

HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH

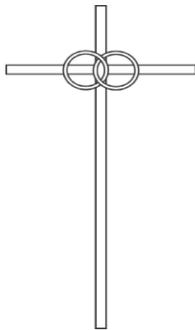
Requirements, Norms and Guidelines for the

Sacrament of Matrimony



Holy Family Catholic Church
1510 Fifth Street
Missouri City, Texas 77489
www.HolyFamilyChurch.us
information@holyfamilychurch.us

This booklet is designed to guide couples seeking the Sacrament of Matrimony through the Catholic Church's and Holy Family Parish's requirements, as well as to provide some beneficial guidelines and answers to common questions.



“The purpose of marriage is to help married people sanctify themselves and others. For this reason they receive a special grace in the sacrament which Jesus Christ instituted. Those who are called to the married state will, with the grace of God, find within their state everything they need to be holy, to identify themselves each day more with Jesus Christ, and to lead those with whom they live to God.”

—Saint Josemaria Escriva

THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Excerpted from the “Catechism of the Catholic Church” (CCC)

*The matrimonial covenant, by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership of the whole of life, is by its nature ordered toward the good of the spouses and the procreation of offspring; **this covenant between baptized persons has been raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a sacrament.*** (CCC 1601)

According to the Latin tradition, the spouses as ministers of Christ’s grace mutually confer upon each other the Sacrament of Matrimony by expressing their consent before the Church. In the traditions of the Eastern Churches, the priests (bishops or presbyters) are witness to the mutual consent given by the spouses, but for the validity of the Sacrament their blessing is also necessary. (CCC 1623)

*The various liturgies abound in prayers of blessing and epiclesis [calling down of the Holy Spirit] asking God’s grace and blessing on the new couple, especially the bride. In the epiclesis of this Sacrament the spouses receive the Holy Spirit as the communion of love of Christ and the Church. **The Holy Spirit is the seal of their covenant, the ever-available source of their love and the strength to renew their fidelity.*** (CCC 1624)

*So that the “I do” of the spouses may be a free and responsible act and so that the marriage covenant may have solid and lasting human and Christian foundations, **preparation for marriage is of prime importance.*** (CCC 1632)

*By reason of their state in life and of their order, [Christian spouses] have their own special gifts in the People of God. **This grace proper to the Sacrament of Matrimony is intended to perfect the couple’s love and to strengthen their indissoluble unity.** By this grace they help one another to attain holiness in the married life and in welcoming and educating their children.* (CCC 1641)

***The Christian home is the place where children receive the first proclamation of the faith.** For this reason the family home is rightly called “the domestic church,” a community of grace and prayer, a school of human virtues and of Christian charity.* (CCC 1666)

REQUIREMENTS IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

- Baptismal certificate issued within the last six (6) months, with proper annotations. It is customary for a recent copy to be issued from the church where the individual was baptized. In the Catholic Church, the church where the baptism took place is usually the church of record for all subsequent sacraments.
- In an interfaith marriage, the non-Catholic Christian should provide some kind of documentation of baptism (i.e. a baptismal, christening, or sprinkling certificate, or a letter from a witness).
- For a divorced person (Catholic or non-Catholic) who seeks to enter into the Sacrament of Matrimony, a copy of a nullity decree or it needs to be determined if a petition for nullity needs to be submitted. A meeting with a deacon or priest will examine all prior civil and religious marriage(s) and help determine what is necessary to be able to enter into the Sacrament of Matrimony. If a petition for nullity is necessary, a deacon or priest will be able to help file the necessary documents with the Archdiocesan Metropolitan Tribunal. An affirmative decision and a copy of the nullity decree will be necessary before any wedding plans may proceed, including marriage preparation classes. This ensures that both parties are free to marry in the Catholic Church.
- If an individual is a widow or widower, a copy of the death certificate of the deceased spouse must be submitted.
- For a convalidation: the civil marriage, license, or if the marriage is common law, a declaration of marriage certificate needs to be submitted.
- Other pertinent dispensations and/or permissions from the Chancery may be required. A deacon or priest will assist in obtaining these.
- A Witness Affidavit of Freedom to Marry must be submitted. Two (2) each from the bride and groom must be submitted.
- A marriage license from the State of Texas valid within ninety (90) days, but not less than three (3) days prior to the wedding ceremony. Please submit the license to the priest or deacon, at least, three (3) days before the wedding ceremony.

