

The Sacrament Of



Holy Matrimony



THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN EAST SAINT JAMES PARISH

Mail: PASTORAL CENTER : P.O. Box 129, Paulina, LA 70763

Phone: 225-869-5751 Fax: 225-869-4166

Locations :

St. Joseph Church – 2130 Rectory St., Paulina, LA 70763

St. Michael the Archangel Church – 6476 Hwy 44, Convent, LA, 70723

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Church – 616 Main St., Gramercy, LA 70052

Our Lady of Prompt Succor Chapel – 2530 LA Ave., Lutcher, LA, 70071

“So they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, no human being must separate.” (Mk 10:8-9)

Welcome!

On behalf of the people of East St. James Parish, welcome to the Catholic Churches of St. Michael, St. Joseph, Sacred Heart, and Our Lady of Prompt Succor Chapel!

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us: “On the threshold of his public life Jesus performs his first sign - at his mother's request - during a wedding feast. The Church attaches great importance to Jesus' presence at the wedding at Cana. She sees in it the confirmation of the goodness of marriage and the proclamation that thenceforth marriage will be an efficacious sign of Christ's presence.” (Catechism, 1613)

Our Church further teaches that the Sacrament of Matrimony is by God's will an indissoluble bond between husband and wife, established for their mutual enrichment and open to the gift of children. It is truly a sacred Covenant: the bond of the couple to each other; the couple bound to Christ; and finally with the whole of the Church.

This is what you now seek to experience. That is why we look forward to this journey with you, caring for you during your time of preparation, and into that Covenant of love between yourselves, Christ, and His Church. May our Lord Jesus Christ, along with our Blessed Mother, Mary, watch over and guide you through this most precious time.

God bless you now and always,

Fr. Lazaru Panthagani

Preparations for your upcoming wedding at St. Michael, St. Joseph, Sacred Heart, and Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Churches



Spiritual Preparation

Regular attendance at Mass. One of the best forms of preparation for an engaged couple is to attend Mass together regularly during the months preceding their wedding. This is a particularly important opportunity, especially if the couple needs to reconnect to the active practice of their faith so that they will be ready to receive fully the grace of the Sacrament of Matrimony.

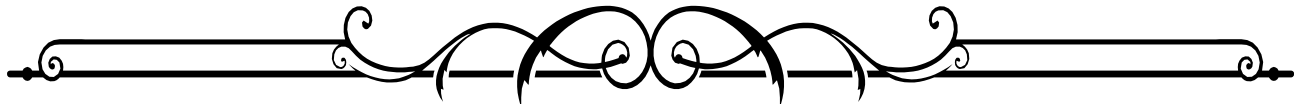
Participation in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It is anticipated that each Catholic before his/her wedding will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This is necessary spiritual preparation for Matrimony just as it is for First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Besides the graces of pardon and peace which are imparted, this Sacrament promotes virtuous behavior necessary in marriage, such as promptly and humbly seeking and offering forgiveness.

Diocesan Policies

Length of preparation. It is a requirement throughout the State of Louisiana that a period of marriage preparation not less than six (6) months be completed before a wedding will be celebrated in the Catholic Church. We are happy that you are beginning this process!

Times for the Wedding Ceremony. As of February 23, 2021, weddings in the Diocese of Baton Rouge can be celebrated any day of the week, Saturday evenings and Sundays included. However, *we will not change the Sunday or Holy Day Mass schedule* to accommodate wedding date, time, or location requests. Likewise, the Pastor will only be available when not obliged to the existing Mass schedule.

Interfaith Marriages. The Diocesan policy recommends that a wedding celebrated between a Catholic and non-Catholic should be celebrated without Mass because intercommunion is not permitted. Any particular concerns should be discussed with the priest who will be the Celebrant of the Sacrament.



