

## *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(s) and/or the ring bearer(s).

## *Wedding Fee*

- \$750** **Wedding Nuptial Mass or Ceremony** *with* music and preparation. Includes \$200 deposit to secure date.
- \$350** **Wedding Ceremony in Chapel** *without* music, includes preparation.
- \$200** **Preparation Only** for those to be married elsewhere.



**St. Catherine of Siena**  
Catholic Church

1955 South Belcher Road  
Clearwater, Florida 33764  
scosparish.org

Phone: (727) 531-7721  
Fax: (727) 531-7723  
contact@scosparish.org



# *Holy Matrimony* & *Marriage Preparation*

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA  
CATHOLIC CHURCH  
CLEARWATER, FL





## *Marriage Preparation*

Our marriage preparation program utilizes Witness to Love, “an innovative mentorship program which fosters dynamic marriage discipleship.” Contrary to other marriage preparation programs, Witness to Love encourages the engaged couple to choose a mentor couple who will guide them and walk with them—not only in the months leading up to the marriage but following the wedding day as well.

Once chosen, the mentor couple will be trained in their new role by one of our parish deacons. Then, the two couples will share 6 meals together in which they will progress through enriching and worthwhile conversations covering a range of topics from communication and family dynamics to relationships and balance.

In addition to the 6 meals shared together, the couple will participate in a retreat at St. Catherine of Siena. Together with a handful of other activities, our parish program of marriage preparation truly equips married couples to become positive and uplifting witnesses to married love in our community.

**To learn more about our program of marriage preparation and to set-up an introductory appointment, please contact our parish office at (727)531-7721 and ask for our Marriage Preparation Coordinator, Mrs. Betsy Marerro, ext. 106.**

Any couple desiring to receive the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony must undergo a program of marriage preparation prior to their wedding day; this beneficial program readies the couple to live out the vows of their marriage throughout their lives. A minimum of six months is ordinarily required for a couple’s preparation.

## *Wedding Liturgy*

The *Celebration of Marriage* may take one of 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.

## *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.