

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

MATRIMONY

Our parish family rejoices in your upcoming union in the sacrament of matrimony, which signifies the indissoluble union of Jesus Christ with His Church.



OVERVIEW:

You can find the required marriage request form online at holycrossrcc.com.

Please keep in mind that marriages are not scheduled during Advent and Lent. Please do not make any definite reservations for your reception until you have received confirmation that the marriage date is set. Dates are reserved at least six months in advance.

Please note that all couples requesting marriage should be registered with the parish at least three months, regularly attend Mass (Sundays and Holy Days), and contribute to the parish either online or with envelopes.

What is Matrimony?

Matrimony is a sacrament, instituted by our Lord Jesus Christ, which creates a holy and indissoluble union between a man and woman, and gives them grace to love one another holily and to bring up their children as Christians:

- Matrimony was instituted by God Himself in the Garden of Paradise, and was raised to the dignity of a sacrament by Jesus Christ in the New Law.
- The bond of marriage is indissoluble except by the death of either husband or wife, because God so ordained from the beginning and so Jesus Christ our Lord solemnly proclaimed.
- The sacrament of matrimony: (1) Gives an increase of sanctifying grace; (2) Gives a special grace for the faithful discharge of all the duties of the married state.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Introduction

The pastor and staff at Holy Cross share your joy and are delighted that you are considering celebrating the sacrament of matrimony in this parish community.

There will be much to do in the weeks and months ahead but with proper planning, you will celebrate not only a great ceremony but a wonderful life together.

Sacraments are “outward signs instituted by Christ to give grace.” The Church believes that one of the strongest images we have to exemplify how God loves, cares, and deals with us is in the sacrament of matrimony.

We believe that in this sacrament a man and a woman become one in body, mind, and spirit in a union that is permanent, exclusive, and open to life.

Sacraments are important milestones in the life of every Catholic and in the whole Church. In the Catholic faith, it is not the blessing of the priest or deacon that makes the sacrament of matrimony become a reality, rather, it is

the giving and receiving of the consent of the couple, celebrated in communion with the entire parish family.

Getting Started

The sacrament of matrimony and its preparation are taken seriously at Holy Cross. In asking the Church to witness your marriage, you are tacitly noting your willingness to cooperate with its theology and protocol. The priest or deacon witnessing your marriage needs to certify that you share in and believe what the Church teaches about matrimony.

Marriage preparation customarily begins 12 months prior to the expected date of the marriage and begins with submitting the completed request form and

signed agreements and a meeting with the pastor.

An initial meeting with the pastor will be scheduled once the preliminary paperwork is received, including recently issued sacramental certificates, notating baptism, first communion, and confirmation for both the bride and the groom (at least one must be a baptized Catholic in order for the couple to be married in the Catholic Church). Please contact the parish of your baptism to request that this certificate be mailed to Holy Cross Catholic Church, 7851 54th Ave N, St. Petersburg, FL 33709. All other documents may be scanned and submitted via email to Michele Williams, Parish Manager, mwilliams@holycrossrcc.com.

Preliminary Paperwork

1. Marriage request - completed and signed by both the bride and groom
2. Color scans of current and valid forms of identification, front and back, for both the bride and groom
3. Sacramental certificates - recently issued, signed, and sealed by the parish priest (no scanned copies / originals must be mailed to Holy Cross)
4. Letter of permission to be married here from the pastor



MARRIAGE PREPARATION CONTINUED

of the parish where the couple is registered and actively attending mass. This should be mailed directly to the pastor - Very Rev. Emery Longanga, PhD, VF, Holy Cross Catholic Church, 7851 54th Ave N, St. Petersburg, FL 33709.

Matrimony at another church

If you are a registered parishioner at Holy Cross and would like to get married at another Catholic church, permission from the pastor of Holy Cross must be obtained beforehand. Please contact the parish office as soon as possible in order to obtain the letter of permission.



Pre-Cana Marriage Preparation

All couples planning their marriage in a Catholic church are required to register for and complete the Pre-Cana marriage preparation course prior to the marriage.

Visit dosp.org/marriage-and-family/marriage-preparation/ for more information from the Diocese of St. Petersburg.



Those who contract marriage should have the intention: Of doing the will of God, who calls them to that state; Of working out in that state the salvation of their souls; Of bringing up their children as Christians, if God should bless them with any.

If you have additional questions or need any assistance, please contact the parish office at 727-546-3315.

What is a Witness?

The Role of the Witness

The priest/deacon who celebrates a Catholic wedding is the church's official witness at a Catholic wedding ceremony. You are required to have two additional witnesses.

"In addition to the official witness, two other witnesses are required. They must have the use of reason and be capable of comprehending what is happening in the exchange of consent.

They need not be Catholic or even baptized, since their sole function is to attest to the fact that the marriage took place. The witnesses are not required by canon law to sign anything, although their names must be inscribed in the marriage register."

Destination Weddings

Holy Cross Welcomes You

Holy Cross welcomes couples who choose our church to have their marriage blessed. Couples will have to give proof of completion of the verification process required by the Holy Catholic Church.

Convalidations

Validating Your Union

Holy Cross also welcomes couples who wish to have their unions solemnized by the Catholic Church. Couples will need to go through the preparation process required by the Holy Catholic Church.