

Welcome Letter

Congratulations on your engagement and your upcoming Matrimony! We are honored to help you as you begin planning to celebrate the Sacrament of Matrimony in our Cathedral. Our goal is to assist you in preparing for your Matrimony ceremony and, more importantly, for joyfully living out the sacramental marriage "until death do you part." The preparation program we have established is designed to support you in fulfilling your commitment to one another with "mutual and lasting fidelity."

These guidelines are intended to meet the teachings of the Universal Church, the requirements of our Diocese and Parish, and your needs regarding marriage.

Matrimony is typically celebrated in the parish where you are registered and actively involved. If you are not a member of St. John's, you *must* consult with your pastor before we can discuss any potential arrangements. Your pastor is the appropriate person to assess your needs and desires and will guide you on how to proceed.

We want your Matrimony to be a beautiful, memorable, and grace-filled event that signifies your commitment to each other and brings you and everyone celebrating this sacrament closer to Jesus Christ. By celebrating your marriage in the Church, you invite the Lord to be an active partner in your life together. He will honor that invitation and bring you happiness, joy, and peace. Please know that we are praying for you during this preparation time.

Respectfully yours,

Fr. German Osorio
Rector

MARRIAGE PREPARATION AND PLANNING

Please allow a minimum of six (6) full months to prepare for marriage. It is essential that you actively engage in this significant opportunity to thoughtfully reflect on and prepare for the Sacrament you wish to receive. All diocesan regulations concerning marriage preparation and Matrimony must be followed. Any exceptions to these regulations must receive approval from the Bishop of the Diocese of Boise or his delegate.

Marriage Dates Available: Saturdays: 10:30 AM or 1:00 PM

Please note: *NO Matrimonies are scheduled on Sundays or Holy Days of Obligation.*

Preparing for marriage involves several steps that should be followed in a specific order **before** a Matrimony date can be set:

Step 1: Complete the form:

Fill out the marriage request form on our website. This will provide us with your necessary contact information for our records.

Step 2: First Email Contact:

We will contact you to schedule your first meeting within 5-7 days after your request is received.

Step 3: Preparing for the first meeting:

Before your first meeting, secure the following documents:

- Baptismal Certificate including all notations.
 - Contact your baptismal church; the church seal must be on the certificate. No copies are permitted.
 - Notations will include First Communion, Confirmation and any previous marriages.
- State Marriage License (Original or official copy).
- Additional documents, if previously married
 - Civil divorce decree.
 - Decree of nullity from the Catholic marriage tribunal.
 - Death Certificate if a widow.

Step 4: First Meeting:

During the initial meeting with the Matrimony Advocate:

- The bride and groom will complete their necessary pre-marriage paperwork.
- The paperwork will then be reviewed to determine if any additional documentation is needed.

Step 5: Witnesses Needed:

Witnesses will also fill out the required forms (One witness for the Bride and one witness for the Groom). Select witnesses who know you.

- Completed at the parish office if the witness is local.
- Completed at the witness's local Catholic Church. The form must contain the church seal.

Step 6: Reserving the date:

After finalizing the paperwork, a Matrimony date can be set, and information will be sent to the finance office for an invoice to be created.

- An invoice for the non-refundable Matrimony deposit will be sent via email with a payment link. You may also pay in person.
 - The deposit is \$1,000.00
- Final payment is due 30 days before the Matrimony.
 - Registered Active Members must be registered for at least one year, attend Mass regularly, participate in Holy Days of Obligation, and financially support the parish.
 - Final payment: \$500.00
 - Non-Registered/Inactive Members:
 - Final payment of \$1,000.00

Step 7: Matrimony Classes:

You will be enrolled in **both** of the following programs specifically for the engaged. Please watch your emails from volunteers who support these programs:

- Matrimony Preparation Classes
- Matrimony Mentor Couple

Step 8: Matrimony Assignments:

Begin with the marriage details:

- Who will be the priest
 - Parish priest – Matrimony Advocate will check the priest's schedule.
 - Local priest at a different parish requires authorization
 - A priest from a different Diocese requires approval from the Diocese of Boise
 - A letter of Good Standing is required to be sent to the Diocese of Boise
- Altar Servers
 - Generally, family members
- Review readings for the Matrimony
 - Assigning Readers
- Schedule a meeting with the Music Director
 - Musicians may require an extra stipend
- Rehearsal is scheduled with the Sacristan

Fees & Agreements

Church: (see Step 6 above)

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 - Final payment: \$500.00
 - Non-Registered/Inactive Members:
 - Final payment: \$1,000.00

Individual _ Musician Stipends:

The Music Director's fees are included in the church's fees. Any additional musicians must be approved by the Music Director. These additional musicians will be paid directly by the Matrimony party.

Marriage Convalidation: Convalidation applies if one (or both spouses) spouse was baptized Catholic but was not married by a Catholic priest/deacon. Couples are recommended to attend the marriage preparation classes. At the ceremony, the couple may provide a stipend to the visiting priest or deacon. If music is used, a stipend is given to the musician. Marriage preparation classes are \$200

Marriage Prep Only: Couples seeking to be married at a parish out of state and need to do their paperwork and attend the marriage preparation classes at St. John's Cathedral. Marriage preparation classes are \$200

Videography: If you would like your Marriage to be live-streamed and recorded, please make a reservation with the Marriage Advocate. In addition to posting the marriage on YouTube, the Marriage party will be provided with a flash drive with the raw footage that they can use to edit as they want. The fee for this service is \$250.

