

*Preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage at
Christ the King Catholic Church*

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Congratulations! We are happy to be a part of this special event in your life. Your wedding is a religious ceremony solemnly celebrating the joyful lifelong covenant of love between you and your chosen life-partner. Marriage is a sacrament of the Church, wherein God gives to a man and a woman the grace necessary to live a common life according to the law of Christ. It demands, therefore, serious and prayerful preparation. The priests and deacons at Christ the King, and others, will assist you in planning your ceremony and helping you to prepare for your life together.

Your wedding is a social event as well. The priests and deacons stand ready to assist you in making it a memorable event. The social element, however, *must not detract from the sacredness of the event* nor should anything be included that is inconsistent with a religious ceremony.

We expect at least one of the parties to the marriage to be an active practicing Catholic. If you are registered at another parish, but wish to have your wedding here, the Pastor must approve it.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Couples wishing to celebrate the sacrament of Matrimony must make initial arrangements for the wedding at least **FOUR MONTHS** in advance of the anticipated wedding date. You should not presume that the priest or deacon will perform your wedding ceremony nor should you publish a date before the meeting with the priest or deacon. Only after a meeting with the priest or deacon will a definite date be placed on the parish calendar. If Catholic, you will need to present certificates of your Baptism (and Confirmation). If they are not available, the priest can assist you in obtaining them.

Please read all of the following information. It will help you as you plan your wedding. Do not hesitate to ask any questions that you may have.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

The priest or deacon will make an assessment of a couple's readiness for marriage. He may even make a referral to a counselor for additional professional evaluation particularly if one or both of the parties are especially young. During the early part of the preparation, he will include the use of the Pre-Marital Inventory (PMI). Subsequent appointments will be made to review the PMI and complete additional paperwork.

We recommend that all couples participate in some formal marriage preparation program such as an Engaged Encounter weekend or other established program. The priest or deacon assisting you with your wedding will provide locations and dates of these programs.

In later meetings with the priest or deacon, after you've talked about marriage, you will be provided with the materials to select readings, blessings, and prayers for your wedding ceremony or Nuptial Mass. You will discuss and design what you want the wedding to look like.

WEDDING CELEBRANT

The priests and deacons of Christ the King church ordinarily conduct all the weddings in our church. Exceptions may be made. After you consult with the Pastor of Christ the King Church, you may be permitted to invite another priest or deacon to conduct your wedding. The priest or deacon who will conduct your wedding is to be responsible for completing all necessary preparations, including the paperwork and dispensations if needed.

In case of an inter-faith marriage, the minister of the non-Catholic party may be invited to participate but only after consulting the Pastor and the priest or deacon who is conducting the wedding. The priest or deacon is always the one who officially witnesses the exchange of vows in Christ the King.

WEDDING LOCATION

The proper place for a wedding is a church. Therefore, by direction of the Bishop, weddings will not be conducted in any other setting, such as parks, homes, or backyards.

The proper parish for the wedding is the parish church of the bride. Exceptions can be made, depending on the circumstances.

WEDDING DATE AND TIME

Marriages are ordinarily celebrated on Saturdays, but may be held any day of the week except Sunday. At Christ the King Church weddings are scheduled on Saturdays at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. or 2 p.m., OR at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday evening weddings are not normally scheduled. In rare exceptions (with sufficient reason) we have allowed Saturday evening weddings at 7:30 p.m. If an evening wedding is preferred, it may be scheduled for Friday evening. *Weddings are not normally held during Lenten season between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday.*

The church will be reserved for you for one and a half hours before your wedding time to one and a half hours after your wedding time. This means for an 11 a.m. wedding, you may occupy the church from 9:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., and for a 2 p.m. wedding, you may occupy the church from 12:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. Please DO NOT request the use of the church for longer time periods. Many other events may be scheduled for the same day as your wedding. Baptisms, funerals, choir practice, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation are all held at the church.

WEDDING COORDINATOR

Christ the King parish has wedding coordinators available to assist you with your wedding. Our wedding coordinators help with many weddings each year. Their experience will provide valuable support as you plan your

wedding. They will work with you through the planning process, assist at the rehearsal, and oversee the final preparations at the church on your wedding day. Please contact the wedding coordinator NO LATER than one month before your wedding date.

WEDDING MUSIC

Please contact our parish Music Director regarding your music selections and for consultation regarding outside musicians. The Music Director should approve all vocal music. Our parish musicians can help as well.

