

Getting Married  
at  
St. Ignatius

## 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 the 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 or systematic preparation for each couple desiring to be married in our church community is essential.

## ***PRESIDER/MARRIAGE PREPARATION INFORMATION***

**Diocesan norms require that at least 6 months be allowed for preparing for the sacrament of marriage.** This entails that your presiding Roman Catholic priest, or deacon, has established your “freedom to marry” and formatted a preparation plan at least 6 months prior to a date being confirmed. For the Catholic party/parties, you will need to provide your presider with an updated copy of your baptismal certificate (dated within 6 months of your wedding date). *In the case of prior marriages, no date can be set until an annulment/“freedom to marry” declaration has been received from the initiating diocese.*

As a registered member of our parish, and a participant in our faith community, you are welcome to seek an officiating priest through our assigned parish staff, or you have the option of utilizing a visiting priest, or deacon, to officiate at your ceremony. If the presider is from our assigned staff, you will meet directly with them and fill out required diocesan documentation and to line out a viable marriage preparation process.

If you opt for a guest presider, he will generally do the required marriage preparation himself. The visiting officiant will be expected to fill out the required diocesan forms, or to make arrangements for this. The documentation will be filed at St. Ignatius when your wedding takes place here, so the front office will need the papers to record the sacrament in the records. A guest priest will also need to provide a letter attesting to his faculty status from his own diocese prior to being given delegation by our pastor to preside at a ceremony here.

**All couples are strongly encouraged to complement their preparation process by experiencing a diocesan sponsored retreat weekend.**

## NECESSARY DOCUMENTS

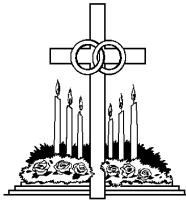
Baptismal Certificates: All Catholics and any baptized Christian must provide a recent (within the last six months) copy of his or her baptismal certificate from the church of baptism.

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 know 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 not later than three days before the wedding. A copy will need to be kept in the file.

*Your priest in charge of marriage preparation will discuss any other papers necessary.*



## DATE OPTIONS

Wedding time slots are carefully set to accommodate the needs of our parish faith community. Following are the general allowable time slots, however, any weekday could be considered as well:

**Fridays @ noon or 1PM, 5PM or 7PM**

**Saturdays @ 11AM, 1:30PM, 7:30PM or 8PM**

***No weddings are scheduled during Lent, Holy Week, on Holy Days nor on the Vigil of Christmas.***

## LITURGICAL AND MUSIC GUIDELINES

Since you have chosen a sacred setting for your ceremony, we require that this sacredness be reflected in your liturgy and music. The marriage liturgy is a very important aspect of the coming together of two lives in Christ. It will be important for you to be an integral part of this planning. Your presider, as well as the Music Director (or an assigned member of her team), will assist in guiding you through this process.

**If both parties are Catholic, there is the option of celebrating the marriage ceremony within the context of a Nuptial Mass. The Diocese of Portland in Oregon has set a criteria that a vow ceremony, outside the Mass, will be the norm for celebrating the marriage sacrament if one of the parties is not baptized, or baptized into a different denomination.**

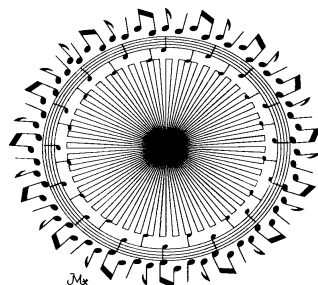
If you wish an organist/pianist for your liturgy, our Music Directory will assign one that is familiar with our organ/piano. Their fee generally begins at \$175.00 and can be paid directly to the musician at consultation time. The Music Directory will be a valuable resource in guiding you through the liturgy process and appropriate music placement. The Music Directory can assign a vocalist for you, if you wish, or they can coordinate vocal needs with your preferred musician. Vocalist fees generally begin at \$150.00 but do vary so we have them quote their own.

## LITURGICAL AND MUSIC GUIDELINES-CONT.

If you have musicians that you wish to utilize, aside from an organist, you are welcome to provide your own, but music guidelines must be adhered to. Sacred music, classical repertoire, or specific wedding pieces are acceptable. Song lyrics that express the Christian and religious dimension of love and marriage are encouraged. “Popular” music and “Show Tunes” are discouraged. Your presider and Music Director will be able to guide you on acceptability of music.

