

## PROCEDURE TO SCHEDULE A WEDDING AT THE CATHEDRAL OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT

The Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament is a Roman Catholic Church following the guidelines set by *The Archdiocese of Detroit and the Code of Canon Law*. Only Roman Catholic marriages are celebrated at this Church. A six-month period of marriage preparation is required according to the Provincial Guidelines for Marriage Preparation (1999) adopted by the Bishops of Michigan.

The requirements to schedule a wedding date are outlined below. Please carefully review the following policies:

- 1) **BAPTIZED AND CONFIRMED ROMAN CATHOLIC** - One of the engaged couple must be a baptized, practicing Roman Catholic, and must have received the sacrament of confirmation. If the Catholic party is not registered in a parish, they will need to formally register. Both persons must be free to marry in the Catholic Church before a date can be placed on hold at the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament.
  
- 2) **PRIOR MARRIAGES** - Any and all prior marriages need to be annulled through your parish before a date can be set or placed on hold. A copy of the final Church annulment decree needs to be submitted along with the Registration Form to place a hold on a Cathedral date/time. If one of the engaged couple has been married but is widowed, a copy of the deceased spouse's death certificate will need to be submitted.
  
- 3) **REGISTRATION FORMS** - Returning the *Preliminary Registration Form* and *Wedding Agreement* begins the process to be married in the Cathedral and will place a hold on your preferred date/time while you gather the remaining paperwork. You can register by emailing the wedding coordinator, Mary Morasso, at [bscweddings@gmail.com](mailto:bscweddings@gmail.com) or mailing it to the following address: 9844 Woodward Avenue, Detroit MI 48202.
  
- 4) **BAPTISMAL RECORDS** -
  - The Catholic party(s) will need to obtain a *newly issued* baptismal record from the parish where the Catholic party was baptized, not a photocopy of your original baptismal certificate. This record should also reflect the date confirmed. To request this form, simply call the parish where you were baptized and request to have a new certificate issued to you due to your upcoming marriage. (If the parish your baptism took place at has closed, the diocese archives will have a record of your baptism and can issue a new certificate.)
  - If one of the parties is baptized of another Christian religion, a photocopy of his/her original baptismal record will need to be submitted.

5) **PRIEST PERMISSION LETTER** - Speak with your pastor and request to be married at the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Have him complete the *Priest Permission Letter* and return it to us. We will need the original. (An email copy will not suffice because the stamp/parish seal affirms it is from the parish). Once the permission letter and baptismal certificates are received your wedding date/time can be confirmed. The letter can be returned to:

- The Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament  
Attn: Mary Morasso  
9844 Woodward Avenue, Detroit MI 48202

\*\*NOTE: If both parties are Catholic, we need permission from only **one** of the parishes.

6) **SECURING A WEDDING DATE** - Once the *Preliminary Registration Form, Wedding Agreement, Baptismal Certificate (s), and the Priest's Permission Letter* are received and confirm that there are no impediments, we will be able to confirm your date. According to the Provincial Guidelines for Marriage Preparation (1999) adopted by the Bishops of Michigan, ***we are not able to guarantee, hold or confirm a chapel date until we have verified you are free to marry in the Catholic Church.***

7) **MARRIAGE PREPARATION** - All couples are required to complete a marriage preparation program before marriage in the Catholic Church.

- Marriage preparation can be completed through the couple's home parish. Please schedule a time to meet with your pastor to discuss marriage preparation requirements. Upon completion couples must make sure that the parish submits to the Cathedral confirmation that the requirements have been met.
- The Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament offers a marriage preparation program to couples. Please contact Mary Morasso for details.

8) **WEDDING DAYS/TIMES**

- Fridays - 3:00pm, 5:00pm
- Saturdays - 11:00am, 1:30pm, 4:00pm

\*\*Availability of ceremony dates can be obtained by calling the Wedding Coordinator, Mary Morasso, at (313)-883-2868 or emailing your requested date to [bscweddings@gmail.com](mailto:bscweddings@gmail.com).