First Step

Any couple planning a wedding must first contact the Pastoral Center, (225) 869-5751, to obtain our wedding policies packet. This packet is also available on the parish website, (you are reading now). As a couple, you must read our policy, both sign the agreement sheet showing your acceptance of all the terms, and return the signed letter as soon as possible. Once the signed Letter of Agreement (Form #1) is returned, our Wedding Preparation Coordinator, Mrs. Tina Roques [hereafter "WPC"], will reserve (as tentative) the date, time, and location you request for your wedding. A down payment of \$200, is due at this time. You should also name the priest or deacon you choose to officiate at your ceremony.

If you choose a priest or deacon from outside this cluster, you must present your intended celebrant a copy of our wedding policy packet. He should contact the local pastor to review policies, ask any questions, obtain permission to prepare the couple and celebrate the wedding, and learn the procedure to receive canonical delegation to celebrate the wedding.

The WPC will assist you by (1) beginning to fill out the Pre-Nuptial Inquiry Form, (2) administer the pre-marital FOCCUS survey, and (3) help you to choose one of the available "Pre-Cana" preparation programs approved by the Diocese of Baton Rouge.

First meeting with the Wedding Ceremony Coordinator

Each couple will be assigned a Wedding *Ceremony* Coordinator [hereafter "coordinator"] who will contact you to begin the liturgy planning for your wedding. *See the Liturgy Planning Sheets below, Form #5, pp.1-3.* You should meet with your assigned coordinator early in the preparation process. She will assist you in making decisions about your ceremony. The coordinator will review the guidelines; she can conduct a tour of the facilities; and she will answer any questions you might have. She knows what decorations work well for wedding ceremonies at these churches and will gladly discuss this with the couple, or any other family member(s) if necessary. Unique requests must be reviewed by the local pastor and require his approval.

Meetings with the Priest / Deacon

Whichever priest or deacon each couple chooses to perform the wedding ceremony is responsible for the marriage preparation process. In particular that means (1) completing the Pre-Nuptial Inquiry Form begun by the WPC, (2) reviewing with you the results of the FOCCUS survey, and (3) conversing with you about the "Pre-Cana" program. The celebrant should also assist by discussing any concerns and help you to choose the Scripture readings and ceremony prayers. It is expected that the readings and prayers chosen will express your faith in God as well as your love for one another. *Any variation from liturgically recommended scriptures and prayers must be approved as soon as possible by the local pastor, not merely by the priest or deacon celebrating your wedding.*

Final Steps

When the preparation process is complete, the priest or deacon (while keeping a photocopy for himself) should return the entire ORIGINAL wedding file (including the signed, dated, and parish stamped Inquiry Form, any official Baptism certificates, the Pre-Cana certificate, the FOCCUS survey review, and the liturgical forms) to the WPC. It is recommended this be returned approximately *three months* before the date of the wedding.

Please note: If the priest or deacon is from outside the Diocese of Baton Rouge, the completed file must be submitted to his own (arch)diocesan chancery for approval. That chancery, in turn, will submit the file to the chancery of the Diocese of Baton Rouge. Upon this chancery's approval, the file will be delivered to the pastor of the local cluster. Because of these extra required procedures, please allow an extra month (four months total) for this to take place.



Weddings are Scheduled:

The WPC will work with each couple to schedule the date, time, and place for each wedding. *No other services or venues, (such as photographer or reception hall), should be booked before knowing if the date and time fit the existing Church schedule.*

Respect for the Church

As all people would expect, food and drinks are not allowed in the church. Men are not to wear hats or caps indoors. Women are to dress respectfully for the House of God. Proper behavior for this sacred place is appropriate. The zero tolerance for alcohol, drugs, and gum chewing is in effect for both the rehearsal and wedding.

The Rehearsal

Scheduling and length of time. The WPC and celebrant must be consulted to schedule the rehearsal. This should be done well before the anticipated date. Rehearsals are intended to last one hour. Rehearsals are generally within the week before the wedding, more probably the day before. The more prepared a couple is – knowing how they want family and attendants to enter – the less likely the rehearsal will need to last longer.