REQUIREMENTS, NORMS, AND GUIDELINES FOR HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

- **Holy Family Catholic Church is to be your first and most important phone call or inquiry BEFORE you book any events or services.**
Contact the Holy Family Parish Office to first inquire into marriage information and preparation and to be connected to clergy personnel.
- Attendance is required for all marriage preparation classes, meetings, and retreats.
- The couple must sign an agreement that they acknowledge and agree to follow the requirements and guidelines for a wedding at Holy Family Catholic Church.
- All weddings will take place in either the church or Chapel. In an interfaith marriage, if the non-Catholic party, for a valid reason, insists on a wedding in his/her church, proper Archdiocesan dispensation or permission is required. A priest or deacon will help submit a timely request for this dispensation. The physical presence of a Catholic priest or deacon is necessary. If requested, the priest or deacon may participate in the ceremony.
- The priests and deacons of Holy Family Catholic Church have delegation to preside at weddings. Should you wish to have another priest or deacon witness your marriage at Holy Family Catholic Church, please provide his name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address. It is important that any visiting priest or deacon have the necessary delegations and ecclesiastical faculties.
- When both the groom and bride are Catholic, a Holy Mass should be celebrated. An interfaith marriage (between a Catholic and non-Catholic) requires sensitivity. It is recommended that a Holy Mass should not be celebrated in this case, since the non-Catholic bride or groom and non-Catholics in the family may not receive the Eucharist.
- The regular times for weddings at Holy Family Catholic Church are on Saturdays at 10:30 am, 12:30 pm, or 2:30 pm. Each wedding is allotted **one hour and thirty minutes** (1 ½ hours) in the church or Chapel. This includes time for photos following the wedding ceremony. Weddings on other days or times must have the approval of the Pastor.

REQUIREMENTS, NORMS, AND GUIDELINES FOR HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

- Wedding celebrations are discouraged during the Lenten season because of the penitential nature of the season. If, for reasons of necessity, a wedding needs to be scheduled during Lent, the church Lenten environment must be maintained; therefore, no flowers or other decorations will be permitted during Lent.
- No weddings are permitted during Holy Week. During the Octave of Easter and Solemnities, only the wedding ritual and nuptial blessing are permitted during Holy Mass.
- The Catholic Church does not “charge” for sacramental celebrations; however, it is just and appropriate to require fees for the use of the church building for maintenance, and to meet the costs of operations (lights, air conditioning, staff on hand to prepare and clean, etc.). Please pay these fees three (3) months prior to the wedding ceremony. This payment will confirm your reserved wedding date. It is recommended that the signed Holy Family Agreement form be turned into the Parish Office when the fee payment is made. Payment may be made by cash, cashier’s check, personal check, or credit card.

A fee of **\$500.00** is requested from in-Parish couples (bride and/or groom or their parent(s) is/are registered with, and contributing on a regular basis to, Holy Family Catholic Church for, at least, the past six (6) months).

A fee of **\$1000.00** is requested from out-of-Parish couples.

- A refundable security deposit of **\$250.00** is required the day the wedding is scheduled. Payment may be made by: cash, cashier’s check or credit card (no personal or business checks accepted). This deposit will be returned if the church and building and parish rooms are left in good condition after the wedding ceremony, and there is diligent pursuit of punctuality for the rehearsal and wedding.
- **Punctuality is a virtue.** Please arrive on time for all meetings, the rehearsal, and, **most especially, for the wedding.** The church and Chapel at Holy Family Catholic Church are usually tightly scheduled for other services—these other scheduled services will begin promptly. A delay of more than fifteen (15) minutes may result in the loss of the \$250.00 security deposit.

