

The Church of St. Edward

*Wedding
&
Marriage*

Preparation Guidelines



A Prayer for an Engaged Couple

*May our love increasingly be a sign of
Christ's love for the Church.*

*Let our daily nurturing of our relationship
use the Mass as a model.*

*Let us each day humbly acknowledge our faults
and ask for forgiveness for any hurts
we have caused the other.*

*May we take any opportunity for praising and
affirming the talents and efforts of the other.*

*May we offer our time, understanding, and
active, empathetic listening even when we judge that
we have heard before what we are hearing now.*

*May we pray with and for each other in
whatever ways we can*

*May we try to build a solid foundation
of openness and trust based upon
similar values.*

*May we celebrate our coming vows
and put the stress on our relationship building,
not on the wedding day details that will soon
pale in importance.*

*May we treat each other with a sacred trust
that seeks to build up.*

*Help us believe that God sends us forth as a couple to
become an ever clearer channel of his love.*

*Don't let us neglect to give each other
a kiss of peace often!*

May we go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Congratulations!

The whole community at The Church of St. Edward rejoices with you in your engagement to each other. The marriage covenant which you desire to enter into is meant to be filled with immeasurable blessings for you, the Church, and the world. The source of all these blessings is God himself – the author of marriage.



In the Gospel of John, Jesus works his first public miracle at a wedding. When the wine runs out, Jesus tells the servants to fill several massive jars with water and to take them to the master of ceremonies. The water miraculously turns to wine, and the master of ceremonies is amazed at the quality of the vintage. *“This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory”* (John 2:11).

This astonishing deed of Christ is meant to speak to us today. As you prepare for marriage, the demands of such a permanent, lifelong, and faithful union can seem immense, but if you allow Jesus Christ to be at the heart of your relationship with your spouse, the Lord will show his power and love within you. With Christ, the joy, the love, the delight of marriage – the “wine” of your covenant – need never run dry. He is the Lord who will sustain you each and every day of your lives together.

We are ready to accompany you as you celebrate and live out the wonderful sacrament of marriage. Together let us implore the Lord to pour forth his Holy Spirit upon you!

First Steps...

Date and Time

Weddings are normally scheduled on Friday evenings at 5:00pm or on Saturday at 11:00am or 2:00 pm.

Weddings are not scheduled on Sundays, Holy Days, or during times of regularly scheduled parish services. Except for unusual circumstances, we do not celebrate weddings during Lent.

Rehearsal Date and Time

Rehearsal are normally scheduled the day before the wedding at 5:00pm. If another time or day is desired, this can be discussed.

Marriage Preparation

The months preceding your marriage will include the following preparation:

- ◆ A weekend marriage preparation program: *Living God's Love: The Sacrament of Marriage* or *Catholic Engaged Encounter*.
- ◆ Natural Family Planning classes through Couple to Couple League (www.ccli.org) or FertilityCare Centers of America (www.tcnfp.org).
- ◆ Mentoring: A pre-marital inventory and meetings with a trained couple from the parish.

*"I am my beloved's and my
beloved is mine." ~ Song of Solomon 8:3*

Required Documentation

Baptismal Records

As part of the paper work required by the Archdiocese, we will need copies of your Baptismal certificates. ***Catholic parties' certificates must be issued from the church of baptism within six months of the wedding.***

To obtain your baptismal certificate, you can call or email the church where your baptism took place and inform them of your wedding. They can mail the certificate directly to:

The Church of St. Edward
9401 Nesbitt Ave S.
Bloomington, MN, 55437

For those who are not Catholic, a copy of your baptismal certificate is sufficient.

Marriage License

A marriage license must be secured well in advance of the wedding. There is a five (5) day waiting period from the time you order your license to the time you can pick it up.

We ask that you bring the license to the parish office at least 10 days before your wedding.

A marriage license is good for six months after the date of issue.

Please note: Upon completion of your marriage preparation, you are eligible to receive a discount on your marriage license. At least one week before you intend to get your license, please notify the office that you will need your Reduced Fee Statement. You will be contacted when it is ready.

General Guidelines

Liturgy

Weddings in the Catholic Church are both intimately personal and intensely communal. The rite of marriage is an ancient liturgical celebration in which God is truly present and active. The readings, gestures, texts, and songs of your wedding are meant to express the mystery of what is taking place—the worship of God and the sacred joining of husband and wife by God in the midst of the Church. This means that above all else your wedding should have a mood of prayerfulness, solemnity, and joy.

The Church of St. Edward is faithful to the liturgy of the Roman Rite of the Catholic Church. By choosing to be married within the Catholic Church, you are choosing to celebrate with the Church's ritual. We look forward to helping you plan the wedding ceremony so that it is deeply personal to you, but please note that it is not possible to accommodate things in the liturgy that would be inconsistent with the Church's faith or worship.

All ceremonies will need:

- ◆ **Readers:** Choose a good public speaker. The message is to be proclaimed. *Minimum of 1, maximum of 3*

Mass ceremonies will need:

- ◆ **Gift Bearers:** This is a good place to use children.
- ◆ **Altar Servers:** Two are provided by the church. It is customary to provide each server with a \$10 stipend.
- ◆ **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:** The parish wedding coordinator may fill this role.

Unless otherwise indicated, every person involved in your wedding should have **one role**; (for example, a groomsman should not be a soloist.)

Together for Life

The *Together for Life* booklet is very helpful in planning the liturgy. The worksheet in the back of the book can be filled out prior to meeting with the Director of Liturgy.

The Dressing Rooms

On the day of the wedding the rooms in the rear of the foyer will be available for the bride and groom and their attendants. The parish cannot assume responsibility for dresses delivered to the church. These should be delivered and accepted at your home. Also, do not leave valuables unattended in the dressing rooms at any time.