Promptness. Please be prompt for the rehearsal. If someone cannot attend, another person should practice in his or her place, and instruct the absent person on what is expected.

The civil license is usually signed at the rehearsal. Couples are responsible for obtaining their own civil license from the Clerk of Court's office. Any civil parish in Louisiana can issue a license to be used here in St. James Civil Parish. Once the civil license is obtained, (not more than 30 days ahead, but at least 24 hours prior to the ceremony), it should be brought to the ceremony celebrant, who in turn will ensure that it is signed and placed in the Pre-Nuptial File for the WPC to return to the appropriate Clerk of Court's office.

Witnesses. Normally the Best Man and the Maid (Matron) of Honor sign as witnesses. Each must be at least eighteen (18) years of age; if not, then please designate another person to sign.



Decorating

Experience teaches that there is no need for elaborate decorations – indeed, these can overpower the sacredness of the ceremony and distract from the bride and groom who are rightfully the center of attention. Beautiful simplicity is a sign of faith: it properly stresses **what is taking place** rather than **“how it looks.”** We strongly suggest that **“Less is best!”** Anything beyond the norm must be reviewed by the local pastor well in advance. Last minute requests will likely be disapproved.

Due to the fact that our sanctuaries are confined spaces, extra decorations could be hazardous. Floral arrangements in the sanctuary are generally limited to two (2). No arrangements or candelabra are allowed on the floors in the sanctuary. The only extra candles to be allowed are the candelabra that all three churches have which you may use at no charge. Please check with the wedding coordinator for their proper placement. The Altar (table) itself must remain clear of any added adornment. It is reserved for the celebration of the Eucharist.

The wedding coordinator will explain fully the church’s policies about decorations for your wedding. *Even though other churches or wedding sites may allow some other types of decorations or activities, our space is unique in its configuration so decisions about what is appropriate or not are in the hands of our parish’s wedding coordinator.* Any decorations brought to the wedding beyond those agreed upon ahead of time will be removed before the ceremony begins.

Please make sure that you have someone responsible to remove any decorations (flowers, plants, stands, candles, etc.) and debris. This should be done *immediately* after the ceremony.

Aisle runner, cloth or candles. Aisle runners or aisle cloths are not allowed at weddings in our churches. **No candles,** with or without globes, or “flameless,” are allowed down the center aisle. These can be dangerous for your attendants and guests.

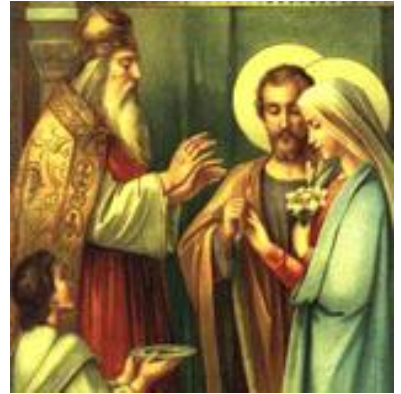
Restricted areas for flowers. To prevent clutter or possible accidents, window ledges, doors and doorways, and columns outside/inside the church are not to be decorated. Flower petals are not to be dropped on the church floor or aisle.

Alcohol and drug policy. Our parishes have a zero-tolerance policy on the use of, or being under the influence of, alcohol or drugs at the rehearsal and ceremony. The couple must sign the agreement and bring it back to the WPC. If the Church Hall is used for the reception, alcohol may be served in accordance with the agreement signed for the rental of the facility. Illegal drugs are always prohibited on the church property.

Attendants and children in the wedding party. The number of attendant couples should be reasonable. Including the Maid/Matron of Honor and Best Man, the number of couples **are not exceed seven (7).** This number does not include ring bearers / flower girls / junior bridesmaids / mini-bride. You are allowed a total of three (3): either ring bearers, flower girls, junior bridesmaids, or mini-bride. However, these children process in and go directly into the pews; they are not to stand at the sanctuary. They cannot be younger than 4 years of age or older than 12 years of age. It is too difficult for younger ones to be part of the procession. Any exceptions will need to be approved by the local pastor after consultation with the priest or deacon celebrant of the wedding.



