



## GUIDELINES FOR MARRIAGE

*The Vocation of Marriage is a wonderful way to live one's life. In the Catholic Church Marriage is a Sacrament. To help you prepare for this sacred union these guidelines have been established to assist you in this life vocation.*

### BASIC QUALIFICATIONS FOR CATHOLIC MARRIAGE

- ❖ At least 18 years of age.
- ❖ Registered member of St. Teresa of Avila Parish.
- ❖ If not a member of St. Teresa of Avila Parish, then written permission must be provided from current parish's Pastor.
- ❖ One (or both) person(s) need(s) to be an active member(s) of the Catholic faith through regular attendance in worship and reception of Sacraments.
- ❖ Neither person has been married previously (unless an annulment has been granted through the Catholic Church).

### PLACE OF MARRIAGE

The normal place for the wedding is the parish church to which either the bride or groom is a registered member. A different church/chapel is possible if permission is received from the pastor of the bride/groom. The wedding must take place in a Church/Chapel (a Protestant Church is acceptable, if a Catholic dispensation is acquired). The Archdiocese of Cincinnati does not allow a Catholic wedding in a home, park, hotel ballroom, or other non-Church facility.

A priest/deacon, who is a friend or relative, is welcome to officiate at the wedding. They need to contact the pastor of St. Teresa Parish to determine who will assist the couple with the required marriage preparation.

Ministers, Rabbis and other clergy are welcome to participate in an interfaith wedding ceremony. In a wedding of a Catholic and a non Catholic; the Wedding Ceremony includes the Scripture Readings, Blessings, Petitions, etc. but since 2005 by decree of the Archbishop – it is not to include the Consecration and Distribution of the Eucharist (i.e. not a Mass). The reason is that the wedding ceremony should highlight what brings two people together, instead of one person being able to receive Communion and the other person not being able to receive Communion. Only the Archbishop can grant permission for the full Mass and the distribution of Communion at an interfaith wedding.

### TIME OF WEDDING

At St. Teresa Church, weddings occur on Saturdays 1:00 pm; and at 6:00 pm up to 6:30 pm. As policy of the parish, there are no weddings scheduled on Fridays, and weddings are not scheduled during the Season of Lent.

### MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Marriage is a sacred undertaking. Daily prayer, living good moral lives, and attending Church each weekend is an essential way of preparing for this, the most important decision of a person's life. Catholics are asked to attend the Sacrament of Penance/Confession prior to the wedding as an important way to spiritually prepare for the Sacrament of Matrimony.

The purpose of marriage preparation is to help a couple have a strong and life-long marriage in the midst of our society's 50% divorce rate. Please take the preparation seriously, as it will be helpful throughout the marriage.

- ❖ An official copy of one's baptismal certificate is required of each baptized person. For those Catholic, a certificate must be issued by the Church of Baptism within 6 months of the wedding date. For those not Catholic any official record of the baptism is acceptable.
- ❖ Couples take the FOCCUS & Pre-Marriage Questionnaire; then discuss it with the priest/deacon or trained married couples.
- ❖ Couples attend the Archdiocesan Preparation Program: Engaged Encounter, Sponsorship Sessions, or PreCana Class.
- ❖ Additional meetings with a priest/deacon to complete the preparation and then plan the details of the wedding ceremony.

## THE WEDDING CEREMONY

A wedding is pre-eminently a religious event. Music, traditions, and types of meditations must all be spiritual.

- ❖ Prayers, blessings and Scripture readings are selected from the large number of options in the booklet given to the couple at the concluding preparation meeting.
- ❖ Aisle runners are permissible, but they can be dangerous for elderly guests. For this reason many couples choose not to have a white runner. The center aisle is ***94 feet long*** and there are ***28 pews in the Church (on one side) 12 (24) break 16 (32)***. To attach anything to the pews, do not use tape or adhesive; instead use large rubber bands, string ties or pew clamps.
- ❖ During Advent, Christmas, and Easter Seasons the liturgical decorations are not to be moved without permission.
- ❖ Many couples include a Meditation Time with flowers presented to the statue of Mary. The flowers normally stay at the statue for the coming weeks seeking Mary's intercession.
- ❖ ***All photographers and video recording people must contact the priest/deacon prior to the wedding for instructions on where they can be during the wedding.*** Pictures should take no longer than 45 minutes after the ceremony, so the couple can quickly go to the wedding reception. All pictures taken in Church must be respectful, as this is a Sacred Place. Casual and overly affectionate pictures need to be outside of the Church. Photographs can be anywhere in church when the party is entering or leaving. During the ceremony, they must be in the balcony, on the sides behind the last pillar, or in the back of church.
- ❖ Music is an important part of a wedding. Mr. Rick Davis is the music director of St. Teresa Parish. He is skilled in organ, piano, and vocals. He also can arrange for other vocalists and instrumentalists to be of assistance. Please contact Mr. Davis at the Church (921-9200 ext. 110 or [rdavis@stteresa-avila.org](mailto:rdavis@stteresa-avila.org)) to discuss fees for musicians. If you use other musicians, you must still contact Mr. Davis to review the musical selections and to arrange for microphones, the sound system and use of the organ.
- ❖ You are welcome to bring your own servers or the parish will arrange for two servers to assist at your wedding. On the day of the wedding it is appropriate to give each of the servers \$10.00 in appreciation for their assistance and for cleaning up after the ceremony.
- ❖ You are welcome to bring flower arrangements for the wedding. However, flowers cannot be placed upon either the front or back altar in Church. If you wish to leave the flowers for the weekend masses, that is very much appreciated. Flower girls may toss flower petals from the center aisle. The family or wedding party will pick up the petals after the ceremony.
- ❖ St. Teresa Parish has a number of Wedding Facilitators, who will help you at the rehearsal and on the day of the wedding. Privately hired Wedding Coordinators cannot be involved at the church rehearsal or wedding. The wedding rehearsal should be conducted by the priest/deacon who will perform the ceremony.
- ❖ It is not advisable to dress at the Church. There are no private rooms of adequate size. However, you can use the Church undercroft to wait prior to the wedding time. Please do not bring any alcoholic beverages to the rehearsal or to the wedding. The bride, groom, and wedding party should not drink alcohol prior to the Rehearsal or Wedding.
- ❖ The cost of heating/air conditioning of St. Teresa Church is very expensive. We appreciate your wedding donation to help pay the bills, so our beautiful Church can be maintained for future generations. The wedding fee for use of the Church by registered parishioners is \$350.00 (Registered means those individuals recognized as members for twenty four (24) months or longer). The wedding fee for non-parishioners is \$850.00. If you wish to give the priest/deacon, who has provided the marriage preparation and officiated at the wedding a gift; that is very kind.
- ❖ Bring the marriage license to the wedding rehearsal. To get the license you must apply together at the Taft Center, 230 E. 9<sup>th</sup> St. Monday-Friday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm or at the Forest park Office, 1216 W. Kemper Rd. Monday-Friday 10:00 am to 5:30 pm. The cost is \$45.00 cash. You must have a governmental issued photo ID (driver's license, etc.). If you were previously divorced, a certified copy of the most recent divorce decree must be submitted to the Probate Court at the time of the application. If both are from outside of Ohio, the license can be issued in Hamilton County if the ceremony is to be in Hamilton County. There is no waiting period and no blood test. The marriage must be performed within 60 days.

If there are any other questions, contact the Parish Office or myself.

Yours In Christ,  
Fr. Michael L. Bidwell  
Pastor