REQUIREMENTS, NORMS, AND GUIDELINES FOR HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

- It is appropriate (but not mandatory) to pay a stipend to the clergy (priest and/or deacon) at the wedding.
- The church and Chapel are sacred places. Please respect the parishioners in the church or Chapel by avoiding talking loudly and making distracting noises. The wedding party must maintain an atmosphere of quiet reverence at all times (including during the rehearsal). Cell phone use in the church or Chapel is strictly prohibited.
- Liturgical music is an expression of the assembly's prayer and praise to a loving God. For this reason, popular love songs that do not focus on God's love are considered inappropriate. Prohibited are: popular secular tunes, romantic love songs, and rock or rap songs. Please contact the Parish's Music Director three (3) months in advance of the wedding date to consult about any music to be used during the wedding ceremony. The Music Director can also provide a list of liturgical and/or approved music appropriate for the wedding celebration.
- If a couple wishes to use other musicians and/or soloists, the Parish Music Director must be consulted. Outside musicians and soloists and their musical selections and/or instruments must be approved by the Music Director. Recorded and synthetic music is prohibited.
- The Music Director can be reached during weekday working hours at the main parish number: 281-499-9688. **All musician and/or soloist fees are negotiated and paid directly to each musician or soloist.**
- Holy Family Catholic Church has **wedding auxiliary ministers** specifically trained to direct the rehearsal and to ensure the reverence of the wedding ceremony. A wedding auxiliary minister will contact the bride and groom, and speak only to the bride and groom approximately one (1) month prior to the wedding ceremony to review procedures. Holy Family Catholic Church's wedding auxiliary ministers are here to help implement the guidelines of the Parish, maintain propriety in the church or Chapel, and to ensure that each wedding ceremony is reverent, elegant, and memorable. **A hired wedding coordinator will not be allowed to function at a Holy Family Catholic Church wedding ceremony.**

REQUIREMENTS, NORMS, AND GUIDELINES FOR HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

- Flowers, decorations, photography, videography, the number and dress of attendants, though part of the celebration, are secondary to the celebration of the Sacrament of Matrimony, and should not detract from the solemnity of the Sacrament.

- Floral decorations should be simple and tasteful. Floral displays are limited to two (2) arrangements of real flowers to be placed on the flower stands in the Sanctuary, in front of these stands, or two small (must be lower than the Altar) arrangements on the Sanctuary floor in front of the Altar candle stands. Silk or plastic flowers are not appropriate. **The florist or the person(s) delivering the two floral displays is responsible for placing and removing the displays.**

- Placement of flowers may begin no earlier than thirty (30) minutes before the wedding ceremony and should be removed immediately following the ceremony. The florist will be responsible for removing the Parish's planters from the plant stands and placing these planters on the Sanctuary ledge on the choir side of the Sanctuary, and then returning these planters after the wedding ceremony is complete. You are welcome to leave your flowers in the church for the weekend Holy Masses, or take them with you to the reception. Other than the two floral arrangements previously mentioned, nothing is permitted in the Sanctuary.

- The florist or floral delivery person must sign the form in this booklet and return it to the Parish Office, at least, two (2) weeks prior to the wedding.

- While it is important to have a record of important events in our lives, the making of a photographic or videographic history is not the primary reason for gathering at the church or Chapel. We come to the church or Chapel to worship God by celebrating the Sacrament of Matrimony.

REQUIREMENTS, NORMS, AND GUIDELINES FOR HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

All photographers and videographers should work in a reverent and **unobtrusive manner**. Strobes, floodlights, flash photography or other artificial light *during the ceremony* is **strictly prohibited**. Flash photography is permissible during the procession and recession. Videographers should remain stationary in a corner. Photographers and videographers are not allowed in the Sanctuary. Please note the back wall of the church is covered in delicate sound panels – please advise all photographers and videographers to not back up to, or into, the back walls of the church with equipment which may mar or damage these panels. **During Holy Mass (after the procession is completed), movement in the church will be limited to the back and sides of the church and the side aisles. Moving in the front of the church, especially in front of the pews, or down the main aisle is strictly prohibited.**

- A maximum of twenty (20) minutes is allotted for pictures in the church or Chapel; a delayed start of the wedding will necessarily reduce or eliminate the time allotted for pictures. It is appropriate for families of the couple to assemble (stand) on the Sanctuary steps with the couple. It is not appropriate to sit on the Sanctuary steps, nor is it appropriate to enter the Sanctuary area (top of the platform) when clergy is not present. **While taking pictures, please maintain reverence in the church and Chapel at all times.**
- Photographers and videographers must sign the form in this booklet and return it to the Parish Office, at least, two (2) weeks prior to the wedding.
- For safety reasons, aisle runners, arches and similar decorations are not permitted. For safety, as well as to prevent damage, strewing of flower petals, rice, bird seed, confetti or other materials inside or outside of the church or Chapel is strictly prohibited. Please note that the City of Missouri City regards the release of balloons outside to be an environmental hazard to wildlife.
- For safety, as well as to prevent damage, **the pews must be kept free from any and all decorations, signs, attachments, etc.** Holy Family Catholic Church's reserved signs are the only items allowed on pews.

