



*Getting Married
at
St. Ignatius*

*(Congratulations and blessings during this time of preparation.
We would like to share with you a fragment of the old wedding instruction given at a
Catholic wedding.)*

My dear friends,

You are about to enter into a union which is most sacred and most serious. It is most sacred, because established by God; most serious, because it will bind you together for life in a relationship so close and so intimate, that it will profoundly affect your whole future.

That future, with its hopes and disappointments, its successes and its failures, its pleasures and its pains, its joys and its sorrows, is now hidden from your eyes; yet you know that these elements are part of every life and should be expected in your own. And so, not knowing what is before you, you take each other for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health, until death.

Truly, then, these words are most serious. It is a beautiful tribute to your undoubted faith in God and each other that, recognizing their full import, you are nevertheless so willing and ready to pronounce them. And whatever sacrifices you may hereafter be required to make for the preservation of this mutual life, always make them generously. Sacrifice is usually difficult and irksome. Only love can make it easy; and perfect love can make it a joy. We are willing to give in proportion as we love. And when love is perfect, the sacrifice is complete.

No greater blessing can come upon your married life than love, faithful and true to the end. May, then, this love with which you join your hands and hearts today, never fail, but grow deeper and stronger as the years go on.

The rest is in the hands of God. Nor will God be wanting to your needs but will pledge you the lifelong support of divine grace in the holy sacrament you are now going to receive.

GETTING MARRIED AT ST. IGNATIUS

Congratulations on your decision to get married and to have your vows witnessed and received at St. Ignatius. Our hope is that this occasion will be one of much joy and hope for you and your families. Catholics have always believed marriage to be a special and unique sharing in the mystery of Jesus' death and resurrection. The marrying couple publicly proclaims by their vows before God and in the midst of the faith community that they intend their life together to reflect the kind of self-giving love that Jesus has for his people, the church.

Due to this belief, marriage in the Catholic tradition is identified as a Sacrament. In other words, marriage is a *living sign* of our loving and faithful God in the world.

Thus, marriage means more than a wedding day. Marriage designates the lifelong relationship of husband and wife and their commitment to grow more and more in love as time goes on. Marriage for Catholic Christians, then, is not something they *receive*, it is something they *become*.

Christian marriage is a commitment to one's spouse from within the community of faith, the Church; and so when two people marry in the Church, it is more than being married in

a particular kind of building. It is also more than something just between the two partners. Marriage is an event for the community as well. Indeed, there can really be no such thing as a “private” wedding because sacraments are public celebrations of faith in Jesus.

For its part, the parish community has a responsibility to give you time to prepare adequately for the reception of the Sacrament of Matrimony. We hold that marriage requires careful and serious preparation. This cannot be presumed because of previous participation in religious education programs, Catholic schools or collegiate programs.

Therefore, a special program of systematic preparation for each couple desiring to be married in our church community is essential.

- Peter Byrne, S.J.
Pastor

Contacting the Parish

Both Archdiocese and St. Ignatius Parish policy require couples desiring to celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage to contact the parish at least six (6) months in advance of their wedding date. They should contact the Parish Office at 503-777-1491 to arrange an appointment with Fr. Tom Royce, S.J. or Fr. Peter Byrne, S.J.

During the appointment, the priest will explain the marriage preparation program at St. Ignatius.

Marriage of Minors

In accordance with Archdiocesan policy, persons 19 years or younger are discouraged from marrying. Besides the age requirements of civil law, consideration for marriage in the Church will be given only after the priest has consulted with the parents and the couple themselves and, if necessary, with a professional counselor.

Necessary Documents

Baptismal Certificates: All Catholics and any baptized Christian must provide a recent (within the last six months) copy of his or her baptismal certificate.

Statement of Party to Marriage: Each person provides information regarding their freedom to marry. The priest will explain.

Witness Testimony Form: Parents of the couples (if parents are deceased, then a close relative or friend who has known the person for a significant number of years) completes a form confirming the information provided by the couple in their Personal Testimony Forms.

Marriage License: The couple must obtain a valid Oregon Marriage License no sooner than 60 days or no later than three days before the wedding.

