

*St. John Vianney and Holy Family  
Catholic Church*

*Wedding Information*

*St. John Vianney Catholic Church  
901 South Prairie Avenue  
Fairmont, Minnesota 56031  
(507)-235-5535*

*Holy Family Catholic Church  
2481 50<sup>th</sup> Street  
Fairmont, Minnesota 56031  
(507)-235-5535 (Served by Saint John  
Vianney)*

# Marriage Basics

Congratulations on your engagement and readying for the married life! The Sacrament of Marriage is one of the seven Sacraments of the Catholic Church. A Sacrament shows God's love for us and helps us to grow in that same love for others. Marriage is also a rite of the Catholic Church, which means that is an expression of the life of all members of the church through specific prayers, words and actions that express our faith in Jesus Christ. Over the next several months, the marriage preparation program will help you to have an idea of everything that will stand behind your marriage vows. For this reason, arrangements for the celebration of marriage are to be made at least six months in advance.

The Sacrament of Marriage is a means of growing in holiness. It is assumed that the couple is seeking spiritual growth by:

- Actively living their faith tradition. For Catholics this includes weekly celebration of the Sunday Eucharist and Holy Days of Obligation. Please Note: For Catholics, the obligation to attend a Catholic Church and receive the Eucharist on Sunday is obligatory.
- Witnessing to a chaste lifestyle (cohabitation is inconsistent with the teaching of the Catholic Church)
- Being involved. Giving of time, talent, and treasure to the Church and community as good stewards.

If either or both parties have been **previously married**, they must now be free to marry according to Church law. If you have been previously married, please consult the priest of the parish.

# **Marriage Between Catholics and a Person of Another Faith or Religion**

When only one party is Catholic, the Minnesota Catholic Bishops recommends that the wedding be celebrated according to the Rite of Marriage Outside of Mass in respect for varying faith traditions.

A Catholic may be married in a non-Catholic church (outdoor liturgies are not allowed) by a minister of that church if there is a good reason and the Catholic party obtains proper permission. All of the preparations required by the Catholic Church must be completed by the couple in addition to those expected by the other church.

A wedding witnessed by a Catholic bishop, priest, or deacon can only be witnessed within a Catholic Church, chapel or oratory. Outside weddings or weddings at other premises (i.e., hotels, etc.) are not allowed and should such weddings take place are not recognized by the Catholic Church.

# **Preparation Program**

Each couple will be prepared by a priest or deacon of the parish. It is custom (although there are exceptions) that the officiant prepares the couple. An initial interview with the priest or deacon helps to determine a wedding date and time along with the requirements for Christian marriage.

As a means of addressing important issues before marriage, all couples are to complete the PMI, an inventory for marriage preparation. The PMI is designed to facilitate discussion in areas of daily living. Couples have found this to be very beneficial.

In addition to completing the PMI, the couple must participate in a marriage preparation course or retreat. This can be an Engaged Encounter Weekend, a Catholic Charities Marriage Preparation Program or a similar program of pre-marriage enrichment offered by the Catholic Church.

We expect couples to learn more about Natural Family Planning. This highly effective method contains none of the health risks associated with artificial contraceptives and the additional benefit of strengthening relationships and deepening interpersonal intimacy via periodic abstinence.

Finally, there should be ample time to discuss the wedding liturgy. This preparation includes careful selection of readings and music, as well as reviewing the order of the rite itself. A liturgy planning resource will be given to you as a guide. At least one month prior to your wedding you need to schedule a meeting with the presider (priest or deacon) to finalize the liturgy details.

# Wedding Liturgy

Your wedding should be seen as a liturgical celebration and a public expression of your love for each other and God. Hence, it is a sacred event. It is a joyful celebration of a sacrament – one of seven ways in which God’s special grace is manifested to us in the Church. For this reason, it is essential that it takes place in a church, follows sound liturgical principles and is in good taste. The Catholic Rite of Marriage as celebrated at St. John Vianney/Holy Family invites you to make careful selections of readings, music, prayers and other options.

Here are some points to guide you:

Weddings are scheduled on Saturday or Friday evenings. Rehearsals held on Friday evening may need to be scheduled around other weddings (weddings take precedence over rehearsals). Consult with the priest or deacon for dates and times.

Marriage and music arrangements are to be made through the Director of Liturgy. Musicians not affiliated with St. John Vianney/Holy Family who wish to use the church’s equipment, such as the organ, the piano, microphones, etc. or wish to practice in the church prior to the wedding date should contact the Director of Liturgy. Note: this is not the responsibility of the priest or deacon.

The following directives are given for music:

1. Using the Sunday liturgy as the model, the Church encourages the use of congregational hymns when possible and prefers musicians to support the sung portions of the liturgy – acclamations and responses – prior to choosing any solo pieces.
2. Only music suitable to the religious dimension of the wedding and the Catholic liturgy is considered proper. Therefore, songs of a purely secular nature are not appropriate in the wedding liturgy.
3. While it is certainly true that many popular songs are very beautiful and express lovely sentiments, they are more appropriate to the wedding reception than to the marriage liturgy.
4. Please consult the Director of Liturgy to help in the selection and choosing of music.