REQUIREMENTS, NORMS, AND GUIDELINES FOR HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

- Big-budget productions detract from the holiness of the Sacrament of Matrimony. Lavish displays and similar celebrations are more suitable for receptions. Life-size pictures of the bride and groom, guest register, other pictures of the bride or groom, photo albums, etc., may not be placed in the church or Chapel.
- The number of attendants should be kept to a minimum. Typically a best man and a maid/matron of honor serve as the official witnesses (two witnesses are required).
- A rehearsal is normally scheduled the night prior to the wedding (usually Friday evening). **The Holy Family Church's auxiliary minister directs the rehearsal.** At least two (2) weeks before the rehearsal, the bride and groom meet with the auxiliary minister to plan the order of procession, seating arrangements, etc. The rehearsal is designed to help the wedding party locate the church and to give a sense of space and order. Typically, wedding rehearsals last no longer than thirty (30) minutes. It is important that the wedding party, parents, readers, and all others who will participate in the liturgy be present for the rehearsal, and arrive, at least, fifteen (15) minutes prior to the rehearsal time. It is very important that all who are involved in the wedding liturgy, or who are a part of the wedding party, attend the rehearsal. Due to tight schedules, all rehearsals will begin promptly.
- The bride and her attendants will prepare in the special events room in the back of the church. **If a Holy Mass or wedding ceremony is in progress, please keep talking to a minimum and silence all electronic devices.** If a wedding is scheduled after your wedding, please arrange to have someone remove all clothing, make-up, hair accessories and products, etc. so that the next bride and her attendants may use the room during your wedding ceremony. Please leave the room neat and clean. **Locking of the doors is not permitted.**
- The groom and his attendants may use the St. Joseph minister's room for preparation. Please make sure all empty boxes and miscellaneous trash are removed from this room. **Locking of the doors is not permitted.**

REQUIREMENTS, NORMS, AND GUIDELINES FOR HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

- Children who are asked to be ring-bearers or flower girls should be, at least, four (4) years old; younger children often disrupt the procession. During the service, these children should be seated with a guardian.
- Certain practices are significant for people of particular cultural backgrounds, and may, after discussion with the priest or deacon, be incorporated into the wedding ceremony. Ethnic customs of the cord, veil and coins, padrinos or madrinas are not an essential part of the Catholic Rite of Marriage, and they should not be given as much prominence as the essential things, such as the exchange of vows, rings, and the blessing of the couple.
- All cantors and lectors should note that the omni-directional microphones on the ambo and cantor stand are **not adjustable**. They are pre-set for maximum 360° pick-up. Within a 2 ½ foot perimeter of the microphone, all sound will be picked up; **adjusting the microphones will damage them**.
- Food and drink may be consumed **outside** in the courtyard. Please throw all trash in the appropriate trash receptacles. Food and drinks are **not** permitted in the church rooms nor in the church or Chapel.
- Smoking cigarettes, electronic cigarettes, or cigars is **not** permitted in any of the rooms or buildings of Holy Family Catholic Church.
- Alcoholic beverages are **not** permitted on the Holy Family Catholic Church premises. Drinking alcoholic beverages in the church or Chapel is forbidden by Archdiocesan guidelines and could be subject to legal fines.



Although the wedding industry promotes the engagement period as a time to prepare details of the wedding ceremony and honeymoon, the Church encourages couples to use this time to prepare for a lifelong marriage. For Catholic couples, the engagement period is a time to deepen faith, especially personal and interpersonal spirituality.

(Preparation for the Sacrament of Marriage #17)

HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

To assist engaged couples with answering the most common questions or concerns, we have provided some basic frequently asked questions and responses. We urge couples to thoroughly read the information we provide.

1. **How long does it take to prepare to marry?** The answer is dependent on a number of factors, including where you are marrying, if you are free to marry in the Church, how long it takes you to complete the marriage preparation sessions, and your own readiness. The minimum time line for a wedding at Holy Family Catholic Church is six months, with no prior failed marriages, attendance at all classes/meetings, on-time documents, and no complications with the relationship or other details.

