

TO BE GIVEN TO THE PHOTOGRAPHER

Marriage in the Catholic Church is one of the Seven Sacraments, a most sacred and solemn occasion. It declares to the whole world the unique commitment in the lives of a man and woman. It is the most important act engaged into by two people. The Sacrament of Matrimony reflects the mystery and love of God for each of us. The photographer is an invited guest, called to record the event. As a guest, the photographer must observe the etiquette required by the Catholic Church for this occasion. It is good that the pastor and photographer meet before the liturgy.

- I. A photographer must make himself/herself so unobtrusive as to seem to be invisible.
 - A. No flash or bright lights. Use only available lighting.
 - B. Proper dress for a solemn occasion.
 - C. Camera equipment must be silent.
 - D. Video must be in a fixed position.
- II. A church is not a photo studio.
 - A. The sanctuary (raised area) is strictly out of bounds.
 - B. Front aisle is out of bounds.
 - C. Center aisle is out of bounds except during the entrance procession.
 - D. Ladders, elevated lights, reflectors, bounce-light equipment and extension cords are forbidden during the ceremony.
- III. The ceremony itself is of central importance.

In no way should a photographer get in the way of the dignity and flow of the sacredness of the liturgy.

The Sacrament of Marriage

Congratulations! We at St. Andrew's Catholic Community wish to help you in your growth relationship to each other and to God. We recognize the seriousness of the Sacrament of Marriage and our responsibility to help couples prepare adequately for a life together. This booklet has been prepared by a loving community in hopes of making your journey into this sacred sacrament a joyful and fulfilling time. Through the hints and guidelines in this booklet, we hope to help you prepare for your special day.

Love is the greatest power we have. The more we love, the more we resemble God who is love. Marriage is a response to the deepest call of our human nature, the call that asks us to become more like our God. Being in love with someone so deeply that you want to spend your whole life with that person is the most exciting and important event of your life.

The ceremony itself does not begin your love relationship. The ceremony proclaims, describes and dedicates this relationship. It allows you to make your love a public symbol rooted in Christ. You, as a couple, *become* a sacrament. In marital love you are invited to assume responsibility for your personal growth, to call forth the best that is in each other.

The Sacrament of Marriage begins when the couple declare "in the sight of God and before the face of this company" to "take each other... 'til death do us part." It is important for you to realize that the priest does not marry the couple, they marry each other. The priest is but a witness.





Preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage

Preparation

Our Marriage Preparation Program takes a minimum of eight months to complete; therefore, we strongly recommend you begin the program a year before your proposed wedding date. Preparation for the Sacrament includes areas that will assist in forming a life-long relationship.

In asking to be married in this community, you are stating that you want the members of your Christian community to witness and support you in prayer and thought. For this reason, at least one member of the couple or their family must have been worshipping at St. Andrew's at least one year.

Initial Conference

The initial conference is with the pastor. This must take place **at least eight months** in advance of the proposed wedding date. The wedding date and time will be arranged at this time. Do not set your wedding date until you have this initial conference.

Setting a Wedding Date

A copy of a *recent* baptismal certificate must be submitted and the freedom of the couple established *before* a wedding date can be set with the pastor. At your initial conference, the pre-nuptial information forms will be started. If either of the couple has had a previous marriage it must be resolved prior to a date being set.

Time of Wedding

Because of the regular parish liturgical celebrations, reconciliation and Eucharistic Liturgy, if the marriage is to take place on a Saturday, the ceremony will be scheduled no later than 1:00 PM. A weekday-evening ceremony is possible.

New Testament

Romans 8: 31-35, 37-29

Romans 12:1-2, 9-18 (longer) or 1-2, 9-13 (shorter)

1 Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20

1 Corinthians 12:31 - 13:8

Ephesians 5:2, 21-33 (longer) or 2,

Colossians 3:12-17

1 Peter 3:1-9

1 John 3:18-24

1 John 4:7-12

Revelation 19:1, 5-9

Who will separate us from the love of Offer to God your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God.

Your body is a temple of the Spirit.

If I am without love, it will do me no good

This mystery has many implications, and I

Above all have love, which is the bond of

You should agree with one another, be

Our love is to be something real and active.

God is love.

Happy are those who are invited to the

Gospel

Matthew 5:1-12

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.

Matthew 5:13-16

You are the light of the world.

Matthew 7:21, 24-29 (longer) or 21, 24-25 (shorter)

... like a wise man who built his house on rock.

Matthew 19:3-6

So then, what God has united, man must not divide.

Matthew 22:35-40

This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is similar to it.

Mark 10:6-9

They are no longer two, therefore, but one body.

John 2:1-11

This was the first of the signs given by Jesus; it was given at Cana in Galilee.

John 15:9-12

Remain in my love.

John 15:12-16

This is my commandment: love one another.

John 17:20-26 (longer) or 20-23 (shorter)

May they be completely one.

Option for Use of Parish Hall

Our parish hall is available on a rental basis to parishioners for private use. Contact the pastor or secretary for a "Request for Parish Facilities" application and a "Kitchen Use Agreement". Request forms and insurance fees must be filed and approved at the initial conference with the Pastor.

