



SAINT PAUL OF THE CROSS
PARISH

Wedding Guidelines

Congratulations!

Saint Paul of the Cross Parish congratulate you on your recent engagement. Moreover, we are honored that you have chosen to celebrate your wedding in our parish church. Your upcoming wedding is a source of pride and joy for the entire parish.

As you begin your preparations for marriage, please be attentive to the guidelines offered in this booklet. If any questions arise at any stage of the process, please feel free to contact the priest for clarification.

BEFORE THE WEDDING

Couples wishing to marry at Saint Paul of the Cross Parish must contact the parish priest at least 6 months prior to the anticipated wedding date. The priest will then schedule an appointment with the couple, the purpose of which is to ascertain whether both parties are able to marry within the Catholic Church.

At this first appointment, the necessary paperwork will be completed and a wedding date and time confirmed.

NECESSARY DOCUMENTS

Those to be married at Saint Paul of the Cross Parish will have to provide the priest with the following documents:

- 1) A recently issued baptismal certificate from the church where you were baptized.
- 2) Pre-nuptial witness affidavits are necessary in most instances. These forms will be distributed at the initial appointment.
- 3) A valid Pennsylvania Marriage License. Please note that the license is valid for 60 days from the date of issuance. The license should be turned into the priest approximately two weeks prior to the wedding date.

CATHOLIC NUPTIAL MASS

Prelude music

**Mothers light Unity Candle*

Entrance Rite

Introductory Music (Processional)

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: _____

Responsorial Psalm: _____

Second Reading: _____

Gospel Reading: _____

Homily

Rite of Marriage

Exchange of Consent

Blessing & Exchange of Rings

**Lighting of the Unity Candle*

Petitions

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of Gifts

Eucharistic Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Nuptial Blessing

Distribution of Holy Communion

**Devotion to the Blessed Mother*

Final Blessing

CEREMONY PROGRAMS

A printed program for your wedding ceremony is optional. If you choose to distribute a program to your guests, please use the following template, depending on whether you are having the full Catholic Nuptial Mass or the Marriage Ceremony Outside of Mass.

MARRIAGE OUTSIDE OF MASS

Prelude music

*Mothers light Unity Candle

Entrance Rite

Introductory Music (Processional)

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: _____

Responsorial Psalm: _____

Second Reading: _____

Gospel Reading: _____

Homily

Rite of Marriage

Exchange of Consent

Blessing & Exchange of Rings

**Lighting of Unity Candle*

Petitions

Nuptial Blessing

The Lord's Prayer

*Devotion to the Blessed Mother

Final Blessing

Recessional Hymn

*Optional

*Note:

If both the prospective bride and groom **reside outside of the Diocese of Pittsburgh**, then a priest from one of their local parishes must oversee their marriage preparation and **must complete all requisite paperwork**. Completed paperwork must be forwarded to the priest at Saint Paul of the Cross Parish in the customary manner through the local diocese **at least six weeks before the wedding date**.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION PROGRAM

All engaged couples must participate in an approved Marriage Preparation program. We strongly encourage couples being married at Saint Paul of the Cross Parish to attend our Pre-Cana program that is usually scheduled for the first weekend in March. However, if you are unable to attend the program, then other options offered at Catholic parishes are acceptable. A listing of several approved programs is available at www.diopitt.org under the "Faith Resources" tab.

PLANNING THE CEREMONY

Approximately 8-10 weeks before the wedding date, the couple should schedule an appointment with the priest to discuss and plan the wedding ceremony. At this appointment they will receive a wedding ceremony preparation form which identifies several options to be chosen by the couple. For example, you will have the opportunity to choose the Scripture readings for the ceremony. The suggested readings can be found in a small booklet entitled, *Marriage in Christ*, which you will receive from the priest.

WEDDING MUSIC

The music selected for your wedding ceremony should reflect the religious nature of the Sacrament you are receiving. Therefore, all music must be liturgical and sacred in nature. Secular love songs or romantic ballads from operas or shows will not be permitted.

All arrangements for your wedding music must be made through our Music Director, Brendan Lowery. Please call him at 412-531-5964 or email blowery@stpaulofthecross.com, at least six months prior to the wedding date. In the event that you wish to use a different organist for your ceremony, a bench fee of \$240 must still be paid to our Music Director.