After calling the Parish Office and giving your names for the next marriage information session, our office staff will guide you through the instruction and appointment process. Please note that booking a date and attending classes does not guarantee a wedding will occur; only the clergy make that final determination with each couple.

Please note that the absolute minimum is six (6) months to complete the marriage preparation classes and other requirements; however, this means no absences, all forms and fees are submitted on time as requested, and all meetings with the clergy assigned to you have been fulfilled and no other serious concern exists. Non-parishioners are responsible to transport the file to the clergy at the parish where they are marrying.

2. **How much time do I need to give for a wedding outside the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston (or out of the country)?** The Archdiocese requires that couples planning to marry outside the Archdiocese must have fully completed marriage preparation sessions two (2) months in advance of the wedding date. This means a minimum of eight (8) months is needed, no serious concerns exist, and all proper documents and fees are submitted on time before the wedding may take place. In addition, once the documents are complete, couples are responsible for transporting them to the parish where they will marry, including if it is out of the country. Holy Family Catholic Church is not responsible for transporting/ mailing documents.

HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

3. **My fiancé and/or I have a pending annulment. Is it okay if we go ahead and start marriage preparation and book a wedding while we wait for it to be finalized?** First of all, there is no guarantee that an affirmative decision will be reached on any petition for annulment, let alone when it will be completed. Therefore, couples are not permitted to begin any wedding plans, including marriage preparation until an affirmative decision is reached and the final decree of the nullity is received. A copy of the nullity decree must be provided to the Parish Office before any wedding plans may proceed, including marriage preparation classes. This ensures that both parties are free to marry in the Church.
4. **My fiancé and/or I have had a prior marriage, but not in the Catholic Church. Does this count as being “free to marry” since the wedding took place outside the Church?** No, both parties must have had all prior civil and religious marriages examined and have a petition for nullity submitted and approved before the couple is free to marry each other in the Catholic Church. This applies to non-Catholics as well. See information on the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston’s Office of the Tribunal website (www.archgh.org/tribunal/) for information on annulments, or contact your parish for assistance.
5. **Are the marriage preparation classes only for Catholics?** No, the classes are for those seeking to marry in the Catholic Church. One partner must be Catholic; the other may be Catholic, a baptized Christian of another church, or non-baptized. The theology is based on Catholic teaching since the wedding is to occur in the Catholic Church. There is no expectation that the non-Catholic will choose to become Catholic, but marrying a Catholic requires some understanding of what is expected in Catholic marriages.
6. **What is the procedure for registering for marriage preparation, and can my fiancé and I just drop in when we’re ready?** Drop-in’s are not permitted. All couples must attend a marriage information session at Holy Family Catholic Church, and arrange to meet with a Holy Family clergy to begin the marriage preparation process. There may be times when special circumstances may negate this process.

HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

7. **My fiancé and I are newly engaged and want to get ahead and book our date for the reception; how soon can we do this?** Before you book any events or services, contact the Holy Family Parish Office first to inquire into our marriage preparation requirements, available wedding dates, and other necessary details. *The Church is to be your first and most important phone call or inquiry; not the hotel, travel agent, restaurant, caterer, etc.* We are not responsible for deposits that have to be cancelled because a couple did not contact us first before booking a venue or service.
8. **What is the fee for marriage preparation?** The fee for marriage preparation is incorporated into the wedding booking fee. Holy Family Catholic Church pays the fee for the FOCCUS tool processing. If a couple is only taking classes at our Parish, and not planning to marry at Holy Family, the fee is **\$40.00** and must be paid in full at the initial couples meeting. If paying by cash, it must be exact cash.
9. **Why are Catholics obligated to marry in the Catholic Church by a priest or deacon? Are destination weddings not valid?** Sacraments occur in the Church; they occur in the context of the parish community with a priest or deacon administering. Since it is at the parish that families come together, the Sacrament of Matrimony rightly belongs in the parish. A Christian wedding is not just about the couple; it is first and foremost an act of worship of God. Weddings that occur in the Church serve to remind us of God's action in the life of the community, and especially in the relationship of the bride and groom. Though the bride and groom have a special place in the marriage liturgy, they are not the object of worship, praise, petition, or thanksgiving.

