

THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

WEDDING PLANNER



THE PARISHES OF:

BLESSED SACRAMENT

ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON

ST. MARY AND ST. JOSEPH

WARREN, OHIO

Dear Brother and Sister in Christ,

You are about to make the most important decision of your lives: to become husband and wife and- God willing- mother and father.

Marriage is a sacrament, a concrete means of receiving God's grace. I encourage you to approach marriage and your wedding day in an authentic spirit of prayer and faith. Practicing the faith by attending Sunday Mass, going to confession on a regular basis, doing charitable works, supporting the Church, and engaging the Church community centers married life in Christ. Christian spouses lead one another to holiness by laying down their lives for one another in imitation of Jesus. I pray that you will seek God's help in your mission.

The wedding liturgy is the high point of your wedding day. As you prepare, please make every attempt to approach your wedding as an act of worship by which you praise God and seek his blessing.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary intercede to her Son, Jesus, for a holy married life and happy wedding day.

Yours in Christ,

Father Christopher J. Cicero
Pastor

WEDDING POLICIES

All policies are subject to change at sole discretion of the pastor.

Getting Started:

Contact the pastor no less than six (6) months prior to your planned wedding date.
The initial meeting and canonical assessment is required in order to confirm a date and time.

Celebrant:

Pastor: Fr. Christopher Cicero (330) 372-2215, cccicero@warrencatholic.org
Parochial Vicar: Fr. Edward Stafford (330) 372-2215, estafford@warrencatholic.org
Deacon:
Edward Kleese: (330) 727-3277 ekleese@warrencatholic.org
Robert Simmerly: (330) 652-6575 rsimmerly@warrencatholic.org
Visiting Priest or Deacon (with delegation from pastor)

Bride and Groom:

Registered member(s) of Blessed Sacrament, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, or St. Mary and St. Joseph.
Registered member(s) of a different parish with the permission of pastor of the other parish to marry at Blessed Sacrament, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, or St. Mary and St. Joseph.
One party must be Catholic.
Both parties must be free to marry.

Wedding Liturgy Coordinator:

Parishioner present to assist with and organize all aspects of the wedding liturgy.
Coordinates entrance and exit processions.
Coordinates placement of flowers and decorations.
Collects fees.

Blessed Sacrament: Natalie Grayson: (330) 442-2506, nataliegrayson35@gmail.com
Nancy Higham: (330) 974-8699, nmbldelft@gmail.com
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton: Marie Therese Weil: (717) 679-399, mweil@warrencatholic.org
St. Mary and St. Joseph: Bonnie Dean: (330) 770-1240, bonniedean442@gmail.com

Director of Sacred Music/Organist:

Responsible for all music selections and additional cantors/musicians in collaboration with bride and groom
Blessed Sacrament and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton:
Tom DeNicholas: (330) 219-3841, tdenicholas@warrencatholic.org
St. Mary and St. Joseph:
Sam Trina: (330) 984-1598, strina@warrencatholic.org

Altar Servers

Provided by the parish
Relatives of the bride or groom who are active altar servers at their parish can be included.

Wedding Day and Time:

Saturdays: No later than 1:00 PM, 6:00 PM
Fridays and weekdays: in consultation with celebrant.
Sundays: not permitted.

Lent: Permitted but not encouraged.
Holy Week: Not permitted

Rehearsal Day and Time:

Arrange with priest/deacon/wedding coordinator.
Usually the evening prior to the wedding day.
Wedding party, readers, offertory gift bearers, etc. must attend.

Location:

Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Church
3020 Reeves Rd. NE, Warren, Ohio 44483
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Roman Catholic Church, St. James Church Site
2532 Burton St., SE, Warren, Ohio 44484
St. Mary and St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church
232 Seneca Ave., NE, Warren, Ohio 44481
Catholic weddings must take place inside the church.
Outdoor and off-site venues are not permitted.
Catholics can petition the bishop for permission to marry in the church of a non-Catholic spouse.

Form of Liturgy:

Wedding Mass: Preferred for weddings of two Catholics. Liturgy celebrated by priest.
Wedding Liturgy outside of Mass: Recommended for weddings of a Catholic and non-Catholic. Liturgy celebrated by priest or deacon.

Fees:

Bring envelopes for each individual to the wedding coordinator at the rehearsal.
Financial aid is available, please consult pastor.
Priest/Deacon: \$150.00
Director of Sacred Music/Organist: \$150.00
Wedding Liturgy Coordinator: \$200.00
Altar Servers: \$20 each (up to three)
Additional Cantors & Musicians: paid by family in consultation with Director of Sacred Music/Organist

Bridal Room:

Consult wedding liturgy coordinator.
Last-minute preparations for bride and bridesmaids.