The music you select should be prayerful and should reflect Christian values and belief. If your wedding is celebrated within the Mass, the music must have been written for church use, not for the “top 40”. It is proper to use “live” music for a wedding; pre-recorded music does not work well at all.

There are standards to be used in choosing music for any celebration of liturgy.

- **The Musical Standard.** Music used in liturgy must be technically correct and of good quality.
- **The Liturgical Standard.** The Sacrament of Matrimony is a public act, a sacred sign, an encounter with Christ. The music at weddings should serve to emphasize the sacred event, not distract from it. It should assist all who are present to share the gift of faith and to join with the Church in prayer for the couple. For this reason, if you wish to use songs at your wedding, you should be aware that, while they ought to be as musically attractive as possible, it is the text (the words) that should be considered most important. If you have favorite music that is not prayerful, it is best to use it at the reception.

WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY

Couples are encouraged to have formal photography done in the studio of the photographer. However, when pictures are taken in the church it should be **BEFORE** the wedding. Please keep in mind that the church is only available for one and a half hours before your wedding. This includes photography. If your wedding is at 2 p.m., photography **CANNOT** begin before 12:30 p.m. Candid photos may be taken without flash during the ceremony if they can be done without intruding on the wedding, or distracting guests.

Videotaping is permitted but artificial lighting **MAY NOT** be used. If it is going to be a distraction to the couple or the guests, videotaping may not be done.

FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS

Flowers and decorations at the church should be tasteful and enhance the wedding environment. The parish wedding coordinator can be helpful in placement of flowers, candelabra, pew bows, and tables. Please make certain that you or your florist uses dripless candles if you will be using the candelabra.

Floral arrangements, candles and other decorations may not be placed **ON** the altar itself.

Decorations may be used outside the church, as well as inside the church. No tape, however, should be used on the wood inside the church. Please appoint someone to be responsible for “clean up”, to see that all your belongings and discarded items are properly cared for or disposed of.

RICE, FLOWERS, ETC.

It is not permitted to throw rice, birdseed, confetti, or anything else anywhere in, around, or on the church property. (These things are difficult to clean up and are a hazard to people who might slip and fall.) It is also

NOT PERMITTED to have a flower girl spread real flower petals on the floor/carpet inside the church (they stain). *The bride and groom are responsible for informing their families and friends of this policy.*

FEES

Please see the priest or deacon arranging your wedding to discuss fees if these are a financial hardship. Marriage is a sacrament of the Church and as such, will not be denied because of an inability to pay any fees.

Church Use Fee (Parish Members).....	\$ 100
Church Use Fee (Non-Members).....	\$ 200
Clergy*.....	Free-will offering
Parish Wedding Coordinator.....	\$ 75
Parish Musician.....	\$ 75
Parish Vocalist.....	\$ 100

*NOTE: Clergy “Stole Fees” are a donation made to the parish on the occasion of the wedding. This is an offering. At Christ the King, \$100 to \$200 is common. If you wish to make a donation, give what is appropriate to your circumstances. We are grateful for your consideration.

Please present, to the parish office a check to cover the Church Use fee and the fees for Wedding Coordinator, Organist, and Vocalist, along with your license ONE WEEK prior to your wedding date.

CIVIL MARRIAGE LICENSE

You should obtain a Washington State marriage license well in advance of the wedding date. A license from any county in the state of Washington is valid for 60 days. This license is to be brought to the parish office **AT LEAST ONE WEEK BEFORE THE WEDDING.**

WEDDING REHEARSAL

The priest or deacon assisting you with your wedding will schedule your wedding rehearsal. Rehearsals are normally held on Friday evening for a Saturday wedding. A typical time is 6 p.m., however, the time will be scheduled at a time convenient to all. All members of the wedding party should be present and on time. Decorum is to be maintained at the rehearsal and all are asked to maintain an attitude of reverence in the church. The church will be reserved for your rehearsal for ONE HOUR. Please to not be late! The parish wedding coordinator and the priest or deacon usually conduct the rehearsal. Incidentally, no alcohol or smoking are allowed in the church. We are sure you will want everyone to behave appropriately.

WEDDING RECEPTION

If you desire, wedding receptions may be held in the school cafeteria. Special Event insurance coverage must be obtained. For information about the facility, cost and availability, contact the Parish Office.

YOUR WEDDING DAY

Your wedding will be a wonderful, memorable experience. The priests, and deacons, and the parish staff all stand ready to assist you during the preparation for your wedding and throughout your wedding day to make it turn out the way you envision. Even more importantly, we hope your marriage will be long, happy and healthy. *God bless you!*