

Weddings at Blessed Sacrament

Congratulations on your engagement! Some frequently asked questions are answered below. For any further questions please contact me. ~Fr. Jon

Catholic Marriage FAQs

How do I book a date for my wedding?

Please contact Phyllis in the Parish office to see if your date is available. For non-parishioners a non-refundable donation of \$500 is requested to hold the date. For Blessed Sacrament parishioners, please contact the office.

What is the requested donation for a wedding?

After you have booked the date, for non-parishioners an additional \$500 is due 30 days prior to the wedding. For Blessed Sacrament parishioners, a minimum donation of \$100 is requested. This donation is for use of the church building and does not include the cost for flowers, the music minister, or stipend for the celebrant.

What should a couple do when they decide that they want to marry in the Catholic Church?

Non-parishioners should contact their parish as soon as possible to make an appointment to talk with the priest, deacon or staff person who is responsible for preparing couples for marriage. This person will explain the process of marriage preparation and the various programs that are offered. Parishioners should contact Fr. Jon Schnobrich as soon as possible.

The Diocese of Burlington requires at least 6 months for the marriage preparation process.

If a Catholic wants to marry a non-Catholic, how can they assure that the marriage is recognized by the Church?

In addition to meeting the criteria for a valid Catholic marriage, the Catholic must seek permission from the local bishop to marry a non-Catholic. If the person is a non-Catholic Christian, this permission is called a “permission to enter into a mixed marriage.” If the person is a non-Christian, the permission is called a “dispensation from disparity of cult.” Those helping to prepare the couple for marriage can assist with the permission process.

When a Catholic marries a non-Catholic, must the non-Catholic promise to raise the children in the Catholic faith?

The non-Catholic spouse does not have to promise to have the children raised Catholic. The Catholic spouse must promise to do all that he or she can to have the children baptized and raised in the Catholic faith.

What is a Nuptial Mass and when can a couple have one?

A Nuptial Mass is a Mass which includes the celebration of the sacrament of marriage. It has special readings and prayers suitable to the Sacrament of Marriage. The Sacrament of Marriage between two baptized Catholics should normally be celebrated within Mass.

If the situation warrants it and the local bishop gives permission, a Nuptial Mass may be celebrated for a marriage between a Catholic and a baptized person who is not a Catholic, except that Communion is not given to the non-Catholic.

Are weddings permitted on Sundays or during Lent?

Church law allows weddings to be held during most days of the year, except the Triduum. However, many parishes do not schedule weddings on Sundays because of the conflict with regularly scheduled Masses and other parish activities. In addition, some dioceses and parishes do not allow weddings during Lent, a season of penance.

Other FAQ's

Music

Because a wedding in the Catholic Church is a sacred celebration, only sacred music is permitted in the liturgy. Elisabeth Ortiz, Musical Director at Blessed Sacrament, should be contacted to assist with the musical selections.

What about flowers?

Flowers are an important part of your wedding. Generally, an arrangement in front of the altar is sufficient. Pew clips are required if you are decorating the pews with flowers or ribbons to avoid damage to the pews. If you would like to leave the altar arrangements for the mass, please let us know in advance.

When does the rehearsal typically take place?

Rehearsals take place the day before the wedding provided there is no regularly scheduled mass. It is very important to make sure that your wedding party is at the church on time as there may be other rehearsals that evening.

On average, the rehearsal takes about thirty minutes. The processional, the details of the service, and the recessional are rehearsed. Logistics and ushering instructions are also given at this time.

How do we obtain our Marriage License?

In-state couples may apply for their license from the town clerk in their place of residence. Out-of-state couples must apply at the Stowe Town Clerk's office in the municipal building in the center of Stowe village.

What is your policy regarding bird seed, confetti, and rice?

Unfortunately, we cannot allow the throwing of birdseed, rice, or confetti. If it rains, these materials are very difficult to clean up, and they also get tracked into the church. Please advise your guests of this policy.

Do you have any special recommendations regarding photography?

Yes, we ask that no direct flash be taken during the service. During the processional and recessional, flashes are acceptable. Photography is an important part of your wedding day. We recommend that you discuss with your photographer the details of the service, so that you are both satisfied with the photographic plans.