

## ST. BENEDICT PARISH WEDDING PACKET

### INTRODUCTION

Soon you will be participating in the Sacrament of Matrimony. On behalf of the Pastor and staff of St. Benedict Parish, we pray that the Lord will bless this time of preparation with much holiness and peace. The following information is intended to assist you as you continue to plan for that day which, before God and His people, you will promise to love one another for life.

If you are like most engaged couples, you may have discovered by now that the joy, excitement and anticipation that accompanied the announcement of your engagement can quickly find way to anxiety, worry and tension as you prepare for your big day. Perhaps you were surprised to learn that you have a role in the process of your wedding liturgy. Following the Second Vatican Council, a revised Rite of Marriage was issued which now allows several options that enable your wedding to be special to you. You are not alone in the undertaking. The priest or deacon who will preside over your wedding liturgy will work with you. The parish Coordinator for Music will also help.

Preparing for your wedding liturgy takes time and attention. What is true for shower parties, rehearsal dinners and the wedding reception is equally true for the wedding liturgy: if the basic elements have been prepared well ahead of time, everyone will be less anxious and be free to celebrate.

Preparing your wedding liturgy should be a joy. Communication is vitally important to a healthy marriage; let this preparation process be an opportunity to practice that skill. Preparing your wedding liturgy can bring you closer together, and the result will be a liturgy that is festive and memorable for all involved.

### 1. THE WEDDING RITE AND ST. BENEDICT PARISH GUIDELINES

The Sacrament of Matrimony within Mass celebrates God's greatest act of love for us and offers us the opportunity to receive the Eucharist. For pastoral or personal reasons, the option of having a wedding ceremony without Mass is given.

#### Floral Arrangements

Your florist must provide their own flower containers. You may take your flowers with you after the wedding or you may leave them in the church for the weekend Masses in your honor.

#### Candles

We will use the sanctuary candles already in place.

#### Photography and Videography

ALL photographers and videographers must use discretion and make sure they are not a disturbance to the wedding ceremony.

#### Unity Candle

The unity candle is a beautiful part of the ceremony which has become more popular with wedding couples over the past few years. It involves the designated persons who light two side candles before the ceremony begins. The couple, after the exchange of rings, take the light from the two side lit candles and together light the one center candle, signifying unity.

#### Pew Decorations

You, your friends, family or florist may decorate the ends of the pews with flora and ribbons. Be sure decoration will NOT disrupt those receiving communion. Please do not use any fasteners that will damage the wood. If you wish to save these decorations, please assign someone to disassemble them immediately following the wedding, otherwise they will be discarded.

### **Traditions and Special Arrangements**

Please discuss any special arrangements or ethnic traditions with your assigned priest or deacon well in advance of the wedding.

### **Rice, Birdseed, Confetti, Rose Petals**

For safety and church cleanliness, these items are strictly prohibited on Church grounds and within the Church itself. Bubbles are an inexpensive alternative you may use outside the church. They should be handed out after the ceremony outside the church.

### **Liturgy and Music**

Your priest or deacon can offer assistance to some of the liturgical or music questions you may have.

## **2. DOCUMENTS, FORMS, REQUIRED FORMS**

This section deals with some sensitive information. Please discuss these details with your priest or deacon.

### **Baptismal Certificates**

Catholics are to obtain a baptismal certificate from the parish they were baptized in. The date of request will be marked on the certificate and must be dated within the last a year.

### **Marriage License**

This is a requirement for marriage in the State of California. For further information, call the Office of the County Clerk, City and County of San Francisco at 415 554 - 4950. This document will be signed by the Maid of Honor and the Best Man as well as the priest or deacon and submitted to the church at the rehearsal or before the ceremony.

### **Canonical Forms A and B**

Form A, the Pre-Nuptial Questionnaire, will be filled out by your priest or deacon. Form B, and affidavit of witnesses, will also be given to you. The bride and the groom need to have two witnesses fill out these forms, so that a total of four affidavits are used. Witnesses should have known the bride and groom for a considerable length of time. Parents are usually preferred.

### **Pre-Marriage Questionnaire**

This mandatory program is designed to identify various areas of agreement and disagreement in your relationship. It is available at [www.sfdeafcatholics.org](http://www.sfdeafcatholics.org)

### **Engaged Encounter Program**

This mandatory full day program helps promote a relationship based upon open and honest communication between the engaged couple. To register for this program well in advance of your wedding date, call the parish office.

## **3. SCHEDULING**

### **Announcement**

Please contact the parish office at least six months prior to your proposed wedding date. After the initial interview, with a priest or deacon, an official date may be written in the church calendar book.

### **Saturday Wedding Times**

You may choose a time of 11:00 a.m. or 2:00 p.m.

### **Other Wedding Times**

A wedding set for any day other than Saturday will be scheduled as not to conflict with the regularly scheduled and events of the church.

**Rehearsal Times**

Most rehearsals will be scheduled Friday evenings at 5:00 or 6:00 p.m., the day before the wedding unless another church function has been scheduled. Please make your preferences known well in advance to avoid conflicts.

**AGREEMENT CONTRACT** I have read and am in agreement with the regulations stated above.

Bride:\_\_\_\_\_ Groom:\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_

**4. OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION.****Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Catholics are encouraged by the parish priests to make use of this sacrament prior to the wedding.

**Mixed Marriage**

A marriage between a Catholic and a non-Catholic may be contracted with a dispensation by the local Bishop from the impediment of mixed religion. The Catholic person, however, must promise to practice the Catholic faith and provide a Catholic education for their children.

**5. OFFERINGS**

A suggested donation of **\$250.00** to St. Benedict Parish.

**6. CHECK – OFF LIST AND REHEARSAL INFORMATION.**

After you have meet with a priest or deacon and filled out the required forms, they will set the date and time.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Complete all forms, programs noted in Section 2 and any other items specific to your situation.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Bring in completed forms and baptismal certificates to your priest or deacon.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Speak to the priest or deacon who is to preside over your wedding to finalize your rehearsal and wedding ceremony. Or ask any questions your might have.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Bring offerings to parish office
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Bring in readings and prayer choices to be reviewed by your priest or deacon.

**Rehearsal Information**

- All members of the wedding party, parents, readers, gift bearers, etc. Anyone directly involved is required to be at rehearsal on time.
- Marriage License
- Special items to be used during the liturgy that pertain to a specific culture, ring, and your own unity candle if you have one.