Marriage Preparation:

Parishioners of Blessed Sacrament, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, and St. Mary and St. Joseph:
Meetings with pastor or deacon including FOCCUS.
Sponsor couple program
Diocese of Youngstown one-day retreat

Non-Parishioners:

Those residing outside of the parish boundaries are prepared by the pastor of local parish where they are registered.
Formation must be approved and verified by pastor of Blessed Sacrament, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, or St. Mary and St. Joseph

Documents:

Baptismal Certificates

- newly printed for both (Catholic/baptized) parties
- request from churches of baptism, mail to your home
- bring to first meeting with priest/deacon

Civil Marriage License

- Apply through County Courthouse at least two weeks prior to wedding
- Bring to rehearsal

Music:

- Pieces chosen in consultation with parish director of sacred music.
- Wedding parties must use the parish director of sacred music/organist.
- Additional cantors and musicians can be arranged with the approval of the director of sacred music.
- Recorded music is not permitted.
- Only approved, SACRED music is permitted (before during and after the liturgy).

The use of music in the marriage rite provides a fitting way to aid in the worship to God while celebrating the sacred event of Christian love. The Diocese of Youngstown Marriage Preparation Policy states: "The purpose of music... is to foster a sense of prayer and praise within the gathering assembly. It has no entertainment value." Your choice of a Catholic wedding indicates spiritual and mystical union through the Sacrament of Matrimony. The wedding liturgy reflects the sacredness of the spiritual union between yourselves and Christ. Music for worship must be a medium of prayer, with words that express true Christian faith.

The following guidelines are given in question form:

1. Do the songs or hymns chosen express the Christian view of love and marriage as a sacred event uniting two people in the love of Christ?
2. Does the hymn or song express the meaning of that part of the religious ceremony at which it occurs? Or is it there just for its own sake without reference to the liturgical action taking place?
3. Does the music aid in prayer? Or is it chosen purely for sentimental reasons?

Readings:

<https://www.foryourmarriage.org/readings/>

Flowers and Decorations:

- Chosen in consultation with the wedding liturgy coordinator.
- Coordinate installation with wedding liturgy coordinator.
- Flowers are not permitted in Lent.
- Arrangements may be placed:
 - In front of the altar (nothing on top of altar or to block view of top of altar)
 - In front of ambo (nothing to block view of readers)
 - In front of the Blessed Mother (on floor or on altar/table)
- Nothing may be nailed or taped to the walls, altars or any furniture in the sanctuary.
- Church décor for the liturgical season cannot be removed.
- Pews bows or greens may hung on the pew ends.
- Balloons are not permitted.
- Additional candles in the church are not permitted unless approved by pastor.
- Remove all flowers and decorations from the Church after the liturgy.

Signage:

- Signs are not permitted inside the church in any way.
- Flower and ring bearers may not carry signs.

Aisle Runner:

- Not permitted

Flower Petals:

- Not permitted

Unity Candle:

- Not permitted

Photography and Videography:

- Permitted during the liturgy.
- Camera persons may not enter the sanctuary area of the church
- Camera persons may not interrupt or pause the processions or any part of the liturgy.
- Camera persons may not block the view of the sacred action.
- Pictures may be taken after the liturgy for a period of 20 minutes on the steps of the sanctuary respecting the sacred space.

Decorum:

- Be on time.
- Do not drink alcohol prior to the wedding.
 - Drunkenness of the bride and groom invalidates the vows.
- Do not chew gum in the church.
- Silence all mobile devices
- Respect the sacred environment by exhibiting reverence and quiet in the church.
- Throwing rice or bread is not permitted.

Attire:

- Modest dress that respects the Church environment is expected.
- Modest attire does not detract attention from the sacred liturgical action. Be mindful of appropriate tops, skirts, dresses, etc.

Security:

- The wedding party is responsible for the security of personal belongings during the liturgy and rehearsal.
- Do not leave unattended purses etc. in the parish hall, vestibules, gathering space, etc.

Holy Communion:

For Catholics

As Catholics, we fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist when we receive Holy Communion. We are encouraged to receive Communion devoutly and frequently. In order to be properly disposed to receive Communion, participants should not be conscious of grave sin and normally should have fasted for one hour. A person who is conscious of grave sin is not to receive the Body and Blood of the Lord without prior sacramental confession except for a grave reason where there is no opportunity for confession. In this case, the person is to be mindful of the obligation to make an act of perfect contrition,

including the intention of confessing as soon as possible (canon 916). A frequent reception of the Sacrament of Penance is encouraged for all.

