

THE PLACE

A Catholic wedding usually takes place in the parish church of the bride or of the groom. This is most often determined by the active participation of the couple or the geographic location based on the residence of the bride or groom.

A person who is a member of another parish who wishes to be married at St Catherine of Siena, must obtain a letter from the pastor of the parish in which that person worships, giving permission to marry outside of their parish.

THE DATE

The parish clergy will be most happy to help in every way. A minimum of six months is recommended for the preparation of the Sacrament of Marriage.

Should circumstances require a Decree of Nullity of a former marriage, it will not be possible to set a final wedding date until the decree is obtained.

The wedding date must be arranged with the priest or deacon as soon as possible. The wedding date will be secured with a \$300 deposit.

THE TIME

The parish schedule permitting, Wedding Ceremonies and Nuptial Masses may take place:

Fridays between 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. or

Saturdays at 10:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE: One and one-half hours will be scheduled for your wedding, to include the marriage liturgy and photography.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Since marriage is a Sacrament, a Christian vocation, and a serious life commitment, the Church will permit the celebration of marriage only after it is satisfied that the bride and groom are sufficiently prepared to fulfill the obligations of a Christian marriage.

THE WEDDING LITURGY

The Rite of Marriage may take one of two forms:

The **NUPTIAL MASS** contains all the elements of the Wedding Ceremony, celebrated within the context of the Eucharist. The Mass is the most beautiful and meaningful way in which a Catholic couple can begin their marriage. The reception of Holy Communion by the bride and groom, together with their families and friends, clearly expresses the union of the couple to the Mystical Body of Christ and their desire to live their new vocation in the midst of the Christian community. The **NUPTIAL MASS** is recommended for a Catholic marrying another Catholic or when both families are significantly practicing Catholics.

The **WEDDING CEREMONY** is quite noble in its simplicity. The service begins with a greeting, readings from Scripture, and a homily by the priest or deacon. This is followed by the exchange of vows, the blessing and exchanging of the rings, and the Lord's Prayer. The rite concludes with a prayer and the wedding blessing. The **WEDDING CEREMONY** is recommended for a Catholic marrying a non-Catholic Christian, for a Catholic marrying a person of another faith tradition or for Catholic families which are largely non-practicing.

VISITING CLERGY

If a couple wishes to have a visiting priest or deacon from another parish participate, please inform our priest or deacon during your marriage preparation.

READERS

Readers are chosen by the couple. The couple should make arrangements with their readers well in advance of the wedding celebration. It is the couple's duty to provide their readers with a copy of the Scripture text that will be used, chosen from those provided in *Together for Life*. Those chosen for this important role should be comfortable with public speaking and have a clear voice.

WEDDING MUSIC

Music for weddings at St Catherine of Siena forms an integral part of the Rite and must be liturgical in nature. The Director of Music Ministry must be contacted at least **one month** before the wedding before any music-related decisions are made.

DECORATIONS

The decorations of the church must be respectful of the liturgical season; please plan your decorations accordingly. Any existing decorations will remain in place.

If pew bows are used, please advise the florist that they must be tied on rather than taped or clipped. Ribbons, bows, flowers must not be glittered.

Safety issues restrict us from allowing aisle runners for the ceremony. The throwing of rice, seeds, flower petals, use of bubbles or any other material inside or outside is not permitted.

Noisemakers such as bells, horns are not permitted.

PREPARATION FOR THE WEDDING LITURGY

Please remember that appropriate, reverent and respectful behavior must be maintained in the church during rehearsal and on the wedding day. There is no food, gum or beverage of any kind permitted in any part of the church building. The only exception is bottled water.

For gathering and preparation, the Bride's Room and the Groom's Room are available to the couple and their attendants one hour before the wedding. Care should be taken to leave the rooms clean and in good order.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Photographs may be taken, provided the photographer is discreet, reverent and respectful of the sacredness of this religious celebration. The photographer may NOT enter the Sanctuary or take pictures in such a way as to disturb the congregation or the priest.

The photographer must respect the 1.5 hour total time allotted for the wedding ceremony and photographs combined.

FEE

The wedding fee is \$750.

- \$300 deposit due when Wedding date is booked.

- \$450 balance due two weeks prior to the wedding.

THE REHEARSAL

The rehearsal is scheduled through the Wedding Coordinator for the evening before the wedding for **ALL** those directly involved in the wedding (bride, groom, attendants, flower girl, ring bearer, ushers, readers). One hour is allotted for the wedding rehearsal.

The marriage license must be brought to the rehearsal.

WEDDING LITURGY CHECKLIST

- ___ Meeting with Priest or Deacon
- ___ Meeting with Wedding Coordinator
- ___ Meeting with Director of Music Ministry
- ___ Wedding License Obtained
- ___ Deposit Paid (to secure date)
- ___ Balance Paid (two weeks prior to wedding)
- ___ Together for Life Selection Form turned in (one week prior to wedding).

MARRIAGE PREPARATION CHECKLIST

- ___ General questionnaire for the bride and groom (form A)
- ___ Freedom to Marry forms, two per person, usually from relatives or close friends (form B)
- ___ For the Catholic – a copy of the Baptismal Certificate that has been issued within six months of the date of the wedding
- ___ For other Christians – a copy of the Baptism certificate
- ___ The marriage license issued by the state
- ___ For weddings where the couple is not from the parish, a letter of permission must be obtained from the pastor of the Catholic party
- ___ Dispensation or Permission for the marriage, if necessary
- ___ FOCCUS Pre-Marriage Inventory
- ___ Certificate of Completion of an approved marriage preparation program
- ___ In the event that either the bride or groom were previously married, one of the following documents will be necessary: a certified copy of the Death Certificate of the former spouse, or a copy of the Decree of Nullity of the former marriage, issued by a Church Tribunal.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS/INFORMATION

St. Catherine of Siena

1955 South Belcher Road, Clearwater, Florida 33764

Parish Office: (727) 531-7721

Wedding Coordinator:

Gail Keeney (727) 542-6571 (cell)

(727) 535-4145 (home)

gkeeney@tampabay.rr.com

The church Wedding Coordinator will assist you in planning all the details of your church wedding. She will also be present at your rehearsal and wedding. If you have contacted an outside wedding planner, please understand that the person's responsibilities do not pertain to the church wedding liturgy.

Pinellas County Marriage License: (727) 464-4876

Director of Music Ministry: Cathy Blanchard (727) 463-0997

More information can be found on the Diocesan website:

www.dosp.org, under Ministries, Marriage and Family