

# **HOLY ROSARY CHURCH**

## **ST. AMANT, LA 647-5321**

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

#### **1. *Who performs the ceremony?***

The bride and groom are the ministers of the Sacrament of Matrimony. The Church requires that a priest or deacon and two competent witnesses participate in the wedding ceremony. Priests not working at Holy Rosary may officiate at weddings with approval of the pastor at Holy Rosary. Non-catholic ministers may also participate in the wedding ceremony, also with permission. Questions about other issues concerning the officiates at the wedding ceremony should be directed to the pastor at Holy Rosary.

**NOTE:** Guest priest from outside the State of Louisiana must have clearance from their Bishop and Chanceries. It is expected that the procedure for this clearance is begun at the time the registration form is submitted to Holy Rosary.

\*\*\*This clearance must be sent to the Diocese of Baton Rouge  
Chancery, P.O. Box 2028 Baton Rouge, LA 70821. The Baton  
Rouge Chancery will then inform Holy Rosary that the visiting  
Priest is cleared to perform the wedding.\*\*\*

#### **2. *Is a mass required for my wedding?***

Since the bride and groom are ministers of the Sacrament, the marriage ritual is full and complete in itself. If both parties are catholic, they may include mass along with the ritual ceremony. If one party is not catholic, it is the policy of the Diocese of Baton Rouge that the marriage ceremony can take place without a mass.

#### **3. *Where can my wedding take place?***

The policy of the Diocese of Baton Rouge is that the wedding takes place in the parish church of either the bride or groom. Garden or home weddings are not permitted.

If one of the parties is not catholic, permission may be obtained for the wedding to be celebrated in that church. Check with the pastor for further details.

Also, note that it is the responsibility of the bride and groom to provide for cleaning the church if necessary and removal of decorations immediately after the wedding. The church is not responsible for any items left after a wedding.

Finally, please DO NOT bring the guest registry to church for signatures by guests. Our lobby is too small and the congestion can be great.

**4. *When can I schedule a marriage ceremony?***

A wedding usually takes place on Friday evening either at 7:00pm or 7:30pm or Saturday no later than 12:00 noon. We do not schedule weddings during Lent or Advent.

**5. *When can I schedule the rehearsal?***

Rehearsals can be scheduled at any time before the wedding subject to the availability of the church and parish wedding coordinator. It is the responsibility of the couple to schedule the rehearsal. Rehearsals are usually held within one to two weeks of the wedding.

**6. *What does it cost?***

There is a \$250.00 fee for parishioners, payable to Holy Rosary Parish in full with the marriage application. This fee is for church rental/utilities, wedding coordinator and the pre-marital preparation with the marriage sponsor couple (the fee does not include any Diocesan charges for marriage preparation). However, if you choose to not use the services of the wedding coordinator, the fee is \$150 for parishioners.

**7. *Are there any guidelines about flowers, etc.?***

Live flowers and greenery are beautiful and appropriate. According to the Bishops of the United States, objects used for church environment should be genuine and appropriate. Therefore, **NO ARTIFICIAL FLOWERS OR GREENERY** may be used in the sanctuary. Flower girls dropping petals down the aisle is not permitted. Flowers or greenery may be hung on the pews (not taped or stapled). Please do not place any plant or flower arrangement in front of or on the altar table. Remember that less is best both visually and financially! Please consider liturgical seasons such as Christmas and Easter when planning the decor of your wedding. This is because the Liturgy Committee works hard to decorate the church for Sunday Eucharist and their decorations may not be taken down or disassembled. **ANY DECORATIONS, SUCH AS FLOWERS OR GREENERY OR WEDDING PROGRAMS, MUST BE REMOVED IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE WEDDING.** Also, runners are not allowed down the center aisle of the church. If you have any questions regarding liturgical decor, please contact the Parish Office.

**8. *Are there guidelines about candles?***

Holy Rosary is a wooden structure. Therefore, due to fire code and insurance requirements, the only candles used are the church sanctuary candles. The unity

candle may be used, but is not provided by the church. The florist usually can provide this if the couple wishes to use it. Please make sure the candle is dripless and a drop cloth is provided as well. No arches are permitted.

9. *When can I prepare the Church building for my wedding ceremony?*

The Parish Office is open on Fridays from 8:00am-12:00 noon. You may set up beginning at 11:00am on Friday, as the church is cleaned on Friday mornings.

You will need to contact the Parish Office the day before the wedding to see if there is a funeral in the church the morning of your wedding. If there is, the set up time will be after 1:00pm.

10. *What about photographers and/or video tapes?*

Photographers and videographers are not allowed in the sanctuary during the ceremony but may take pictures and tape from the sides. We require photographers and videographers to dress appropriately for the wedding.

11. *How many attendants may I have?*

There is no limit to the number of attendants. However, we ask that you be reasonable with that number.

12. *Are there any guidelines for selecting music at my wedding?*

Yes. Music is an important part of any wedding liturgy. There is an abundance of tasteful and inspiring wedding music available for a catholic wedding, and Holy Rosary Church has available musicians and singers. Holy Rosary Church follows the Guidelines For Catholic Wedding Music as given in our Diocese. The priest preparing the couple will provide these Guidelines. As part of the wedding preparation, couples will discuss the choice of music with the priest preparing them. Please note that the choice of musical texts is to be discussed with the priest even if the couple chooses other musicians for their wedding. If the services of musicians and singer are needed, the couple will be responsible for contacting them and paying them.

If you will be using musicians who are not on Holy Rosary's list of referred musicians, please contact Holy Rosary's Music Director, Mrs. Sherri Anderson Houpy, at [HolyRosaryMusic@gmail.com](mailto:HolyRosaryMusic@gmail.com) at least six weeks before the wedding.

Musicians from outside the Holy Rosary Church Parish approved list will require a \$35 fee paid to Holy Rosary for setting up of the microphones etc. at the time of the actual wedding. The usual parts of the service are to be sung as required by the Roman missal, at all times e.g., Responsorial Psalm, Alleluia, Holy Holy,

**Eucharistic acclamation (Christ has died), Amen & Lamb of God. The Communion Song may not be a solo but one that provides for the assembly as it processes forward at communion time. This is required by the new Roman Missal of 2010 given by the Vatican.**

**13. *Are altar servers necessary?***

**Altar servers may be used, but are not absolutely necessary for a wedding. If you wish to have altar servers, you may choose a relative or two to serve. Please check with the priest about this.**

**14. *Do I need to send the civil parish marriage license to the Clerk of Court?***

**No, all civil license will be sent to the proper civil authorities by the secretary of Holy Rosary.**

**15. *When the marriage rite is celebrated within the Eucharist/ Mass, how many communion ministers will I need?***

**At a wedding celebrated by a priest usually 2 Eucharistic Ministers are sufficient. They will be cup ministers. In the Diocese of Baton Rouge all masses celebrated are required to offer communion under both the body and blood of Christ.**