Fees:	Rental Fee	—	\$250.00 (Hall)
	Insurance	—	\$125.00 (Diocese)
	Kitchen	—	\$100.00
	Total — \$475.00 — payable to St. Andrew's		

Selected Readings

In your Marriage Liturgy you may choose the readings for the Liturgy of the Word. The following selected readings are suggestions you may choose from. This is not an exhaustive list of readings. Other readings may be selected with the pastor's approval. Read the entire selection before making your final decision. Discuss it between yourselves. Is it pertinent to your life together? Does it reflect your attitude about marriage and relationship? *(The pastor gives final approval of all that pertains to the marriage liturgy).*

Old Testament

Genesis 1:26-28, 31	<i>Male and female, God created them.</i>
Genesis 2:18-24	<i>And they will be two in one flesh.</i>
Genesis 24:48-51, 58-67	<i>Isaac loved Rebekah, and so he was consoled for the loss of his mother.</i>
Tobit 7:9-10, 11-17	<i>May God join you together and fill you with blessings.</i>
Tobit 8:5-10	<i>May God bring us to old age together.</i>
Song of Songs 2:8-10, 14, 16; 8:6-7	<i>For love is as strong as death</i>
Ecclesiastes 26:1-4, 16-21	<i>Like the sun rising is the beauty of a good wife in a well-kept house.</i>
Jeremiah 31:31-34	<i>I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and Judah.</i>

No weddings will be scheduled during the Season of Lent, Easter Week (the week following Easter), or the last three weeks of Advent and the two weeks following Christmas.

Several Conferences with Pastoral Associates

Several conferences must then be arranged with pastoral associates: The **Director of Pastoral Ministries** will administer preliminary inventory tests. The California Marriage Readiness Evaluation is given to the couple to assess emotional maturity, marriage motivation, family experience, dealing with money, and other skills necessary for managing a household. The Myers-Briggs Type Indicator is also administered to the couple to promote a deeper understanding and appreciation of themselves and each other. Several additional conferences are scheduled to help focus the couple to define for themselves the components necessary to make a life-time commitment and to acquire additional skills for building a successful and happy marriage. **A \$100.00 fee will be charged for these tests.**

The **Director of Liturgical Music** *must* be consulted since the wedding liturgy is a time for prayer — an experience of faith calling for the involvement of the entire worshipping community.

The music selected should reflect not just your preferences but should deepen this sense of worship for the community gathered to give thanks and praise for God's presence made manifest in your love. Your options will be explained and a program of proper liturgical music will be established. Music is to be approved by the Director of Music and the Pastor.

Parish musicians will provide the music for all wedding liturgies. **The fee is \$75.00 per musician.** This fee should be handed into the pastor no later than two weeks before the wedding.

Couple Counseling

The couple planning marriage will be asked to visit with a couple married at least ten years to share their experience of married life, decisions, convictions, religions, etc.

Parish Offering

A parish offering of \$500 covers the use of the Church and a donation to the parish and the musicians. *This offering should be handed in one month before the wedding.*

Engaged Encounter

Both members of the couple are required to participate in an Engaged Encounter Weekend. The weekend takes place at several parishes in our diocese. Dates and a registration form are available from the pastor. One day encounters are offered in several parishes. *You will be given this pertinent information.*



The Ceremony

Ringbearers/ Flower Girls

Children to be included in the wedding party should be at least five (5) years of age. Please no spreading or dropping of "real" flower petals to prevent staining the carpet.

Dressing Area

If possible, the wedding party should come dressed for the ceremony. The "Little Kingdom" and restrooms may be used for dressing if necessary but must be left clean and uncluttered with **all** trash removed. These facilities are in use by the community following your celebration.

Decorations

All church decorations must be approved by the pastor. Special mention is made of the use of candelabra, attachments to pews to mark reserved sections (many tapes, pins, and wires leave marks or remove varnish), etc.

Clean Up

We request that you have someone assigned to pick up items left behind in the church, i.e., boxes, kleenex, programs, flowers and bows, etc.

Rehearsal

The date and time of the rehearsal will be arranged with the pastor. We ask that you be prompt and approach this preparation in a holy and prayerful manner. Only those directly involved in the bridal party should be present. If a rehearsal dinner is to follow, other family members and friends can meet after the rehearsal.

Decorum

All the customary etiquette procedures of our community will be observed during the rehearsal and wedding ceremony, e.g., no eating, drinking of alcoholic beverages, or use of tobacco; gentlemen are not to wear hats inside the church. Flower petals cannot be dropped in the aisles due to staining of the carpet. Rice, birdseed, confetti, etc., cannot be used any place on the property.

Photography

The primary consideration to be observed is an awareness of the sacredness of the ceremony and the sense of liturgical decorum. Therefore, all anticipated procedures must be approved in advance by the pastor. During the liturgy, the photographer is not to enter the sanctuary. Only natural lighting should be used, no floodlights, reflectors, etc. If a video camera is to be used, it must be set up before the ceremony. Remind your photographer that this is a church and not a photo gallery. Your photographer should make arrangements with the pastor prior to the ceremony so there will be no surprises or embarrassment at the ceremony.