Do bring something to eat and bottled water. Less is more here—crackers, cheese, nuts, grapes, something a little sweet, etc. is the best choice. Food may be set out in the dressing rooms. Remember to observe the one hour fast before reception of Holy Communion.

Environment

The church is already decorated according to the liturgical season. Any decorations we have placed in the Church **must be** left in place. You may add to our decorations if you wish. Furnishings in the sanctuary are not to be moved. The altar is a sacred and holy table; it must not be used for camera equipment and/or flower bouquets, etc.

Rice, confetti, birdseed, flower petals and soap bubbles are not to be used anywhere on church property.

Photography

Photographers/Videographers

We ask that there be no flash photography during the wedding ceremony. However, a flash photo of the processional and recessional may be taken. During the service pictures and videos may only be taken in designated areas. Please ask photographers and videographers to check with the presider and wedding coordinator before the ceremony.

All posed pictures should be taken prior to the ceremony, and must be finished 30 minutes before the beginning of your wedding. Please instruct your photographer accordingly. No photographs may be taken in the Memorial Garden (the enclosed space on the west side of the chapel).

Security

There is no security provided by The Church of St. Edward. Please plan to lock your valuables in the trunk of your car prior to the ceremony.

No Alcohol

Use of alcoholic beverages either before or at the wedding or rehearsal by any member of the wedding party is considered an “invalidating circumstance” and can result in the cancellation of the ceremony by those officiating.

Receiving Line

Receiving lines can be accommodated in the Foyer area. It is recommended only to have the bride, groom, and parents in the line. You have the space for thirty minutes after the wedding.

Please reserve the Guest Book for the reception, as this tends to cause congestion and delays in seating guests prior to the wedding.

Role of Wedding Coordinator

The Church of St. Edward provides the support of a wedding coordinator during your sacramental celebration planning.

The wedding coordinator, with the assistance of a volunteer, will lead the rehearsal and be present the day of your wedding to prepare the sanctuary for your liturgy; connect with your wedding party, photographer/videographer; and coordinate the timing and details of the procession. The coordinator is in charge of all things pertaining to the Liturgy as well as the rehearsal.

If you are working with an outside wedding planner or day-of coordinator, please inform them that they are responsible for adhering to the church wedding guidelines.

Wedding Fees

The fee for a wedding at The Church of St. Edward is \$450, which covers all administrative work to help prepare for your wedding day, the use of the church, a Wedding Coordinator, the printing of the Liturgy worship aid, and the fee associated with your marriage preparation which is facilitated at St. Edward's.

What does the wedding fee include?

PREPARE Process

Liturgy Planning

Music Planning

Wedding Coordinator

Program Printing

Church fees, which include:

- ◆ Use of the church (lighting, sound system, etc.)
- ◆ Access to the grounds
- ◆ Dressing Rooms
- ◆ Custodial/Maintenance

What doesn't it include?

Marriage Retreat

Marriage License

Natural Family Planning Classes

Cantor

Organist/Pianist

Additional Musicians or Singers

Unity Candle

Gratuities to servers, priests, etc.

For couples seeking marriage preparation only the cost is \$100 which includes administrative work, the PREPARE process, and meeting with marriage mentors.

Wedding Music Guidelines

The Sacrament of Marriage is a prayer of the Church and *liturgy is a sung event*. All the guidelines for Church music apply. This means that the music must be liturgical/sacred in nature. It is there to assist us in prayer, and for that reason no popular songs will be allowed in the ceremony.

You are asked to contact the parish Director of Music in order to plan/review your music selections and discuss possible musicians. Please do so at least six months prior to your wedding.

Music Fees

Pianist/Organist - \$250.00

It is recommended to have the parish Pianist/organists play for weddings at St. Edward. If you have any questions contact with the Director of Music, Andrew Walker.

Cantor - \$200.00

A parish cantor, familiar with liturgy at St. Edward, is recommended to assist the assembly with the sung parts of the wedding service.

Instrumentalists

The Director of Music at St. Edward must approve any other outside musicians for your wedding. Their fees are set by the individual musicians.

***Musicians do not attend the rehearsal.**

Wedding Checklist

- _____ Initial interview appointment to set wedding date and time
- _____ Reserve church date: \$450 payment.
- _____ Complete the pre-marital inventory and work with a mentor couple.
- _____ Attend a weekend marriage preparation program and return completion sheet.
- _____ Attend Natural Family Planning classes and return completion sheet.
- _____ Arrange for baptismal records to be sent to St. Edward (no more than 6 months ahead).
- _____ Request and receive Reduced Fee Statement.
- _____ Meet with a priest.
- _____ Contact the Director of Music about music selection and cantors 6 months before wedding.
- _____ Contact the Director of Liturgy about the worship aid 6 months before wedding.
- _____ Bring marriage license to parish office *at least* 10 days before wedding.
- _____ Proof worship aid with Director of Liturgy.
- _____ Final meeting with presider witnessing marriage.
- _____ Contact wedding coordinator about final preparations and rehearsal.

Contact Information

Pastor: Fr. Rick Banker
952-835-7101 Ext 234
rbanker@stedwardschurch.org

Director of Community Life: Donna Rubio
952-835-7101 Ext 219
drubio@stedwardschurch.org

Director of Music: Andrew Walker
952-835-7101 Ext 231
awalker@stedwardschurch.org

Director of Liturgy: Mary Kay Hird
952-835-7101 Ext 217
mkhird@stedwardschurch.org

Office Hours

Monday through Thursday
8:00am-4:30pm

Friday
8:00am-12:00pm



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