9) **WEDDING REHEARSALS** - Wedding rehearsals are scheduled with the couple 6 months prior to the wedding date on the Wednesday, Thursday, or (possibly) Friday before the wedding day. We are not able to schedule Rehearsals before this time as we are still reserving the Cathedral for other functions.

- 10) WEDDING PRESIDERS** - Your Catholic Priest or Deacon is welcome to be the presider of your wedding. Please notify Mary Morasso of his name, address and phone number when your wedding date is confirmed. If you do not have a presider, we would be happy to arrange this for you. We begin scheduling 9-12 months out from the wedding date so you can arrange to meet him before your wedding day.
- We encourage you to ask your parish priest or deacon so you have the opportunity to get to know him and build a relationship with him.
  - Non-Catholic pastors are not permitted to preside at weddings at the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament.
  - A stipend payable to the priest or deacon is an accepted and encouraged practice.

- 11) WEDDINGS WITHIN THE MASS AND NOT WITHIN THE MASS** - Weddings between two Catholics will normally be celebrated within a wedding Mass. If you prefer the Sacrament of Matrimony outside the Mass, please notify us. Weddings between a Catholic and non-Catholic will celebrate the Sacrament of Matrimony outside the Mass (Communion is not offered).
- If you have questions about these options, please contact Mary Morasso.

- 12) WEDDINGS CELEBRATED ON FEAST DAYS** - If your wedding is celebrated on one of the following dates, you will not have the option to choose your readings but will be required to use the readings of the day, as these days are celebratory feasts in the Catholic Church and our Parish:

- Immaculate Conception (Dec. 8), Mary - The Holy Mother of God (Jan 1), Epiphany (Varies), St. Joseph (March 19), Ascension of the Lord (Varies), Most Holy Trinity (Varies), The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Varies), the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus (Varies), Nativity of John the Baptist (June 24), Sts. Peter and Paul (June 29), Assumption (Aug. 15), All Saints (Nov. 1), All Souls (Nov 2), Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe (Varies), and Cathedral Feast Day.
- Lent is a solemn time and there can be no decorations in the Church. Additionally, lenten parish functions limit the rehearsal availability on Fridays.

- 13) GUEST MUSICIANS** - In a particular way, the Cathedral is called to be a model of excellence and a guardian of the Church's liturgical traditions. To ensure liturgical synergy and excellence in musical execution, musical leadership for weddings is provided solely by the Cathedral's professional music team. A guest musician may apply to participate in the prelude or at the presentation of flowers to the Blessed Virgin Mary in a process outlined in the wedding selection form. We are happy to answer any questions you might have during this process. Please contact Joe Balistreri by email ([sacredmusic@aod.org](mailto:sacredmusic@aod.org)) or call 313-237-5782.

**14) ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, ILLEGAL DRUGS** - The use of intoxicating drugs and alcohol prior to a marriage may impair sufficient use of reason to make a clear and free choice and invalidate the marriage. Therefore, consumption of these substances prior to the marriage ceremony will not be tolerated. These items are not allowed in the Bridal Room, during the Rehearsal or prior to the Wedding Ceremony.

**15) FEES:**

**Fee: Times and Days**

**\$1400** 11am slots on Saturday mornings - All Year

**\$1600** Weddings from January–March

**\$1800** Weddings from April–December

**\$2500** Weddings on Holiday and Holiday Weekends: New Year’s, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and Memorial Day

The non-refundable payment is due when the wedding date is confirmed. Payment is accepted online, by check, cash, or money order. Checks should be made payable to: The Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament and can be mailed to the following address: 9844 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, MI 48202.

The fee includes use of the Church for one hour for your rehearsal, two and a half hours on the day of your wedding (one hour for the ceremony, one hour before and ½ hour after the scheduled time of the ceremony), organist, cantor, two wedding assistants that will be present at the rehearsal and wedding, security, air conditioning during the summer months, and use of the bridal suite one hour before the ceremony. Due to multiple-scheduled weddings, this time frame must be adhered to. Receiving lines should be scheduled at your reception. The fee does not include the customary stipend for the presider.