Destination weddings, even if all the canonical requirements are met, miss the point of Christian marriage by over-emphasizing the focus on the wishes of the couple. Often, especially in Latin countries, the Catholic partner must be fully initiated (baptized, confirmed, and have had First Holy Communion). Sacraments are sacred encounters with God that are not to be rushed through, and involve a commitment to ongoing conversion. The time lines for preparing for one or more sacrament of initiation can vary quite a bit. For example, Adult Confirmation in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston is only celebrated at Pentecost, with the preparation occurring in the spring. Most parishes do not have the resources to handle short-notice preparation.

HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

10. **Will the Church allow another religious figure to participate in the wedding?** Clergy from other Christian denominations and other religious faiths are welcome to participate in the Catholic wedding ceremony. They may proclaim the readings (other than the Gospel), address the couple, sing the songs, pronounce a blessing, and generally do the things that clergy do. But only the Catholic priest or deacon may receive the wedding vows of the couple. And, of course, only the priest may preside at the altar.
11. **I went to a wedding where the couple walked down the aisle together instead of the bride being given away by her father. What are my options at a Catholic wedding in this regard?** Both the bride and the groom equally and freely enter into marriage, and the entrance procession should reflect that. So the Catholic wedding rite calls for a procession to the altar in which “the ministers go first, followed by the priest, and then the bride and the bridegroom.” It goes on to say that “they may be escorted by at least their parents and the two witnesses” (The Rite of Marriage #20). But the Church’s liturgy almost always accommodates social customs. That is why you usually see the customary bride coming down the aisle escorted by her father, and the priest already at the Altar with the groom. (That custom, by the way, reflects the archaic social concept of the bride as “property,” the ownership of which is being passed from father to husband.) Options for the wedding procession include just about anything that will get everyone involved down the aisle in a reasonably dignified manner.
12. **Why are clergy discouraging us from lighting a unity candle at the wedding?** *The unity candle is not now, nor has it ever been, a part of the Catholic wedding liturgy.* Some clergy try to discourage it because it distracts from the outward sign of the Sacrament, the couple themselves, and their exchange of promises and rings.
13. **What if we don’t belong to a parish home yet?** This is the time to begin discussing where you will live out your faith together at a parish. Visit the parishes in the area where you will live as a married couple. Find out what the community is like, and how you can be a part of it together and as individuals. Marriage in the Catholic Church necessarily implies that faith is a critical aspect of your relationship and idea of Christian marriage, otherwise, it is just an empty set of rituals. Contact parishes and inquire into membership and marriage preparation, then start digging your roots to grow; you will be establishing not only a place to worship together, but creating relationships that will support your marriage and family life.



“As life goes on, they become not two compatible beings who have learned to live together through self-suppression and patience, but one new and richer being, fused in the fires of God’s love and tempered of the best of both. One by one, the veils of life’s mysteries have been lifted. The flesh, they found, was too precocious to reveal its own mystery; then came the mystery of the other’s inner life, disclosed in the raising of young minds and hearts in the ways of God;”

--Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, *Three to Get Married*

This page left intentionally blank.



PARISH WEDDING AGREEMENT

Wedding Date: _____ Time: _____ AM / PM

Rehearsal Date: _____ Time: _____ AM / PM

Groom's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Work Number: _____

Bride's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Work Number: _____

We have read and have familiarized ourselves with the Holy Family Catholic Church's Requirements, Norms and Guidelines for the Sacrament of Matrimony. We promise to keep and abide by these rules and guidelines and ensure that all our wedding participants do the same.

Bride signature: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Groom signature: _____ Date: ____/____/____

(Please pay the below and turn in this form to the Parish Office no later than three (3) months prior to the wedding ceremony date. The Music minister and clergy must be paid separately.)

Church suggested in-parish fee: \$500.00 ____/____/____ (date received)

Church suggested out-of-parish fee: \$1,000.00 ____/____/____ (date received)

Parish Office Staff Signature: _____

This page left intentionally blank.



FLORIST INFORMATION AND AGREEMENT

Please give a copy of this form to your florist. After reviewing with your florist the information and norms contained on this form, please return a signed copy to the Holy Family Catholic Church Parish Office.