For our fellow Christians

We welcome our fellow Christians to this celebration of the Eucharist as our brothers and sisters. We pray that our common baptism and the action of the Holy Spirit in this Eucharist will draw us closer to one another and begin to dispel the sad divisions which separate us. We pray that these will lessen and finally disappear, in keeping with Christ's prayer for us "that they may all be one" (Jn 17:21).

Because Catholics believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is a sign of the reality of the oneness of faith, life, and worship, members of those churches with whom we are not yet fully united are ordinarily not admitted to Holy Communion. Eucharistic sharing in exceptional circumstances by other Christians requires permission according to the directives of the diocesan bishop and the provisions of canon law (canon 844 §4). Members of the Orthodox Churches, the Assyrian Church of the East, and the Polish National Catholic Church are urged to respect the discipline of their own Churches. According to Roman Catholic discipline, the Code of Canon Law does not object to the reception of Communion by Christians of these Churches (canon 844 §3).

For those not receiving Holy Communion

All who are not receiving Holy Communion are encouraged to express in their hearts a prayerful desire for unity with the Lord Jesus and with one another.

For non-Christians

We also welcome to this celebration those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ. While we cannot admit them to Holy Communion, we ask them to offer their prayers for the peace and the unity of the human family.

LITURGY PLANNER

Bride and Groom: _____

Location: _____

Liturgy Day/Date/Time: _____

Rehearsal Day/Date/Time: _____

Celebrant: _____

Wedding Liturgy Coordinator: _____

Director of Sacred Music: _____

Cantor: _____

Altar Servers (up to 3): _____

Ushers:
___ Yes, Performed by: _____

___ No

Wedding Party Arrival Time on Wedding Day:

Men: _____

Women: _____

Form of Liturgy:

___ Wedding Mass (both parties Catholic)

___ Wedding Liturgy Outside of Mass (recommended when one party is non-Catholic)

Worship Aid:

___ Yes, Prepared by: _____

___ No

ORDER OF LITURGY

SACRED PRELUDE MUSIC

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

ENTRANCE

Entrance Hymn/Music: _____

Altar Servers: _____

Celebrant and Groom: _____

Grandparents of Groom: _____

Grandparents of Bride: _____

Parents of Groom: _____

Parents of Bride: _____

Ring and Flower Bearers: _____

Bridesmaids: _____

Groomsmen: _____

Maid of Honor and Best Man: _____

Bride and Father/Parent(s) of Bride: _____

INTRODUCTORY RITE

Sign of the Cross: Celebrant

Greeting: Celebrant

Penitential Act: omitted

Gloria (Mass) : _____

LITURGY OF THE WORD

See: <https://www.foryourmarriage.org/readings/>

First Reading: _____

Reader: _____

Responsorial Psalm: _____

Second Reading: _____

Reader: _____

Gospel Acclamation: choose in consultation with director of sacred music

Gospel Reading: (chosen by celebrant unless otherwise noted) _____

Reader: priest or deacon

Homily: priest or deacon

RITE OF MARRIAGE

See: <https://www.foryourmarriage.org/rite-of-marriage/>

Address: celebrant

Questions:

- 1) "I have" (together)
- 2) "I am" (together)
- 3) "I am" (independently)

Consent:

___ Repeat phrases after celebrant

___ Respond "I do"

Reception of Consent: celebrant

Blessing of and Giving of Rings: celebrant, bride, and groom

(best man hands rings to celebrant- no box/ribbon/etc.)

Hymn of Praise:

Yes

No

Music: _____

Blessing and Giving of Arras: celebrant, bride, and groom

Yes, Presented by: _____

No

Universal Prayer:

Reader: (read by priest or deacon unless otherwise noted) _____

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Hymn for Preparation of the Gifts (Mass) : _____

Offertory Procession (Mass):

Yes

Bread: _____

Wine: _____

No

Sanctus (Mass): _____

Memorial Acclamation (Mass): _____

Great Amen (Mass): _____

Agnus Dei (Mass): _____

Our Father

Blessing and Placing of the Lazo or the Veil:

Yes: Placed by: _____

No

Nuptial Blessing

Eucharistic Communion Hymn (Mass): _____

Communion Meditation Music (Mass): _____

Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary (optional for Communion Meditation)

___ Yes

___ No

Music (Marian): _____

Final Blessing

Announcement of Bride and Groom: celebrant

“Mr. and Mrs. _____”

“Mr. and Mrs. _____ and _____”

“Mr. _____ and Mrs. _____”

Recessional Music: _____

Special Notations: