

Preparing for Your Catholic Marriage

- ___ **Introductory Questionnaire (Form A)**
- ___ **Freedom to Marry Forms (Form B)**
2 per person from relatives or close friends and must be notarized.
- ___ **Baptismal Certificate(s)**
 - Catholics: A recent copy of one's Baptismal Certificate.
 - Christians: A copy of one's Baptismal Certificate.
- ___ **Marriage License**
- ___ **FOCCUS Pre-Marriage Inventory**
- ___ **A Diocesan Marriage Preparation Program**
(i.e. Pre-Cana)
- ___ **If the Bride or Groom is not a member of St. Catherine of Siena,**
Letter of Permission from the pastor of your parish(es)
- ___ **If the Bride or Groom was previously married,**
one (1) of the following documents:
 - Certified Copy of former spouse's Death Certificate.
 - Copy of the former marriage's Decree of Nulity issued by a Diocesan Tribunal.

Planning Your Wedding Mass

- ___ **Pay \$300 deposit** to secure date.
- ___ **Meet with Gail** - Wedding Coordinator | (727) 542-6571
- ___ **Meet with Cathy** - Director of Music | (727) 463-0997
- ___ **Pay remaining balance** at least 1 month in advance.
- ___ **Turn in *Together for Life* Form** at least 1 month in advance.
- ___ **Bring Marriage License to Rehearsal**
Pinellas County Marriage License | (727) 464-4876



St. Catherine of Siena
Catholic Church

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Holy Matrimony & *Marriage Preparation*

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA
CATHOLIC CHURCH
CLEARWATER, FL



Marriage Preparation

Holy Matrimony is a sacrament, a Christian vocation, and a serious life commitment. The Catholic Church invites couples desiring this sacrament into a process of preparation in order to most fully receive from God the graces of this special union.

Contact us to schedule an appointment with a priest or deacon to begin your marriage preparation.

Wedding Liturgy

The *Rite of Marriage* may take one of the following two forms:

A **Nuptial Mass** is celebrated within the context of a Catholic Mass (including Holy Eucharist) and includes musical accompaniment. When both the bride and groom share the Catholic faith, celebrating Holy Communion together as husband and wife is the most beautiful and meaningful expression by which a couple can begin their Catholic marriage.

A **Wedding Ceremony** is a shorter service which includes musical accompaniment and the following: an entrance procession, readings from Scripture, a homily, the exchange of vows, the blessing of rings, the Lord's Prayer, and an exit procession. Noble in its simplicity, this Ceremony is preferred when either the bride or the groom does not share the Catholic faith or if the celebration of Holy Communion presents a serious cause of division among family and friends.

Scheduling the Wedding

A Catholic wedding usually takes place in whichever parish the couple worships or their parish based upon geographical location.

A minimum of six months is recommended for the couple's preparation.

A wedding date will only be secured and placed on our parish calendar once a \$300 deposit has been made.

Location & Time

Wedding Ceremonies and Nuptial Masses take place at St. Catherine of Siena in the church and at the following times:

Fridays anytime between 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm
Saturdays at 10:00 am, 1:00 pm, or 6:00 pm

Weddings receive 90 minutes of scheduled time for both the liturgy and any photography afterwards.

Readings & Readers

The couple chooses the liturgy's Scripture readings from *Together for Life*. They also choose the readers and communicate to them the Scripture texts chosen. These readers should be clear, articulate, and comfortable with public speaking.

Guest Priests or Deacons

If a visiting priest or deacon is desired as the marriage's officiant, please inform the wedding coordinator during the marriage preparation process; guest clergy are most welcome at St. Catherine of Siena.

Photography

Photographs may be taken at any point but in such a way as to respect the sacredness of the ceremony. Photographers may not step up into the main sanctuary (near the altar) or work in such a way that causes disruption or distraction.

Music

Music is an integral dimension of the ceremony and adds to its beauty.

The Director of Music must be contacted at least one month prior to the wedding for consultation of appropriate musical selection.

Décor

Additional church decorations must respect the current liturgical season (i.e., Lent, Advent, Easter, etc.) and pre-existing church decorations will remain in place. If pew bows are used, please advise the decorator/florist that these must be tied rather than taped or clipped. Aisle runners or the throwing of flower petals/rice is not permitted.

Rehearsal & Hospitality

The wedding coordinator will conduct a rehearsal on the evening prior to the wedding for those directly involved in the ceremony; this includes such individuals as the bride and groom, their parents, the bridal party, the readers, the flower girl and/or the ring bearer.

The marriage license must be brought to the rehearsal.

On the day of the wedding, the Bride's Room and Groom's Room will be made available to the bridal party 30 minutes before the wedding.

Wedding Fee

\$750 Wedding Nuptial Mass or Ceremony *with* music and preparation.
Includes \$300 deposit.

\$350 Wedding Ceremony in Chapel *without* music, includes preparation.

\$150 Preparation Only for those to be married elsewhere.