

CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY
IN
SAINTS CYRIL & METHODIUS PARISH
Granger, Texas

Begin the arrangements for your ceremony as soon as possible by meeting with the Pastor.

- Arrange to meet with him concerning any pre-nuptial meetings.
- Make arrangements with the Pastor for reserving the church and set the time and place for the rehearsal. Call Parish Secretary (512-859-2223) to place date and time of rehearsal and ceremony on the parish calendar.
- If a visiting priest or deacon is to perform the wedding, have him contact the Pastor at least three weeks before the wedding date.

FEES

Suggested fees for musicians

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| • Organist (ceremony only) | \$ 60.00 |
| • Organist (ceremony & rehearsal) | \$ 80.00 |
| • Soloist | \$ 50.00 |
| • Choir | \$100.00 |
| • Choir & Soloist | \$100.00 |
| • Guitarist | \$ 60.00 |
| • Guitarist (ceremony & rehearsal) | \$100.00 |

- ❖ A list of available musicians can be obtained from the rectory.

Other fees

- A gift to the celebrant is in order, and is separate from the above contribution.
- If neither the bride, nor the groom, nor parents of the bride or groom is registered in the parish, a \$100.00 contribution is expected for the use of the church.

DECORATIONS

The bride must contact Mrs. Kathy Janke (254 527-4577) to discuss what she is planning for decorations in the Sanctuary so that there is no confusion. The Altar Society does not arrange or order flowers, etc. for weddings. When you remove things from the altar or sanctuary, they must be put back in place after the ceremony. This is the responsibility of the wedding party.

If candles are used, plastic or paper must be placed under the candles so that the carpet is protected. No flowers in containers are to be put on the Altar of Sacrifice.

No decorations are allowed on communion rail or pews. No tape or tacks are to be used anywhere in the church. Ribbons may be used to mark special seating.

Anyone wishing to be married during the Christmas holiday season must use the church decorations already up. Contributions to the church would be accepted because flowers are provided during this season.

There is a double kneeler and white cover for the wedding couple. It is located in the sacristy.

Hanging garments should be hung on hangers provided by the church in the cry room and not on doors, chairs, or walls.

No food or drink is allowed *in* the church at wedding rehearsal or before or after the wedding ceremony.

Arrange to have the church set in order before and after the ceremony, i.e., set out the Prie-dieu, chairs, etc. if used; then return them to their proper places IMMEDIATELY after the ceremony. Be sure flower petals, tissues, etc. are picked up. (Fresh petals soil the carpet if stepped on.)

It is the responsibility of the Bride to inform anyone helping with the decorations, etc. of these rules and regulations.

Rice or any other type of seed may not be used in, in front of, or on the steps of the church.

CIVIL REQUIREMENTS

These are the civil requirements for marriage in the state of Texas.

- Parents' written permission and certified copy of birth certificate if either bride or groom is under age 18.
- Under 14 may not marry without a court order.
- Legal proof of age -- social security number, certified birth certificate, driver's license, voter registration, or passport - is needed.
- Couple must appear together before the County Clerk to purchase marriage license.
- License is good for only 30 days (one month) and must be at least 3 days old.

CHURCH REQUIREMENTS

The following are some of the criteria the Roman Catholic Church uses to determine if a couple is eligible to receive the Sacrament of Matrimony.

- Baptismal certificate less than six months old for a Catholic.
- Non-Catholics need an affidavit concerning the freedom to marry, preferably filled out by parents or immediate family.
- Premarital questionnaire (to be filled out by the couple in the presence of the priest) must be on file.
- In marriages of mixed religion the Catholic party must promise not to give up their faith, and to try to share it with their children so that a dispensation can be granted by the Bishop.
- Allow adequate time for premarital instructions. This can be either Pre-Cana, Sponsorship Couple Program, Pre-Marriage Encounter, or a series of conferences with the priest performing the wedding. This needs to be completed at least 60 days (2 months) before the intended date.

Obtain a copy of the Marriage Rite from Father. Mark your choice of prayers and readings. Return this before the rehearsal so the priest knows what needs to be included in the rehearsal.

Music during the ceremony should be such that it could be read as a prayer. Prior to the ceremony, music should be such as not to detract from the Sacrament. Music that needs to be purchased should be furnished by the couple.

MARRIAGE CEREMONY

Photos may be taken during the ceremony, but the top step of the Altar and the space between the two side altars is off limits. Be sure to notify all who are to be in the pictures so that this can be completed quickly. If the celebrant's picture is to be taken with the couple, please do this first.

Registration at the entrance of the church causes a problem when guests are arriving; if possible, please leave registration for the reception.

If possible, the marriage should take place during Mass. If the Mass might be an imposition on one of the parties, than it is suggested that the Rite begin with a prayer followed by readings from scripture (one from the Old Testament, a Responsorial Psalm, one from the New Testament and one from the Gospels). The Old and New Testament readings and the Responsorial psalm may be read by a member of the wedding party. A short Homily is usually given after the Gospel reading.

The bridal party should be at the church about 1/2 hour before the ceremony. An hour before seems to be the maximum time needed.

The bride and bridesmaids may dress in the cry-room to the right as you enter the church. The bathroom is across the lobby.

About 15 minutes before the ceremony, the ushers light all the candles except the unity candle.

