



WEDDING INFORMATION

Date and Time of Marriage

Date and Time of Wedding Rehearsal

Priest or Deacon Officiating

Phone

St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish
4103 Prices Distillery Road
Ijamsville, MD 21754

CONGRATULATIONS !!!

Some of the most exciting and memorable months of your life will be the months during which you are preparing for your wedding. The staff at St. Ignatius is pleased to share in your preparations.

This booklet is presented to you in order to help you plan your wedding liturgy. Wedding arrangements are certainly necessary and important, but we hope that you will not lose sight of the fact that Marriage is a Sacrament a sacred sign of your love for each other in Christ. Christ abundantly blesses your love. He enriches and strengthens you to undertake the duties of marriage in mutual and lasting fidelity.

Please accept our prayers and sincere best wishes for a happy married life.

The Staff and Parishioners
of St. Ignatius of Loyola
Catholic Community

PLACE AND CELEBRANT OF YOUR MARRIAGE

A marriage is usually celebrated in the parish of the bride if both bride and groom are Catholic. When one party is not of the Catholic Faith, the parish of the Catholic party is the usual place for the ceremony.

For a wedding at St Ignatius, you are free to contact any priest/deacon assigned at this parish. In the event that you wish a priest/deacon relative or a priest/deacon who is a friend to officiate at your marriage, St. Ignatius parish office should be contacted first. We will send the necessary instructions and forms to the priest-relative or friend.

When one party is not of the Catholic Faith, a minister of his/her faith may be invited to be present in the Sanctuary and participate in the ceremony. Should there be special reasons to be married in a Protestant Church, permission to do so may be requested of the Archbishop, through the pastor of St. Ignatius.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

1. A Baptismal certificate for each Catholic party. This certificate must be of recent issue, that is **issued six (6) months prior** to the date of marriage. You may obtain a certificate by contacting the Church of Baptism.
2. A Marriage License for Frederick County. This must be obtained at the Frederick County License Bureau at the Court House. NOTE: It is valid for use within six months.

All documents should be given to the priest/deacon prior to planning the Marriage ceremony.

3. The priest/deacon who celebrates your wedding will assist you to complete the forms required for church records.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

All couples who plan to be married at St. Ignatius are required to participate in a Marriage Preparation Program. The parish offers the Sponsor Couple Program. Registration materials for marriage preparation will be made available to you by the priest/deacon officiating at your wedding.

The Sponsor Couple program involves the engaged couple meeting with a married couple for five or six sessions, scheduled at the mutual convenience of both couples and generally held at the married couples home. **If one or both of you have been married before, a special Sponsor Couple Program must be attended.**

Topics covered include: communication, decision making, problem solving, sex and sexuality, spirituality and parenthood. Participants will be given the FOCCUS questionnaire to aid their communications in many areas, including life style expectations, friends and interests, personality match, personal issues, religion and values, parenting issues, extended family issues, financial issues, readiness issues, and marriage covenant. The goal of marriage preparation is to make each new marriage the best it can be.

The Archdiocese of Baltimore also offers a Pre-Cana program, which is acceptable for meeting St. Ignatius's requirement. Or the engaged couple can make an Engaged Encounter weekend.

LIVING TOGETHER

“Premarital sexual intercourse and cohabitation without marriage are not identical issues or questions. One can exist without the other. Couples may engage in sexual intercourse without living together; other couples, particularly those sharing homes for financial reasons, may live together without having sexual intercourse.

“Premarital sexual intercourse... violates an objective moral code that the Church officially teaches and is not, in our judgment, a recommended or wise way to prepare for marriage.

“Cohabitation, on the other hand, especially for those couples bound by affection or even contemplating marriage, establishes a situation in which avoidance of premarital sex becomes exceptionally difficult. Moreover, when a couple move in together without exchanging formal nuptial vows and live externally as husband and wife, they create an occasion of scandal for others by weakening the sanctity of marriage itself. In addition, ... empirical data raise doubts about cohabitation as a healthy preparation for marital life. For these and other reasons we reject cohabitation that simulates marriage as appropriate behavior for Roman Catholics.” **FAITHFUL TO EACH OTHER FOREVER, USCC, 1992.**

In light of the above statement of the American Catholic Bishops and the experience of priest who counsels couples preparing for marriage, we recommend that couples who are living together carefully consider this as a poor preparation for marriage.

BANNS OF MARRIAGE

When both parties are Catholic, the announcement of the wedding may be published in both respective parishes on the three Sundays preceding the marriage. Please call the parish office in order to arrange for your banns to be announced.