Ministers involved with the Liturgy. Priests and deacons at their assigned churches are generally available to celebrate weddings. A Catholic priest or deacon who is a family member or close friend of the couple may celebrate the ceremony with proper delegation from the local pastor.



Other ministers (Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Altar Servers) needed for the ceremony may be persons who have served within that ministry in their own Catholic parish church. Please discuss these ministers with your celebrant and WPC as soon as possible.

- Ministers needed for weddings with a Mass:
 - One (1) or two (2) Readers
 - Two (2) Offertory Gift Bearers
 - Eucharistic Ministers (check with celebrant)
 - Two - Four (2 - 4) Ushers
 - One (1) or two (2) Altar Servers
- Ministers needed for weddings without a Mass:
 - One (1) or two (2) Readers
 - Two - Four (2 - 4) Ushers
 - One (1) or two (2) Altar Servers



Music, photography, and videography

Proper attire. It is expected that all musicians, photographers and videographers dress appropriately for being in the church.

Appropriate music for a Catholic ceremony. It is your responsibility to obtain approval of the music and musician(s) within a month or two after your first meeting with the WPC.

A form is provided to fill out with the necessary information. A list of music is also provided so you can make the proper choices before meeting with your coordinator.

If you have a particular request concerning music or another musician for the wedding, you must consult with the WPC. Outside musicians must be familiar with the norms used in Catholic ceremonies, which includes the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Live music only, not recorded music. Vocalists and other musicians may not play tapes, CD's, or other recordings even to assist with their performance. It is expected that musicians and vocalists will use their own talents in playing or singing. **“Recorded music lacks the authenticity provided by a living liturgical assembly gathered for the Sacred Liturgy,”** (*Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship*, 93.)

Guests are not allowed to take pictures or video. Even though guests may wish to take their own photos or videos, experience teaches us this often interferes with the hired professionals. Please inform your family and friends to respect your desire to have only professionals or selected individuals photographing and/or recording your ceremony.



Movement by photographers and videographers. They are not allowed in the sanctuary (or steps leading to) or the side chapels at any time. Professionals may move about freely during the entrance and recessional processions. For the ceremony proper, it is imperative that professionals remain non-invasive or distracting and maintain only discrete movement during the ceremony. For instructions about the specifics, number of photographers, and set-up, please contact your wedding coordinator as soon as possible.

Please, no flash photography during the ceremony, (it is seriously distracting), and NO picture taking during the Eucharistic Prayer and Consecration.

Length of time for photography after the ceremony. The church will be available for 30 minutes after the ceremony for posed photographs.

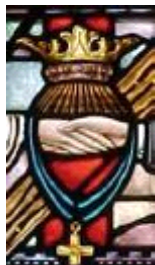


Church Fees

The fees for Church and Parish Hall / Center must be paid in full to the WPC at least three (3) months prior to the wedding date. These fees must accompany your contract with the church and should be signed in the Pastoral Center with the Secretary or the WPC herself.

- **Church Fees:**
 - \$500.00 Church use fee for parishioners (bride or groom resides in the parish)
 - \$750.00 Church use for non-parishioners (neither party reside locally)
- **Parish Hall / Center:** This is a separate contract available at the Pastoral Center.
- **Suggested Stipends:** (to be given at the time of the rehearsal or wedding)
 - \$100.00 Wedding Coordinator (Payable directly to assigned coordinator)
 - \$100.00 Celebrant stipend (Payable directly to the priest or deacon)
 - \$ 10.00 Altar server stipend (**cash only** in separate envelope)

Forms attached: 1) Letter of Agreement 2) Zero Tolerance Agreement
3) Decoration Norms 4) Photography Norms 5) Liturgical Plans



Letter of Agreement

We, (bride) _____ and
(groom) _____, who will be married at

either St. Michael, St. Joseph, Sacred Heart, or Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church
(circle appropriate church)

on (date) _____ at (time) _____,

with Reverend / Deacon _____ as the officiating (priest or deacon),

have **read and accepted the policies for our marriage preparation**, including but not limited to the preparation process, 3rd parties (both direct/indirect parties), the rehearsal, up to and including the celebration of the **Sacrament of Holy Matrimony**.