Presenting his left arm to the ladies, the usher should seat the guests as soon as they have registered. Seat the groom's family and guests on the right side and the bride's family and guests on the left or either side for balance. Leave the first two pews empty as the first pew is usually reserved for the bridal party and the second pew for the parents and grandparents.

Five minutes before the ceremony the grandparents of the groom are escorted to the right side in the second pew. The grandparents of the bride are escorted to the left side in the second pew. The mother of the groom, with the husband following, is now escorted by the usher or the groom who seats them next to the grandparents on the right, next to the center aisle. As soon as the groom's mother is seated, the mother of the bride is escorted and seated next to the grandparents of the left side, next to the aisle. (Sometimes the bride's mother and father together escort the bride to the altar. In this case the parents of the bride seat themselves.) A song may now be played or sung to honor the mothers.

Afterwards there is total silence and the priest comes to the altar, genuflects, turns to the bridal party and the Wedding March begins. Usually, the bridesmaids come down the center aisle and the grooms men come from near the right side door, either as a group or singly. They come to the center aisle just in time to meet their partner, join arms and proceed to the altar step with the ladies going to the left and the gentlemen to the right. If the bridal party is large (over 5 couples), it is recommended that the couples come down the aisle together and sit in the front pew. Only the best man and the groom come from the side and stand before the altar with their partners.

If there is a flower girl or ring bearer, they immediately precede the maid of honor.

The bridal party faces the bride as she comes down the aisle. When the Mass begins, they face the altar and remain standing.

The bride is escorted to the altar by her father. When they arrive at the first pew the bride's escort gives her to the groom by placing the bride's arm (with dignity and deliberation) in the groom's arm and he then remains standing until the bride and groom get to the altar. The escort is then seated beside the bride's mother. This is suggested rather than responding to the question, "Who gives this bride away?" since there is often nervousness on the part of the escort or it is difficult to hear his response.

The Rite of Marriage begins with a short statement of the responsibilities concerning freedom of choice, faithfulness to each other and the acceptance and upbringing of children. Consent follows (usually in a positive statement, but for a good reason this can be obtained by questions).

The Blessing and Exchange of Rings follows. The priest will announce the blessing of the rings and those who have the rings have them ready. After the rings are blessed, the priest will give the ring to the groom for the bride and the bride will be given the groom's ring. The usual form is "*Name*, take this ring as a sign of my love and fidelity, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

If a song is to be sung during the ceremony it should be at this time. Also, if there is to be a unity candle, the "Arras" ceremony, the blessing of a Rosary or some other religious article, or the "Lasso" ceremony, it should be at this time.

If the Unity Candle ceremony takes place, the bride and groom go to the top step before the altar (unless they choose another place), take their tapers, and join the flames together to light the unity candle. The tapers were lit earlier by the ushers, or brought to the altar by the mothers of the bride and groom as they were escorted to their seats.

If the "Arras" (coins) ceremony takes place, the groom receives the coins from the first padrino or best man and holds them while the celebrant prays: "Almighty Father, bless these two children who belong to You, and sanctify them with Your love. May these coins be a symbol of their wealth, and may they always remember that the wealth they have comes through the love You bestow upon them." The groom gives the coins to the bride saying, "*Name*, take these coins, they are the endowment I make to you today and may my responsibility never falter in providing all your needs." The bride accepts them and says, "I accept them faithfully, knowing it is my obligation to care for and protect all that you provide, if both of us are to live as one here on God's earth."

If there is to be a blessing of a Rosary or other religious article, the celebrant stays at his place and the sponsors bring them up to him for blessing.

If the "Lasso" ceremony takes place, the padrinos de lasso help place the lasso around the necks of the bride and groom. During this time the celebrant may bless it thus: "May this lasso which we place around *Name* and *Name* be a sign and a promise to each other of their love, faith, and trust. May it be to all who are witnesses a reminder of the love we should have for one another." The Lasso is removed by the padrinos de lasso at the introduction of the Lord's Prayer.

The Nuptial Blessing is given after the Lord's Prayer.

At communion time the bride and groom may receive Holy Communion under both forms (Le. bread and wine). Also often at this time a communion song is sung. The rest of the bridal party should come forward, and as the priest offers Holy Communion to them, they respond with "Amen" if they wish to receive and if they are not to receive, come up with arms folded and say nothing. It is usually better for all to come forward as couples; otherwise some will have to pass ahead of others.

If the bride wishes to present a flower or prayer to the Blessed Mother it would be just before the final blessing. A song may be sung to the Blessed Mother.

After the celebrant gives the final blessing, all stand and prepare to leave. The bride and groom, best man and maid of honor, and the bridal party follow in the reverse order in which they came in.

As soon as the bridal party is out, the usher for the bride's mother stands and escorts her out with her husband following. Then the usher for the groom's mother escorts her out with her husband following. Afterwards, the grandparents are ushered out.

If pictures are to be taken, the bridal party should go immediately around the side of the church and enter by the side door to begin. This is a very awkward time for the wedding guests who may feel they should not go to the reception until the bride and groom are there to receive them. It is also improper for a receiving line to form in the back of the church if a reception is to follow.

Please remove your belongings from the dressing area as soon after the ceremony as possible because the area is often needed for a Mass or another function.

If you wish to have the priest make any exceptions to the above, please give him more than a week to make before the rehearsal to make a decision.