If at any time during the process you change your mind and decide to marry elsewhere, please inform us so we may close your file.

## **Notes & Reminders for the wedding day**

- 1) No alcohol of any kind is permitted on the premises of the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament, including the consumption in limousines/buses/etc. If suspected, the Archdiocesan Security Staff will intervene. If a person is deemed by Security to be under the influence of alcohol or any other substance, he or she will not be permitted to participate in the wedding ceremony.
- 2) No smoking is permitted in any Cathedral building or on the property.
- 3) All members of the Bridal Party shall arrive at the Cathedral fully dressed for the wedding. There is no dressing room space provided.
- 4) No food or drinks are permitted in the Bridal Room other than water. Please keep this area neat. Please remove all belongings at the end of the ceremony. The Cathedral is not responsible for any lost or stolen items.
- 5) Flowers may be placed in front of the Altar in designated areas. These areas include directly in front of the Altar at the corners, on stands at the bottom of the ramps on either side of the Altar, and in front of the Ambo. Our Cathedral Parish certainly welcomes you to leave any floral arrangements in the Cathedral as a thanksgiving offering to the parish for their prayers, support, and hospitality.
- 6) Pew bows may be attached to the pews. Materials such as tape, glue, wire, tacks, etc. are not permitted. We suggest using gift-wrap ribbon as a means of attaching pew decorations. All pew decorations must be removed at the end of the ceremony.
- 7) Liturgical aides (programs) are highly encouraged. Not only do they inform guests about who your participants (bridal party) are, but they also serve as a great guide to all your guests so that they can fully participate in your liturgy. We suggest you follow the outline as listed on the Liturgy Planning Worksheet. Also, we strongly encourage you to list the text of any congregational hymns you have selected (i.e. Gathering Song, Responsorial Psalm, Presentation of Gifts, Communion, etc.). We are happy to assist with the preparation of these aides by proofreading them for liturgical correctness at the draft stage. If you need assistance with this preparation, please ask.
- 8) Our Archdiocesan Security Staff will be on duty in the parking area and around the Cathedral grounds before, during, and after your wedding. Should you have guests who need assistance getting from the parking area to the Cathedral, please ask your wedding assistants or security staff for assistance.

**Wedding Day Timeline:**

Friday 3:00pm Wedding	Friday 5:00pm Wedding	Saturday 11:00am Wedding	Saturday 1:30pm Wedding	Saturday 4:00pm Wedding	
2:00	4:00	10:00	12:30	3:00	Wedding Party may arrive at the Cathedral. Bride and Bridesmaids will be shown to the Bridal Room. Groom and Groomsman will be shown to the Sacristy.
2:30	4:30	10:30	1:00	3:30	Vendors may arrive and church will be opened for guests
2:50	4:50	10:50	1:20	3:50	Wedding Coordinator will begin lining up and seating grandparents and parents.
2:52	4:52	10:52	1:22	3:52	Wedding Coordinator will bring Bridal Party and Bride over from the Bridal Room to the Woodward Entrance
2:55	4:55	10:55	1:25	3:55	Bridal Party procession begins.
3:00	5:00	11:00	1:30	4:00	Bride is escorted down the aisle – Mass (ceremony) begins
4:00	6:00	12:00	2:30	5:00	Recessional – exit of Bridal Party at end of Mass (ceremony). This time is approximate and varies with each wedding. Upon exit from the church, the Wedding Coordinator will escort the Bridal Party and parents into the Eucharistic Chapel for the signing of the marriage license. Following the signing, the photographer may begin pictures on the altar. One or two bridesmaids should gather all Bridal Party possessions from the Bridal Room at this time.
4:30	6:30	12:30	3:00	5:30	All photography is complete and all decorations have been removed. Bridal Party is now leaving the Cathedral grounds.