Planning the Service

The Church: Weddings between Roman Catholics take place in the regular worshipping community/parish of the parties. Ordinarily the priest of the bride’s parish is the one to assist in the preparation of the couple for marriage and to witness the marriage for the Church. Our parish is happy to welcome priests who are a friend or a relative of the

families . They will be offered delegation to witness the marriage at St. Ignatius when the usual preparation is completed. Arrangements for this should be made well in advance.

In an interfaith marriage, the Archbishop may permit the Catholic party to celebrate the wedding in the church of another faith with the minister of that church receiving the marriage vows. This permission is obtained from the Archdiocesan Pastoral Center through the parish priest.

The Service: The Church encourages Catholic couples to celebrate their marriage during an Eucharistic Liturgy. However, just the celebration of the Sacrament of Matrimony may be held at a vow ceremony. The priest and the couple will prepare the liturgy.

Times and Seasons: When anticipating the date and time of your wedding, remember that:

1. If you are entering a second or later marriage, no date can be set for the wedding until annulments of previous marriages are granted by the Church.
2. Normally, weddings are not scheduled in Lent or during the Easter Triduum
3. Special décor may be in the church for major feasts and seasons; e.g., Advent, Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost.
4. Weddings during Advent should not anticipate the Christmas feast with the use of Christmas carols and decorations, etc.
5. The hours for weddings are Friday evenings or on Saturday between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Planning the Service, cont.

Music: Catholic guidelines prescribe that music during the wedding liturgy must be sacred in nature and must be in keeping with the liturgical traditions of our Catholic heritage. Popular music is discouraged unless it conveys a message appropriate to a Catholic Wedding Liturgy. A meeting to plan music choices and discuss fees should be scheduled with the Music Director, Julie Davis as soon as possible. 503-777-1491, ext. 228.

Photography: In order to maintain the sacredness of the wedding liturgy, we ask that no flash pictures be taken within the wedding service. (The service begins when the wedding party enters the main aisle of the church and it concludes with the recessional.) Taking pictures and video taping during the actual ceremony is permitted if it can be done without flash or other extra lighting equipment. Couples are asked to notify their photographer and guests of this policy before the wedding ceremony. Posed pictures may be taken in the church before and/or after the wedding.

Rehearsal: The wedding rehearsal will be scheduled by the priest celebrating the ceremony. This will allow all members to become familiar with the procession, the sanctuary, and all other aspects of the ceremony.

A style of procession where all participants and parents are involved is common practice at St. Ignatius Parish. We recommend this form because it signifies the equality of both parties, the maturity with which they enter into the marriage bond, and the joining of two families.

Children in the Ceremony: It is encouraged that all participants in the wedding party be of a mature age to understand their role and the meaning of the ceremony.

Non-use of alcohol: Use of alcoholic beverages anywhere at any time on parish property is **strictly prohibited**. Please discourage vigorously anyone involved with your wedding from bringing alcoholic beverages on parish grounds before or after the rehearsal and/or wedding.

Planning the Service, cont.

Financial Offerings and Fees: It is impossible for a couple to express adequately their thanks to God for the gift of their new vocation together. Financial offerings are only one way to express such gratitude.

The customary donation is \$400.00, to support the mission and ministry of the Parish.

Wedding Coordinator: A fee of \$75.00 is asked in order to compensate our Wedding Coordinator, Arlene Crouch, for the work of supervising the wedding preparations in the church; such as, opening and closing the facility, flower arrangement, setting up chairs/kneelers, etc. on the evening of the rehearsal and the day of the wedding.

Sound System Coordinator: A fee of \$75.00 is asked in order to compensate our sound system operator. Larry Huston will be contacted by the Music Director for scheduling of his time.

Throwing Rice, Birdseed, Flower Petals or Confetti: We ask that you not have these items at the wedding.

No aisle runner is allowed.

Parish Hall Use: The use of Dillon Hall for the reception, the rehearsal dinner, or for another wedding-related reason may be arranged through the Parish Office, 503-777-1491. Call for fees and insurance information.

A Marriage, an Elegy

*They lived long, and were faithful
to the good in each other.
They suffered as their faith required.
Now their union is consummate
in earth, and the earth
is their communion. They enter
the serene gravity of the rain,
the hill's passage to the sea.
After long striving, perfect ease.*

Wendell Berry