Matrimony Ceremony (The Liturgy)

Your Matrimony Day is an occasion filled with immense joy! It is important to ensure that the prayers for this special moment are reverent, graceful, and beautiful. The scripture, music, and type of ceremony you choose for your Matrimony celebration should embody Christian values and adhere to the liturgical norms of the Roman Catholic Church. It is essential to thoroughly discuss and plan your Matrimony liturgy with the priest, deacon, or Matrimony Advocate. Please do not attempt to plan your liturgy on your own.

In consultation with the officiant at your Matrimony, you should determine whether your marriage should be celebrated during a Nuptial Mass or a Nuptial Ceremony. Both ceremonies include prayers, scripture readings, and a homily. The main difference between the two is that the Nuptial Mass includes the Celebration of the Eucharist and Communion, while the Nuptial Ceremony does not.

The Nuptial Mass is generally recommended when both the bride and groom are Catholic. In contrast, the ceremony without Mass may be more appropriate when one of the partners is not Catholic, and a significant number of expected guests are also not Catholic. The Church encourages couples to celebrate their Matrimony within the context of the Nuptial Mass. Your priest, deacon, or marriage advocate, who is assisting with your marriage preparation, can help you decide which ceremony is most suitable for your Matrimony celebration.

When planning your Matrimony ceremony, some other key principles to keep in mind include:

- **Participation:** When you invite people to your Matrimony ceremony, you are inviting them to pray with you. Through their prayers and singing, they participate in your Matrimony celebration.
- **Scripture:** There are many appropriate selections from Scripture that you may choose from. Keep in mind that the Responsorial Psalm is typically sung, so this scripture should be selected in consultation with the music director.
- **Music:** Music is an integral part of your Matrimony celebration. Only sacred and/or appropriate classical or classical-style music may be used for church ceremonies. The parish music director is available to help you plan the right music in the correct order and placement within the Matrimony liturgy. Please do not plan the music or hire musicians without first consulting the music director.
- **Organ and Piano:** These instruments may only be played by our music ministers or those approved by our music director.
- **Cellphones** are not to be silenced or turned off during the ceremony.

ADDITIONAL MATRIMONY INFO:

VISITING CLERGY: If you wish someone other than the pastor, rector, parochial vicar, or deacons of St. John's Catholic Church to witness your marriage, proper permission and delegation must be obtained!!

MATRIMONY PARTY: The Matrimony party may have up to twelve people, including your Maid (or Matron) of Honor and Best Man. You may also have a ring bearer and flower girl (please try to get children of the appropriate age who will not disrupt your ceremony).

- The Maid (or Matron) of Honor and Best Man also function as official witnesses for the State of Idaho and the Catholic Church and must sign your Marriage Certificate immediately after the Matrimony. Please instruct them to meet with the priest or deacon for this signing immediately following the ceremony.

MATRIMONY DATE & TIMES: Saturdays: 10:30 AM or 1:00 PM

Please note: *NO Matrimonies scheduled on Sundays or Holy Days of Obligation.*

REHEARSALS: Rehearsals are generally held the evening before the Matrimony. They are to start on time, and every possible effort should be made to have *all* participants present, including those reading scriptures and musicians (the music director will explain this).

INVITATIONS: Please wait to order your invitations until you have confirmed a firm date and time for your Matrimony (See step 6). Your Matrimony date is not reserved until paperwork is completed and the deposit is made.

DRESSING AREA: A room is available for the bride and bridal party to dress one hour before the ceremony. The men are encouraged to come already dressed in Matrimony attire. The dressing areas must be cleaned up after the ceremony. No alcohol is allowed in any of the rooms used. Intoxication can result in a defect of consent for the couple.

DECORATIONS: Flowers, fresh (Sanctuary only) or silk, and other decorations must be simple, respectful, and in good taste. Floral arrangements will always be accepted if you want to donate them to the church after your ceremony. Arrangements should correspond to the liturgical season.

- All decorations must be approved by the Matrimony Advocate/sacristan.
- Nothing that will damage the pews or the environment of the Church can be used. Tacks and tapes are not to be used.
- No aisle runners are allowed.

RICE, BIRDSEED, CONFETTI, & FLOWER PETALS:

- Rice, birdseed, glitter, and confetti will not be used in or around the Church.
- Bubbles may be used outside the Church.
- Only silk flower petals may be used inside the church.
 - Silk flower petals must be cleaned up immediately following the ceremony.

PHOTOGRAPHY, VIDEOS:

All photographers are expected to treat the ceremony with the utmost respect. Please share these guidelines and restrictions with them:

- Movement in the aisles and pews should be kept to a minimum. The Sanctuary is off-limits during the ceremony!
- Professional photographers: All Matrimony photos must be taken before and during the ceremony. The church must be available immediately after the Matrimony for other purposes.
- All Matrimony pictures should be completed at least 30 minutes before the ceremony.
- Still shots are permitted during the ceremony; however, no lights or flashes are allowed.
- All equipment must be placed out of the aisles and removed from the church as soon as the Matrimony concludes.
- Your photographer should consult with the Sacristan before the ceremony for specific details.
- All pictures taken within the church must reflect appropriate behavior and good taste.
- For other picture takers: Everyone is welcome to take photos, but no lights or flashes are permitted during the ceremony.