

*Partnering Parishes*  
***Sacred Heart Parish and St. Charles Borromeo Parish***

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Reverend Monsignor George A. Majoros, Pastor

Deacon John H. Farrell

**Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage**  
**Effective January 1, 2017 and updated January 2021**

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*These guidelines are intended to ensure the sacredness of the celebration of the Sacrament of Matrimony at our Partnering Parishes as well as St. Hedwig's Chapel, and, in concert with the policies and guidelines of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.*

**1. Remote Preparation**

Either the **Bride or Groom** is a registered, active member of the parish. An active member of the parish means attending Mass every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation, as well as supporting the parish through their church envelopes. As a Catholic, he/she is trying to live by the Commandments of God and the precepts of the Church; free to marry (*not in any prior bond, civil or religious*); and has the knowledge and intention to enter into a sacred union of life and love with mutual love and lasting fidelity to their spouse to be, should contact the parish priest no less than SIX MONTHS prior to the Marriage to begin their immediate preparation for the Sacrament of Matrimony.

**Non-parishioners** wishing to be married at one of our Partnering Parishes must first obtain permission from the proper Pastor where they are active members before making any arrangements.

**2. IMPEDIMENTS**

**IF A PRIOR BOND EXISTS, THAT IS, IF ONE OR BOTH PARTIES HAVE BEEN MARRIED BEFORE, EITHER IN A CIVIL OR RELIGIOUS CEREMONY, IT MUST BE BROUGHT TO THE PRIEST'S ATTENTION IMMEDIATELY. NO DATE CAN BE SET UNTIL THE PRIOR BOND IS REMOVED.**

**3. Immediate Preparation**

The couple makes an appointment with the parish priest or deacon to begin the formal process for the celebration of the Sacrament of Matrimony to take place in our Church.

The parish priest or deacon will outline the steps of the formal process which include the various meetings with the priest or deacon, gathering the necessary documents, a formal training session, called Pre-Cana, which is required, and the completion of the Pre-Nuptial Investigation Form.

A pamphlet is available at the rectory with time and locations of Pre-Cana throughout the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Unfortunately, neither **Sacred Heart Church** nor **St. Charles Borromeo Church** offers a Pre-Cana/ pre-marital preparation Program.

#### 4. **Celebration of the Sacrament of Matrimony**

There are three forms to celebrate the Sacrament of Matrimony:

- A) The Order of Matrimony within Mass when both persons are Catholic.
- B) The Order of Matrimony Outside of Mass when one person is a Catholic and the other person is a baptized Christian from another denomination.
- C) The Order of Matrimony between a Catholic and an unbaptized person.

#### 5. **Times for the Celebration for the Order of Matrimony**

- A) Friday Celebrations: 4:00P.M.; 5:00P.M.; 6:00P.M.
- B) Saturday Celebrations: 11:00A.M.; 1:30P.M. (Subject to Saturday Confession time, followed by the Saturday Vigil Mass time)
- C) Sunday Celebrations: A Nuptial Liturgy can take place on Sundays but must follow the liturgical guidelines for the Celebration of the Lord's Day (Readings of that Sunday and Prayers).

#### 6. **DOCUMENTS NEEDED**

Catholics are required to provide:

- A) A **recent certified copy of one's Baptismal Certificate** (no older than within six months prior to the wedding with notations).
- B) A recent copy of their Certificates of Confirmation and First Holy Communion.

To obtain these certificates, the Catholic parties need to call or write the church where these Sacraments were received by them. Once the certificates are received, bring them with you the next time you see the priest or deacon.

- C) If one Catholic is not from the parish, he/she must obtain a **Freedom to Marry Letter** from their respective Pastor.

- D) **Death Certificates, Civil Divorce Decree and Tribunal Decree**, if these apply.

