, please call Aana Freihammer at (218) 822-4040.

After the Wedding

The wedding party is responsible for removing all items brought into the church facilities (decorations, boxes, etc) and placing all litter in waste baskets. Someone should be placed in charge of making sure the Bride's room is left clean, no forgotten items are left behind, and any additional decorations are removed from the church itself.

If any kind of food or beverage is brought into the building before the wedding, it can be placed and consumed only in the parish social hall. No alcoholic beverages allowed. Absolutely no food or drink in the church proper.

Fees and Donations

A donation is normally given to the church where the wedding is celebrated. For parishioners, it is \$250, for non-parishioners, it is \$500. This donation should be made prior to the wedding, preferably when the marriage license is dropped off at the parish office (2 weeks before the wedding). Additionally, you may choose to make an offering to the celebrating clergy.

Wedding Liturgy Outline

Within Mass	Without Mass
Prelude music Processional	Prelude music Processional
INTRODUCTORY RITES	INTRODUCTORY RITES
Sign of Cross and Greeting Gloria Opening Prayer	Sign of Cross and Greeting Opening Prayer
LITURGY OF THE WORD	LITURGY OF THE WORD
First Reading Responsorial Psalm Second Reading Gospel Homily	First Reading Responsorial Psalm Second Reading Gospel Homily
RITE OF MARRIAGE	RITE OF MARRIAGE
Statement of Intention Consent and Exchange of Vows Blessing and Exchange of Rings Prayer of the Faithful	Statement of Intention Consent and Exchange of Vows Blessing and Exchange of Rings Prayer of the Faithful
LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST	Lord's Prayer Nuptial Blessing
Preparation of the Altar and Gifts Eucharistic Prayer Lord's Prayer Nuptial Blessing Sign of Peace Communion Hymn	CLOSING RITE
CLOSING RITE	Final Blessing and Dismissal Introduction of Couple Recessional
Final Blessing and Dismissal Introduction of Couple Recessional	

Guidelines for Receiving Holy Communion

For Catholics

As Catholics, we fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist when we receive Holy Communion. We are encouraged to receive Communion devoutly and frequently. In order to be properly disposed to receive Communion, participants should not be conscious of grave sin and normally should have fasted for one hour. A person who is conscious of grave sin is not to receive the Body and Blood of the Lord without prior sacramental confession except for a grave reason where there is no opportunity for confession. In this case, the person is to be mindful of the obligation to make an act of perfect contrition, including the intention of confessing as soon as possible (canon 916). A frequent reception of the Sacrament of Penance is encouraged for all.

For Our Fellow Christians

We welcome our fellow Christians to this celebration of the Eucharist as our brothers and sisters. We pray that our common baptism and the action of the Holy Spirit in this Eucharist will draw us closer to one another and begin to dispel the sad divisions which separate us. We pray that these will lessen and finally disappear, in keeping with Christ's prayer for us "that they may all be one" (Jn 17:21).

Because Catholics believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is a sign of the reality of the oneness of faith, life, and worship, members of those churches with whom we are not yet fully united are ordinarily not admitted to Holy Communion. Eucharistic sharing in exceptional circumstances by other Christians requires permission according to the directives of the diocesan bishop and the provisions of canon law (canon 844 §4). Members of the Orthodox Churches, the Assyrian Church of the East, and the Polish National Catholic Church are urged to respect the discipline of their own Churches. According to Roman Catholic discipline, the Code of Canon Law does not object to the reception of Communion by Christians of these Churches (canon 844 §3).

For Those Not Receiving Holy Communion

All who are not receiving Holy Communion are encouraged to express in their hearts a prayerful desire for unity with the Lord Jesus and with one another.

For Non-Christians

We also welcome to this celebration those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ. While we cannot admit them to Holy Communion, we ask them to offer their prayers for the peace and the unity of the human family.

WEDDING POLICY AGREEMENT FORM

I have read and understand the wedding preparation procedures as well as the policies for wedding ceremonies as laid out in the Wedding Preparation Booklet.

I agree to comply with these policies and procedures.

Bride's Signature

Groom's Signature

Date

Please sign and return to the Parish Office.