WEDDING LITURGY

The priest/deacon will gladly assist you in planning your wedding liturgy. Many options are permitted in the Marriage Rite which enable the bride and groom to make their wedding as personal as possible. For example,

there are various entrance rites, choices of prayers and readings, different formats for the exchange of vows, etc. If both the bride and the groom are practicing Catholics, the celebration of the Sacrament of Matrimony will normally take place at a Nuptial Mass. An Interfaith Wedding is normally celebrated at a Marriage Ceremony, however, a Nuptial Mass may also be celebrated. At such times, non-Catholics would not be expected to receive Communion.

LECTOR

Both the Nuptial Mass and the Wedding Ceremony include readings from Scripture. A lay person may proclaim one or several of these readings. A friend or member of the family or of the wedding party is an ideal person to fulfill this role.

WEDDING MUSIC

The celebration of the sacrament of Matrimony is one of the seven sacraments of the Roman Catholic Church. As such, the marriage ceremony must maintain the norms of good sacramental liturgy. A pre-eminent aspect of good liturgy is the use of liturgical music within the rites of the Church. In order to ensure that church norms are followed, the planning of the Rite of Matrimony and the choosing of appropriate liturgical music should be done by the couple, the presider, and the parish music minister.

MUSIC GUIDELINES

Essential Music

Music chosen for a wedding ceremony must bring all who attend the wedding into full, conscious and active participation in the liturgy. With this in mind, **the following is a list of times when music is essential to the wedding liturgy:**

The Liturgy of the Word

- Responsorial Psalm
- Gospel Acclamation (Alleluia or Lenten Acclamation)

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

- Holy, Holy
- Memorial Acclamation
- Great Amen
- Communion Song

At all these times, the music is to be **sung by all** gathered, not just by a music group, choir or a cantor. In order to foster participation, a rehearsal for the wedding assembly should be held immediately before beginning the liturgy. A cantor leading the sung prayer of the assembly is **required**. Any music sung by the assembly should also be included in the wedding program.

Other Music

There are other moments when music can be used prayerfully at liturgy.

The Liturgy of the Word

- Processional (usually instrumental)
- Gathering Song (sung by all)

- Invocation to the Prayers of the Faithful (i.e. Lord, hear our prayer) (sung by all)

The Rite of Marriage

- Acclamation after marriage vows and/or rings have been exchanged (sung by all)

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

- Preparation of Gifts (can be instrumental, sung by cantor, or music group)
- Lamb of God (can be sung by cantor, music group or by all)
- Hymn of Praise (can be sung after communion by all, music group or cantor)
- Recessional (usually instrumental, but can be sung by music group, cantor or all)

Appropriate Musical Choices

The Church offers this guidance when choosing particular music for any wedding liturgy. "Particular decisions about choice and placement of wedding music should grow out of three judgments...

- The liturgical judgment: Is the music's text, form, placement and style congruent with the nature of liturgy?
- The musical judgment: Is the music technically, aesthetically and expressively good, irrespective of musical idiom or style?
- The pastoral judgment: Will it help this assembly to pray?" (*Liturgical Music Today* #29)

Therefore, rarely is secular music (popular love songs) appropriate for use during the wedding liturgy. Secular music is best sung at the wedding reception, the rehearsal dinner or other wedding and engagement festivities.

The church documents make no provision for pre-recorded music during the wedding liturgy. Live liturgical music with active participation of the assembly is normative.

WEDDING PLANNING AT ST. IGNATIUS

Once the wedding has been scheduled by the pastor, the bride/groom are asked to contact the Director of Liturgical Music to schedule a consultation. Intermediaries, such as parents, friends, and wedding planners are not eligible to schedule nor choose wedding music.

Consultation

Couples are to schedule a meeting with the Director of Liturgical Music to discuss musical arrangements, choice of cantor/soloists and instrumentalists. This consultation will last no longer than 1 hour. A repertoire list, wedding planning sheets and CD will be made available to the bridal party. The recommended repertoire list combines standard wedding repertoire with less-familiar works drawn from a variety of sources. This list serves as a basis for musical choice, but in no way encompasses all music possibilities.

Accompanist (Piano/Organ)

The Director of Liturgical Music is the accompanist for all weddings scheduled at St. Ignatius of Loyola.

Should the couple employ an accompanist other than the Director of Liturgical Music, they must receive permission from the Director of Liturgical Music; guest musicians will be evaluated based upon credentials and knowledge of the Roman Catholic liturgy. A \$100 bench fee will be paid to the Director of Liturgical Music for consultative services.