We also agree to share this information with our families, and with those with whom we have contracted or arranged for necessary services for the wedding (including but not limited to the florists, photographers, musicians, decorators, videographers, etc.) so that they will be familiar with the guidelines and will follow them, as pertinent to their unique responsibilities for our wedding.

We also agree to meet and go over with our wedding coordinator any questions concerning decorations **before** our wedding date. We agree to have the florist of our choice sign the contract and return said contract to the church three (3) months before our wedding date. We understand that existing decorations in the church may not be moved or removed. We also understand that our decorations are to be limited and not to be done in extreme.

We agree to prepare spiritually for our wedding, by regular attendance at weekend Mass during the whole period of marriage preparation, and by celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation before the ceremony as necessary.

Signatures:

Bride _____ Groom _____

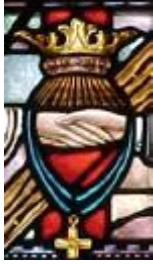
Cell Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Residence Address _____ Residence Address _____

City, ST Zip: _____ City, ST Zip: _____

Present date: _____

(Two (2) copies are to be signed: one to be placed in the Pre-Nuptial file, and one to be kept by the Bride and Groom.)



Zero Tolerance Agreement on Alcohol and Drugs

We, (bride) _____ and
(groom) _____, who will be married at

either St. Michael, St. Joseph, Sacred Heart, or Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church
(circle appropriate church)

on (date) _____ at (time) _____,

with Reverend / Deacon _____ as the officiating (priest or deacon),

agree to be bound by St. Michael, St. Joseph, Sacred Heart, and Our Lady of Prompt Succor

Church's policy of Zero Tolerance of Alcoholic Beverages and Drugs, as follows:

We understand that if anyone involved with our wedding brings any alcoholic beverages or drugs onto any of the aforementioned church's property, either at the rehearsal or on the wedding day, or if anyone is intoxicated before either the rehearsal or the wedding ceremony, the wedding is subject to be cancelled. We understand that our wedding party and guests will be asked to leave, that the church will be closed, and that the wedding will be cancelled.

We also agree to share this information with our families, and with those in the wedding party, so that they will be familiar with this policy and will follow it.

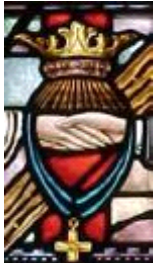
If we rent a facility for our reception on either of aforementioned church's grounds, we agree to be bound by the policies in the rental agreement in regard to alcohol and drugs.

We have read this policy, and agree to be bound by it (Signatures:)

Bride _____ Groom _____

Present date: _____

(Two (2) copies are to be signed: one to be placed in the Pre-Nuptial file, and one to be kept by the Bride and Groom.)



Decoration Norms

(Please give a copy of this sheet to your florist / decorator, whether private or professional, who will be involved in decorating the church for your wedding.)

We welcome you to St. Michael, St. Joseph, Sacred Heart, or Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church, and are happy that the bridal couple have chosen you to enhance their ceremony. The following norms will help you in the decorating plan and help assure that we are all working together for a beautiful ceremony in the Catholic tradition.

