

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
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Marriage/Convalidation Information

2008

1. At least six months notice is required prior to the date of the ceremony. This period of time will enable us to prepare you for your life together as husband and wife in a Sacramental Marriage.
2. Christians must obtain a copy of their Baptismal Certificate from the Church of their Baptism. It cannot be over six months old. If it is not possible to obtain a baptismal certificate from a Protestant denomination, a certified affidavit may be accepted. Catholics must provide a Baptismal Certificate.
3. The prospective bride and groom will be asked to complete a 'pre-marriage' form. Another form, "freedom to marry" needs to be signed by a close relative of each, testifying that you have not been married before. If there has been a previous marriage, then a study must be made to see if you are free to marry within the Church at this time. This can cause some long delays; and in some cases, a marriage within the Church may not be possible.
4. You may also be required to complete a "FOCUS" pre-marriage inventory and evaluation, an Engaged Encounter weekend retreat, marriage preparation classes, natural family planning classes and spiritual instruction sessions.
5. To be married in the State of Oregon, you must have an Oregon marriage license. This can be obtained from any county clerk in the state of Oregon. You must submit this marriage license to the parish as soon as you obtain it but not more than six months before your wedding date.
6. You will first meet with a parish representative in order to begin the process for marriage preparation. After you have completed the required paperwork, submitted required certificates, and we have determined that you are free to marry in the Church you will meet with the priest to plan your wedding date.
7. A Nuptial Mass is encouraged for marriages celebrated in the Catholic Rite unless there is a reasonable cause for doing otherwise. Please discuss this matter with the priest preparing your marriage.
8. No wedding can be scheduled later than 1:00PM on a Saturday. This is necessary so that the Church may be cleared for Confessions and the Saturday Vigil Mass. No Sunday weddings are permitted.
9. Catholics must receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) before their marriage. You can arrange for a time with the priest or attend a regularly scheduled time at the parish.

10. There is a charge of \$300 for us to provide this service to you. This is not a tax-deductible charitable donation; this is a fee charged by the church for services rendered. This fee includes the preparation time and the use of the Church. \$50 will be refunded to you if the Church is left in clean condition. If this fee creates a true financial hardship for you, please discuss this with the priest who is arranging your marriage. The Church fee is to be paid in cash before the Rehearsal. You are free to give any other individual gift to the priest celebrating your wedding.
11. There is absolutely no drinking of alcoholic beverages at any time in the Church, Parish Hall, on or around the Church grounds. Our Church is very sacred to its members; none of us would consider drinking on the premises so it is not proper that members of wedding parties to take this liberty. Please make sure that your entire group is aware of this restriction.
12. You must arrange for music, flowers, photographers, etc. It is recommended that most photos be taken before the wedding; those of the bride and groom can be taken later. This will enable you to arrive at the reception quicker. Please note that no secular music is permitted during the wedding Mass or service. The Church is a holy place; we hope that you are being married in the church so that God will bless your union.
13. Photos and video may be taken during the ceremony, but we ask the photographer or videographer to check with the priest. We will place them in a discreet location. Again, this is a religious ceremony that should not be disrupted by unnecessary movements.
14. Our liability insurance company has warned us about the danger of throwing rice or bird seed. It makes the sidewalk slippery and has caused some serious falls and injuries on an otherwise joyous day. Therefore, it is not permitted. Confetti is never permitted due to difficulty in cleaning.
15. A room is available for the women to dress. Please ask someone to see that the room is left in order and all personal items are removed right after the wedding. No dressing room is available for the men.
16. The organist and soloist (unless they are friends who have volunteered their services) should be given a gratuity for their services. The organist fee is \$100 and the soloist fee is \$75. If you have family or friends who will perform these services for you please consult with the pastor or his assistant.
17. Altar servers are not necessary. If you decide you want servers, we can usually find them for you. They should also be given a gratuity of at least \$10 each.
18. Flower girls are permitted, but they are not permitted to scatter flower petals on the floor. They are difficult to remove and there is not sufficient time to vacuum the Church before evening services.
19. Due to the fire hazard, no free standing candelabras are allowed. We do have altar candelabras that we are able to place on the main or side altars if you wish. Please discuss this with the priest.
20. A Unity Candle is permitted; however it is not necessary. This is an individual devotion. Unity Candles may not be placed on the altar but may be placed on a small side table.