- ✓ Floral arrangements are limited to real or natural materials only.
- ✓ Floral displays are limited to two arrangements of real flowers to be placed on the flower stands in the Sanctuary, or two small (must be lower than the altar) arrangements on the Sanctuary floor in front of the Altar candle stands. Note: we encourage a visit to Holy Family Catholic Church to familiarize yourself with the Sanctuary, and the location and height of plant stands. The location of the plant stands may not change. The florist will be responsible for removing the Parish's planters from the plant stands and placing these planters on the Sanctuary ledge on the choir side of the sanctuary, and then returning these planters after the wedding is completed.
- ✓ Decorations are placed one half hour (30 minutes) before the wedding is to begin. Decorations are removed immediately after the marriage ceremony.
- ✓ Please put empty boxes or wrappings in the garbage. It is important to keep the church and Chapel clean.
- ✓ Other than the flower arrangements, nothing is permitted in the church or Chapel – this includes, but is not limited to: arches, runners, flower petals, candles, etc.

Names of couple: _____

Date and time of wedding: _____

Priest or Deacon presiding: _____

I have read the above information and norms and agree to abide by them.

Signature: _____

Name and address of florist (or attach business card):

This page left intentionally blank.



PHOTOGRAPHER / VIDEOGRAPHER INFORMATION AND AGREEMENT

Please give a copy of this form to your photographer and/or videographer. After reviewing with your photographer and/or videographer the information and norms contained on this form please return a signed copy to the Holy Family Catholic Church Parish Office.

- ✓ All photographers and videographers should work in a **reverent and unobtrusive manner**. Strobes, floodlights, flash photography or other artificial light *during the ceremony* is **strictly prohibited**. Flash photography is permissible during the procession and recession. **During Holy Mass (after the procession is completed), movement in the church will be limited to the back and sides of the church and the side aisles. Moving in the front of the church, especially in front of the pews, or down the main aisle is strictly prohibited.**
- ✓ Photographers and videographers are not allowed in the Sanctuary. Videographers should remain stationary in a corner. **Please note the back wall of the church is covered in delicate sound panels—all photographers and videographers are advised to not back up or into the back walls of the church with equipment which may mar or damage these panels.**
- ✓ A maximum of twenty (20) minutes is allotted for pictures in the church or Chapel; a delayed start of the wedding will necessarily reduce or eliminate the time allotted for pictures. It is appropriate for families of the couple to assemble (stand) on the Sanctuary steps with the couple. **It is not appropriate to sit on the Sanctuary steps**, nor is it appropriate to enter the Sanctuary area (top of the platform) when clergy is not present. **While taking pictures, please maintain reverence in the church and Chapel at all times.**

Names of couple: _____

Date and time of wedding: _____

Priest or Deacon presiding: _____

I have read the above information and norms and agree to abide by them.

Signature: _____

Name and address of photographer / videographer (or attach business card):

This page left intentionally blank.



MUSICIAN / SOLOIST AGREEMENT

Please give a copy of this form to your musician or soloist. After reviewing with your musician and/or soloist the information and norms contained on this form, please return a signed copy to the Holy Family Parish Office.

- ✓ The Music Director must be consulted about any music to be used during the wedding ceremony and has a list of liturgical and/or approved music appropriate to the celebration.
- ✓ Outside musicians and soloists and their musical selections and or instruments must be approved by the Parish's Music Director.
- ✓
- ✓ Recorded and synthetic music is prohibited. The omni-directional microphones on the ambo and cantor stand are ***not adjustable***. They are pre-set for maximum 360" pick up. Within a 2½ foot perimeter of the microphone, all sound will be picked up; ***adjusting the microphones will damage them.***
- ✓
- ✓ The Parish Music Director may be reached during weekday working hours at the main parish number: 281-499-9688. **All musician and/or soloist fees are negotiated and paid directly to each musician or soloist.**

Names of couple: _____

Date and time of wedding: _____

Priest or Deacon presiding: _____

I have read the above information and norms and agree to abide by them.

Signature: _____

Name and address of musician / soloist (or attach business card):

This page left intentionally blank.

BLESSING FOR AN ENGAGED COUPLE

*We praise You, Lord,
for Your gentle plan draws together Your children,*

_____ and _____

in love for one another.

Strengthen their hearts,

so that they will keep faith with each other,

please You in all things,

and so come to the happiness of celebrating the

Sacrament of Matrimony.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



**Holy Family Catholic Church
1510 Fifth Street
Missouri City, Texas 77489
Office: (281) 499-9688
www.HolyFamilyChurch.us
information@holyfamilychurch.us**