General Norms. Experience teaches that there is no need for elaborate decorations – indeed, these can overpower the sacredness of the ceremony and distract from the bride and groom who are rightfully the center of attention. Beautiful simplicity is a sign of faith: it properly stresses **what is taking place** rather than **“how it looks.”** We strongly suggest that **“Less is best!”**

Our wedding coordinator knows what works well in our church, especially because decorations for the church do change in the course of the liturgical year. She can explain the church’s policies about decorations for weddings. *Even though other churches or wedding sites may allow some other types of decorations or activities, this space is unique in its configuration so decisions about what is appropriate or not are in the hands of our wedding coordinator.* Any decorations brought to the wedding beyond those agreed upon ahead of time will most likely need to be removed before the ceremony begins. Unique requests require the approval of the local pastor well in advance of the ceremony.

Wedding in special church seasons. When weddings are held in a season with its own proper decorations (such as the seasons of Advent, Christmas, or Easter), the wedding party must use the decorations in place.

The Sanctuary and the Altar. Due to the fact that our sanctuaries are confined spaces, extra decorations could be hazardous. Floral arrangements in the Sanctuary are generally limited to two (2). No arrangements or candelabras allowed on the floors in the sanctuary. The only extra candles to be allowed are the candelabras that all three churches have which you may use at no charge. Please check with the wedding coordinator for their proper placement. The Altar (table) itself must remain clear of any added adornment. It is reserved for the celebration of the Eucharist. Kneelers will be placed in the sanctuary for the Bride and the Groom. The Best Man and Maid (Matron) of Honor may remain in the sanctuary, also with kneelers, if requested.

Aisle runner, cloths or candles. Aisle runners or aisle cloths are not allowed for weddings in these churches. **No candles,** with or without globes, or “flameless,” are allowed down the center aisle. These can be dangerous for your attendants and guests.

Pew markers. Pew markers must be clipped on or tied on. Anything which might disfigure the pews are prohibited. *If damage is discovered, the couple will be billed for the cost of repairs.*

Unity Candles. NO LONGER ALLOWED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.

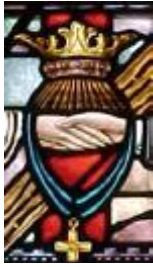
Signatures:

Present date: _____

Bride / Groom _____

Florist / Decorator _____

(Three (3) copies are to be signed: one for the Pre-Nuptial file, one for Bride and Groom, one for the Decorator.)



Norms for Photography and Videography

(Please give a copy of this sheet to your photographer and/or videographer who will be involved in your wedding so that they will know well in advance what is expected.)

We welcome you to St. Michael, St. Joseph, Sacred Heart, or Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church, and are happy that the bridal couple have chosen you to enhance their ceremony. The following norms will make you more comfortable and help assure that we are all working together for a beautiful ceremony in the Catholic tradition.

Appropriate attire. Please note that photographers and videographers must be dressed appropriately for being in the church.

Movement by photographers and videographers. Professionals may move about freely during the entrance and recessional processions. For the ceremony proper, it is imperative that professionals remain non-invasive or distracting and maintain only discrete movement during the ceremony. Please check with the wedding coordinator about the specifics of photography / videography. She will instruct videographers where they can set up. **No one is allowed in the sanctuary, the side chapels, or on the steps leading up to the sanctuary.**

The Sanctuary is to be respected by photographers and videographers. Again, please refrain from entering this area throughout the ceremony. Pictures during the ceremony must be taken from outside the Sanctuary.

In reverence to the sacredness of the Blessed Sacrament, pictures are not allowed during the Liturgy of the Eucharist (while the priest is standing/praying behind the altar).

Please be advised that there can be only **ONE moving** photographer taking pictures during the ceremony. Two photographers may be active for pictures before and/or after the ceremony.

Flash photography during the ceremony is not allowed. Flash may be used for entrance and recessional processions, but is not allowed in the ceremony proper.

Furnishings and decorations in the church. How the church and sanctuary are accounted and/or decorated is to be respected. Photographers are not to move or remove **any** items or decorations to facilitate particular photographs. Please be aware of the seasons of the Church year and how these affect the arrangements and movements during the ceremony so there will be no questions arising over this matter.