Uses of string quartets, brass, woodwind ensembles, or guitars are most acceptable. Tapes or music on disc are discouraged. If such form of music is ever utilized, you must provide your own boom box and a person to monitor it. It will not be plugged directly into the church sound system.

Our church sound system requires the skills of an audio technician for operation. There is a \$75.00 fee for this person and you may schedule them through our Music Director.



## PHOTOGRAPHY

We do try to be flexible when it does not infringe on other scheduled events. Pictures normally begin 2 hours prior to ceremony time. If your photographer suggests a longer time frame inside the church, it will need to be pre-approved with Patty.

**For a 1:30PM Saturday time slot**, post-ceremony photography can be considered if there is not a Mass with the ceremony. We do offer the sacrament of reconciliation in our church every Saturday at 3:00PM, and out of respect for those coming to receive that sacrament, we must ensure that bridal parties have vacated the church by **at least 2:45PM**. **For our Saturday evening wedding time slot**, pictures can be done outside, quietly, while our Parish 5:00PM Mass is underway. However, in consideration for those who are attending Mass, we do not allow photography on the steps of the church or in the courtyard, while the Parish liturgy is in process. Photography and videography during the ceremony must be done from appropriate and discreet vantage points and not from the main altar area.

*It is important to share these guidelines with your photographer.*

## LOGISTICAL AND DECORATION GUIDELINES

If there is a need to dress on site, there are male and female dressing accommodations in the Parish Center. The rooms are usually available 2-3 hours prior to ceremony time. Hair and makeup needs are best addressed in a salon setting prior to arrival. Once the party is dressed, we request that the rooms be cleaned out to accommodate use by other groups.

The altar area of our church is simple beauty by design. If you wish to accent it with flowers, candelabra, or aisle lights, that is permissible, however, simplicity tends to accentuate the glory of what is already present. A unity candle, if it is incorporated into the ceremony, is the only decor that would be appropriate to set on the smaller presiding altar. **St. Ignatius Church is very sacred to our Parish Community.** Any removal or set up of decor will be closely monitored by the assigned Parish Wedding Coordinator to protect the integrity of our worship space.

- A) *During certain liturgical seasons the church does have its own decor in place that **cannot** be removed.*
- B) The church **does not** have candelabra or aisle lights. Your florist can supply such items if you prefer them, or they can be rented from local rental agencies.
- C) For precautionary measures, since the flooring of the church is terrazzo, **we do not allow flower petals to be strewn inside the church, or the use of aisle runners.**
- D) Out of consideration to our maintenance staff and because our church is very highly trafficked, **we do not allow birdseed, rice, or flower petals to be thrown on our premises. The use of sparklers is also prohibited as they represent a fire hazard.**

Due to the sacredness of the space and the serious nature of the marriage sacrament, we do request that **no alcohol** be brought into the Church or the Parish Center and that there be no consumption prior to ceremony. Your presider will expect that you be fully present for the sacrament you are about to receive. Your reception will be an appropriate setting for further celebration.

## 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.

## FEES

***The basic rental fee for St. Ignatius Church is \$500.00, which includes church rental, administrative fees.***

The fees are not due until one month prior to the wedding ceremony, at which time Patty will send out a Wedding Agreement form and request payment. We are very flexible with fees and they can be paid in increments, (to be paid in full one week prior to the ceremony date) if that is preferred.

### **Additional fees to consider:**

- A) Presider gratuity/honorarium** - average is between \$100.00 - \$300.00 given directly to your presider, generally in the form of a thank-you note. Any expenses the priest incurs (travel, lodging etc.) should also be reimbursed.
- B) Musician Fees** - quoted by and paid directly to the musicians.
- C) Audio Technician Fees** - \$75.00 paid directly to the Technician.
- D) Wedding Coordinator-Sacristan Fees** - \$75.00 paid directly to the Coordinator.

The Wedding coordinator will be most willing to clarify any questions. Either she, or an assigned member of her team, will consult with you approximately 6 weeks prior to your ceremony and will be on hand to assist your presider in facilitating your rehearsal, and will work with your service agents (florist, photographer, videographer, musicians) on site to ensure that your liturgy embodies, not just the day of your wedding, but encompasses the deeper tone of your life-time union in Christ.

Revised July 2011

### ***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***