- E) **Pre-Marital Witness Testimony Forms** for both the Bride and Groom will be provided by the parish priest or deacon. The Bride and Groom will be required to have witnesses (2 each for bride & groom) who will provide written testimony of

freedom to marry. The priest or deacon will explain how these forms will be executed.

F) **Marriage License MUST** be brought to the rehearsal to ensure that the celebration of the Sacrament of Matrimony can take place. **PLEASE NOTE: NO LICENSE NO MARRIAGE.**

## 7. DECORATIONS

Flowers are permitted. The Church does not provide flowers, stands, or wedding candles. Please determine beforehand if the flowers will not remain in Church, nor be taken after the wedding.

**For Insurance purposes, safety and decorum:**

- **WE DO NOT PERMIT A RUNNER** (Center aisle is 100 feet long).
- **NO RICE OR SEEDS CAN BE THROWN BECAUSE OF INSURANCE CONCERNS.**

## 8. PHOTOGRAPHY

The photographers and or videographers are welcome to provide flash and movie service as long as they do their job with reverence and decorum in Church. NO standing on church furniture, discreet movement during the liturgy, and never permitted in the sanctuary. Taking pictures in the church *after the Wedding is never a given. Any request should be discussed prior to finalizing your plans for the liturgy.*

## 9. MUSIC

**Sacred Heart Parish: Rectory (610-623-0409) or ([sacredheartchurch@rcn.com](mailto:sacredheartchurch@rcn.com))**

**St. Charles Borromeo Parish: Mr. Patrick Hamlet ([patrick.hamlet77@gmail.com](mailto:patrick.hamlet77@gmail.com))**

The couple planning their Liturgy must contact our **Parish Music Director**, who will assist in the approved selections of liturgical music appropriate for the celebration of the Sacrament of Matrimony.

The customary fees are listed below. It is permitted to bring in another soloist or accompanist, who performs at another Catholic Church, however there is a **“bench fee” of \$ 150.00 additional**, since our Music Director must be here to supervise. These matters must be discussed first with the parish priest or deacon and then with the Parish Music Director at the above number.

## 10. FEES

**\$300.00** Parishioner

**\$700.00** Non- parishioner

**\$150.00**

Cantor

**\$150.00**

Organist

**\$ 25.00**

Sexton

**\$ 15.00 @**

2 Altar Servers

**\$ 50.00**

Rehearsal Fee

**Wedding Rehearsal:** The Music Directors will schedule and conduct your wedding rehearsal. Your rehearsal should be scheduled well in advance for the week of your wedding. **Please be on time.**

All monies should be **clearly marked** and put in **separate** envelopes and **brought the night of your rehearsal along with your Marriage License.** *This will be one less thing for you to remember on your special day.*

## 11. OTHER

- A) Wedding Parties: Due to the size of our church please be considerate in limiting the number of your bridal party. Secondly, the bridal party needs to dress appropriately for Church. If you need further explanation, then our Church may not be the right place for your celebration.
- B) Since you desire to enter into the Sacrament of Matrimony in our House of Worship, you and your wedding party are respectfully requested to follow all the normal rules of our Holy Religion, Church etiquette and civility. Those taking part in the celebration should be people of faith and properly disposed for the sacred celebration.

Please remember that chewing gum before, during, or after the celebration is inappropriate, rude, and breaks one's fast to receive Holy Communion during a Nuptial Liturgy within Holy Mass.

You and your guests are to refrain from bringing any liquid (other than water) or food into Church so as not be disrespectful and irreverent, and thus avoid any form of desecration of the Most Blessed Sacrament in the Tabernacle.

- C) Finally, our Partnering Parishes will not tolerate:
- The use of alcohol or other addictive substances on or in our Church facilities prior, during, or after the celebration of the Sacrament which can affect its validity and licitness.  
*Please be aware that if this clause is violated in any way, the Clergy of the Partnering Parishes, and or Celebrant, has the right of refusal to celebrate the scheduled wedding.*
  - Loud, boisterous and unruly behavior.
  - Mockery of the sacred.