Procession of wedding party. At the proper time, the wedding coordinator will begin the procession and ceremony. Once the ceremony begins pictures of any and all wedding party members cannot be posed, **which includes stopping couples during the entrance procession**, as this will detract from the ceremony.

Length of time for photography after the ceremony. The church will be available for one half hour after the service for photography.

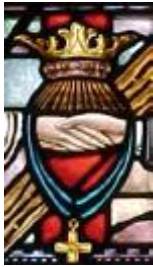
Signatures:

Present date: _____

Bride / Groom _____

Photographer / Videographer _____

(Three (3) or four (4) copies are to be signed: one for the Pre-Nuptial file, one for Bride and Groom, one for the Photographer, and/or one for the Videographer.)



Liturgical Planning

SPECIAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE REVISED WEDDING LITURGY – DECEMBER 2016 –

In February of 2016, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops approved the revision of the wedding ritual for the Catholic Church in the United States. As of December 30, 2016, the new ritual is the **only ritual** which can be used. The purpose of the revision is to enhance the dignity of the Sacrament of Matrimony and Catholic worship. Elements of the Liturgy are stressed while customs not a part of Catholic worship have been removed.

Added are: 1) an Entrance Hymn and Recessional Hymn; 2) the sung Gloria; 3) an Invocation and Response after the Exchange of Vows, and 4) a Hymn of Praise after the Exchange of Rings.

Please Note: Liturgical Music is always the norm, so all Mass parts, including the Gloria, Responsorial Psalm, Gospel Acclamation, Holy Holy, Mystery of Faith, and Doxology, as well as the four (4) Hymns are expected to be sung with live music.

Removed is the Penitential Act.

Also discontinued are any non-liturgical actions and/or customs such as: 1) worded-banners, signs, or the like, stationary or carried in procession; 2) the unity candle; and 3) other similar societal customs.

Changed are:

1) *The bride and groom NOW enter the church and process to the Altar after all other attendants.*
Thus:

i) The bride is no longer “*given away*,” so she can (a) process individually; (b) process with the groom; or (c) be escorted by parent or parents.

ii) The groom no longer “*waits*” for the bride, so he can (a) process individually; (b) process with the bride; or (c) be escorted by parent or parents.

2) The custom of the presentations of flowers, whether to images of the Blessed Mother, and/or to family members of the couple, can no longer happen after the Distribution of Holy Communion. (It may be done at the time of the Sign of Peace.)

Because of these changes, couples are asked to realize that anything they might have witnessed as part of a wedding prior to December 30, 2016, and contrary to the current liturgical norms cannot be a part of their Wedding Liturgy. Visiting clergy are obliged to these liturgical norms as well, without exception.

Attached is a Liturgy planning check-list for couples to use so the details of their celebration will be decided and confirmed well in advance.

PLEASE NOTE: *Wedding taking place on Sundays or Holy Days, including once Vigils start for such days, will be obliged to the Prayers and Readings of the Sunday or Holy Day.*

Liturgical Plans Detailed

Parish Church: _____

Groom: _____ Bride: _____

Wedding Date/Time: _____ Rehearsal Date/Time: _____

Seating of the Couple's family members (always prior to the beginning of the Liturgy)
Groom's family: _____ **Bride's family:** _____

Grandparents: _____ Grandparents: _____

Parents: _____ Parents: _____

(Parents may escort their son / daughter during the Entrance Procession instead)

I. Introductory Rites

A. Entrance Procession

Music: _____ **Entrance Hymn:** _____

Please Note (remind musicians): Music for the Procession must be the same score from the Cross and Celebrant until the Bride and Groom are together in the Sanctuary. If a Hymn is not sung during the actual procession, one is to be sung once the wedding couple are in the Sanctuary.