Cantor

A cantor is **required** for all weddings (mass or services) at St. Ignatius of Loyola. The Director of Liturgical Music will recommend a cantor.

Should couples wish to employ a cantor other than the recommended cantor, they must receive permission from the Director of Liturgical Music; guest cantors will be evaluated based upon credentials and knowledge of the Roman Catholic liturgy.

It would be appropriate to invite non-professional friends/family members to sing an isolated solo at some point in the celebration, but couples are discouraged from inviting such individuals to cantor. Guest cantors/soloists are required to rehearse with the Director of Liturgical Music prior to the wedding day.

Music Program

Any music to be sung by the assembly **must** be included in the wedding program. Arrangements can be made to utilize parish resources to garner copies and copyrights of the appropriate music selections.

Guest Musicians

Instruments such as trumpet, flute, violin, cello and oboe naturally complement the piano/organ. Woodwind trios, string quartets, brass quintets, harp and classical guitar can also be used effectively to lend solemnity to a wedding. The Director of Liturgical Music will recommend and contract guest musicians. **All guest musicians are required to rehearse with the Director of Liturgical Music prior to the wedding day.**

Recorded Music

The playing of recorded music in church is strictly forbidden.

Fees

- Director of Liturgical Music - \$200
- Recommended Cantor - \$100-\$150
- Contracting Fee - \$25 (per musician)
- Additional Rehearsal time - \$50 per hour

All fees are due and payable to the Director of Liturgical Music 4 weeks prior to the wedding ceremony.

FLOWERS

A couple wishing flowers to be placed in the Sanctuary should make arrangements with a florist of their choice. When several weddings are scheduled for the same day, couples may wish to contact each other to share the expenses. A white runner for the for the aisle of the Church may also be arranged through your florist. **PLEASE ADVISE YOUR FLORIST THAT WE DO NOT ALLOW THE USE OF GUMMED TAPE OF ANY KIND NOR THE USE OF TACKS TO ATTACH DECORATIONS TO THE CHURCH PEWS.** Contact the parish office to arrange a time prior to the wedding for the flowers to be delivered.

OFFERINGS

It is customary to present an offering to the parish on the occasion of your Marriage. Offerings to the church generally start at \$150.00 for registered parishioners (\$250.00 for non-parishioners) and increase according to the

size of the wedding. It is customary to also give a stipend to the priest/deacon. **All offerings should be given prior to the rehearsal or at the rehearsal.**

PRIEST'S ATTENDANCE AT RECEPTIONS

Due to the schedule of services at St. Ignatius on weekends, our priest cannot promise attendance at receptions. If you wish to invite the priest to attend, it is proper to send him a printed invitation with a reply card.

PUNCTUALITY/COURTESY

It is very important that all rehearsals and weddings start promptly. The priest/deacon officiating may shorten or omit portions of your wedding if you are late, so as to avoid infringing upon the following event. Your wedding will be a happy and sacred occasion. While in the church and on church grounds, the bride and groom, as well as the wedding party and guests, are expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate, respectful manner.

REHEARSAL

The officiating priest/deacon will schedule your wedding rehearsal when you schedule with him the date for the wedding. Usually rehearsals are the evening before the wedding. All those participating in the wedding, e.g. the wedding party, readers, parents of the bride and groom, are expected to attend.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Any photographer engaged by the couple should be aware of the sacred nature of the Marriage ceremony and should conduct him/herself in such a manner as not to be a distraction. Pictures may be taken during the ceremony provided that the photographer does not enter the Sanctuary area, and a flash is not used. **Please advise your photographer to check in with the celebrant before your wedding and to leave a business card with the celebrant.** Pictures may be taken in the church after the ceremony only if there is sufficient time.

THE PHOTOGRAPHER MUST LEAVE AT LEAST 30 MINUTES PRIOR TO THE NEXT SCHEDULED CHURCH SERVICE.

VIDEOTAPE

Professional taping is allowed, provided that the videographer does not intrude or distract from the sacred nature of the celebration. Extra lights are **NOT** allowed.

ONE FINAL NOTE:

Throwing rice, bird seed, rose petals and confetti are **NOT** allowed at St. Ignatius, nor are the release of live birds, butterflies, balloons, etc. County codes, insurance regulations and maintenance problems prohibit these practices. The bride and groom will be held personally responsible to see that these regulations are observed.

Again, congratulations on your up-coming marriage. We appreciate your cooperation with these guidelines. May God continue to bless you all the days of your life.