Catholic liturgy is always to be noble and simple. Attendants are to be limited to **five (5) couples**, including the best man and maid (matron) or honor. If there is a flower girl and/or ring bearer, there can only be one (1) of each. The ring bearer and flower girl must be old enough to cooperate effectively.

The principal aspects of the marriage rite are the exchange of consent, and the blessing and exchange of rings. A **unity candle/sand ceremony** is not part of the Catholic Wedding Liturgy; if one is desired, it may be used at your wedding reception.

Photographers and Videographers:

1. To prepare for Mass and reconciliation, all pictures need to be completed by 3:30 p.m. Kindly inform your photographer of this time limit.
2. The Church discourages flash photography during the liturgy.
3. Movement of photographers is to be kept to a minimum during the liturgy.
4. Refreshments (food, water, pop) are inappropriate within the church. Remember, you are in church; this means the sacred nature of the place needs to be respected. They should be kept and can be used within the Hospitality Area.
5. No church furniture is to be rearranged without permission.
6. Any furniture or plants which are moved for the sake of pictures are to be replaced.
7. Videotaping of the wedding is permitted. The placement of any video equipment within the sanctuary is not permitted. The presiding priest can often suggest the most appropriate placement for such equipment.

Environment/Décor:

Floral arrangements have long been a part of the worship environment in the Catholic Church. In this, please keep the following in mind.

1. Excessive concentration of flowers in the sanctuary or along the main aisle is discouraged. At no time are the altar and pulpit to be hidden by flowers. Flowers are not to be placed on that altar.
2. Candles as decorations attached to the pews are not allowed for safety and maintenance reasons.
3. The use of aisle runners is not permitted.

### Lector (Reader):

Choose a lector qualified to speak publicly and proclaim the Word of God sincerely. This is not the occasion to have someone proclaim for the first time. Nerves easily take over and can make it difficult for the reader and congregation.

### Server/s:

Servers assist the presider in a variety of ways during the liturgy. If you choose a server/s, please choose someone who has experience serving. It is unwise to ask someone who has never practiced this ministry.

### Communion Ministers:

If your wedding liturgy includes Eucharist, Communion ministers may be needed to assist in the distribution of communion (depending upon the size of the congregation and if both forms of communion are used. Speak with the priest celebrating your liturgy concerning this issue). We encourage communion under both forms – the bread and wine.

### Clean Up:

1. The Preschool Room, Bride's Room, Church entrance, Church, and Hospitality Area/Church Basement must be in order.
2. Boxes, ribbons, paper, food items are to be disposed of.
3. All furnishings are to be replaced and cleaned.
4. Pews should be free of all programs and other items.
5. No rice, bird seed, flower petals, confetti, or other items are to be used or thrown inside or outside of the church. They are not permitted because these items create a hazard on church floors, stairs and outside.
6. The use of bubbles is prohibited.
7. Alcoholic beverages are not allowed on the church property at any time.
8. Smoking is not allowed in any church building.
9. We care about the safety and comfort of all parishioners and guests in our facility. Saint John Vianney/Holy Family is not responsible for any accidental injury, damage or loss of personal property while you are using the facility. Children must be monitored closely and are not allowed to roam unattended. The facility must be left clean and orderly.

## **Other frequently asked questions:**

1. What furnishings does the parish have available?

- Large table/s for cards or gifts.
- Kneeler.
- Rostrum for signing the guest book.

2. Who can I contact for accompanist and/or soloists?

Accompanists:

- Cathie Arens - 235-6846
- Joyce Schultz – 632-4412
- Sandy Ettesvold – 235-3278
- Ann Wehner – 236-0018
- Emily Labes – 235-9422 (Piano only)

Cantor/Vocalist:

- Bill Busse – 238-2987
- Phyllis Surprenant – 235-6890
- Karla Ebert – 235-3692
- Jan Abbas – 235-6846
- Matelyn Schultz – 507-399-9045
- Angie Nagel – 507-276-5114

Your own choices of other musicians or soloists are welcomed; although, again, the choice of people with experience is necessary. The occasion of this sacrament is not the time to try someone with little or no experience.

3. What are the fees? There is no charge for sacraments in the Catholic Church.
  1. Should you choose to provide a donation to Saint John Vianney Church/Holy Family Church, the recommended amount is \$100. Your donation is used for utilities, marriage preparation materials, etc.
  2. If there is no set fee given by the accompanist, the recommended amount is \$100.
  3. If there is no set fee given by the cantor/vocalist, the recommended amount is \$100.
  4. Altar Servers – Payable directly to the server, approximately \$10.
  5. Priest (should you choose/not mandatory) approximately \$50-\$100.
  6. For information on renting the SJV School or SJV Hall, please call the Parish Center at 235-5535.
  
4. What time can the liturgy be held?
  - The latest the wedding liturgy can begin is 5:00 p.m. on Friday.
  - The latest the wedding liturgy can begin is 2:30 p.m. on Saturday.

# Agreement

We have received a copy of the “Wedding Information” booklet for Saint John Vianney and Holy Family Church. We acknowledge that we are responsible for reading and following the directives.

Bride (Signature): \_\_\_\_\_

Groom (Signature): \_\_\_\_\_

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Marriage: \_\_\_\_\_