- i. Cross / Server(s) / Deacon(s) / Priest(s) / Celebrant
- ii. Ring Bearer / Flower Girl ____ as a couple ____ individually
- iii. Attendants ____ as couples ____ individually # ____
- iv. Best Man / Maid (Matron) of Honor ____ as a couple ____ individually

Full name BM: _____ MH: _____

BM & MH: kneelers in the Sanctuary? Yes / No

- v. Groom / Bride ____ together ____ individually ____ escorted by parent(s)

B. Sign of the Cross / Greeting of the People / Introduction of the Couple

C. Gloria ____ sung (normal) ____ recited (only if music is unavailable)
(The Gloria is excluded only when there is **no** Mass)

D. Collect (Opening Prayer) _____ choices **A1 – A6**

II. Liturgy of the Word

A. First Reading _____ **B1 – B9**

B. Sung Response _____ **C1 – C7**
____ recited (only if music is unavailable)

C. Second Reading _____ **D1 – D14**

D. Gospel Acclamation _____ **E1 – E6**

E. Gospel _____ **F1 – F10**

F. Homily

"At least one reading that explicitly speaks of Marriage must always be chosen," ¶ 55.

III. Celebration of Matrimony

- | A. Address to the Bride & Groom | Mass
G1 | without Mass
G2 | with UN-baptized
G3 |
|---------------------------------|------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| B. Questions before Consent | | | |
| C. Consent (Vows) | | | |

	Mass		without Mass		with UN-baptized	
Vows:	recited	questions	recited	questions	recited	questions
Religious	H1	H3	H5	H7	H9	H11
Civil	H2	H4	H6	H8	H10	H12

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| D. Reception of Consent | Mass
H13 a / b | without Mass
H14 | with UN-baptized
H15 |
| E. Celebrant's Invocation: | <i>"Let us bless the Lord."</i> | | * NEW, always included |
| Congregation's Response: | <i>"Thanks be to God."</i> | | |
| F. Blessing and Giving of Rings | Mass
I1 | without Mass
I2 | with UN-baptized
I3 |
| Alternate formulae: | I4 – I5 | | |
| G. Blessing and Giving of the Arras | Mass
I6 | without Mass
I7 | with UN-baptized
I8 |
| <i>allowed as a Hispanic custom</i> | | | |
| H. Hymn of Praise by the Congregation: | _____ | | * NEW, always included |
| <i>NO "Kiss" after Rings – wait for Sign of Peace</i> | | | |
| I. Prayers of the Faithful | read by: _____ | J1 – J2 | |

IV. Liturgy of the Eucharist

- | | | | |
|--|--|------------------|------------------|
| A. Presentation of the Gifts | | | |
| Offertory Hymn: _____ | | | |
| B. Prayer over the Offerings | _____ | K1 – K3 | |
| C. Preface | _____ | L1 – L3 | |
| D. Eucharistic Prayer | (Commemoration of the Couple) | 2i – 2iii | |
| E. The Lord’s Prayer | <i>“Our Father” included even without Mass</i> | | |
| F. Blessing and Placing of the Lazo | Mass | without Mass | with UN-baptized |
| <i>allowed as a Hispanic custom</i> | | | |

G. The Nuptial Blessing

Mass
M1 – M2 – M3

without Mass
M4

with UN-baptized
M5

H. Sign of Peace: Couple "Kiss" in Sanctuary ____ Couple to Families ____
Presentation of flowers to BVM ____ Flowers to Parent(s) ____

I. Distribution of Holy Communion

Couple and/or B.M. & M.H.: Hosts & Cups ____ Hosts only ____
(circle one if different, or both if the same)

Congregation: Hosts & Cups ____ Hosts only ____

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
in addition to the Celebrant
____ (Hosts)
____ (Cup)
____ (Cup)

Communion Hymn: _____

J. Period of Silent Prayer

K. Prayer after Communion _____ **N1 – N3**

V. Concluding Rites

A. Solemn Blessing _____ **O1 – O3**

B. Recession

Recessional Hymn: _____