

4. Documents needed in advance of the wedding: Partners in a Catholic Wedding are required to present to the Pastor, at least 2 months prior to the wedding, all documentation which the Pastor asks for. This is a strict requirement.

5. The Ceremony of a Catholic Wedding. It is the founding principle of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church to preserve the traditional practices of the Roman Catholic Church. This is especially true in all nuptial ceremonies. A Catholic Wedding consists of the traditional Marriage Rite followed by the Nuptial Mass. These ceremonies ordinarily take place within the church.

It is expected of all participants in a Catholic Wedding to adhere to the customary practices of respect shown while inside the church building, whether at the rehearsal or the wedding ceremonies. Reverent silence, proper dress (especially for the bride and her *entourage* - i.e., Dresses should not be low cut or off the shoulder, neither is it proper that they be tight fitting and with slits. The sleeves should be at least quarter length.), suitable music and other forms of like conduct are expected of all who take part in the marriage ceremony. It is expected of the couple being married to remind any friends and guests of these acts of respect and reverence while present in the church building.

Smoking is not allowed in any building of this facility.

There will be no additions or deletions from the ceremony as found in the Roman Catholic Ritual for Catholic marriages.

Any music, whether sung or performed, during the ceremony must reflect the respect expected in the church building. The use of tape players, CD players, digitized pianos and the like are not allowed. There will be no exception to this. It is expected that the music being sung or played on the organ will be reviewed with the Pastor at least one month in advance of the ceremony. Arrangements must be made with the church organist well in advance so that the music can be

played with all due reverence.

The use of the Unity Candle is *not* part of a traditional Catholic Wedding ceremony. The lighting of the Unity Candle may be observed at the wedding reception, if the couple so desires.

Should the couple wish to have the ceremonial candles on the walls of the church lit during the wedding, a fee of \$35.00 will be charged to replace the candles and to clean up afterwards.

6. Fees and stipends. The following fees and/or stipends will be charged for all weddings performed at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church:

Use of church building	\$125.00
Use of Parish Hall	\$45.00
Clean-up (<i>refundable</i>)	\$50.00
Stipend for Priest	\$75.00
Stipend for server(s)	\$15.00
Stipend for organist	\$45.00

These fees and stipends are in addition to any and all other expenses which may be incurred as a result of this ceremony. *All fees are due and payable at or before the rehearsal.* Stipends may be given after the ceremony.

7. Photographs. Pictures are an important source of memories of the important day of a wedding. *The photographer for the wedding should be present for the rehearsal and meet with the Pastor to discuss proper and respectful considerations to photograph the nuptial ceremony.*

May God bless you as you prepare for your wedding. Once again: Frequent reception of Holy Communion and attendance at Holy Mass are important spiritual aids in preparation for such a great event. Make your preparation for Matrimony Christ-centered, and you can be sure of His blessings throughout your married life.

If any questions arise as you prepare for your wedding, please call the Pastor at 489-6602.

Guidelines for a Catholic Wedding

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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A Checklist As You Prepare For Your Wedding

4 months before the wedding:

- First planning interview with the Pastor.
- Make arrangements for use of church and/or Parish Hall.
- Review ceremonies of the wedding.

3 months before the wedding:

- Finalize times for wedding and rehearsal.

2 months before the wedding:

- Copies of all necessary documentation to the Pastor
 - Baptismal Certificate
 - Confirmation Certificate
 - Certificate of First Holy Communion
 - Other _____
- Begin Marriage Instructions.

1 month before the wedding:

- Banns of marriage published.
- Obtain civil license for marriage.
- Rehearsal date/time _____
- Other _____

Guidelines and Other Requirements for the Sacrament of Matrimony

Marriage is a great Sacrament, says St. Paul. He likens the life-long union of a man and a woman in sacramental Matrimony to the union between Christ and His Church. As Jesus sacrificed Himself for His Church, so, too, husband and wife must be prepared to make sacrifices. Self-forgetfulness for each other's sake is a proof of true love for each other, and a sure foundation on which to build and solid wedded life.

Marriage is a vocation — a calling by God. All who have accepted this calling to unite in love know that such a vocation brings many hardships as well as blessings. Men and women, by their own power, cannot hope to fulfill all that God asks of them in marriage unless He helps them by His grace. This is the beauty of the Sacrament of Marriage. All the graces and helps men and women need to fulfill this part of the Divine Plan are found in Catholic Marriage.

The Catholic marriage ceremony is a beautiful expression of God giving Himself to the couple and they to Him so that each marriage can be happy and holy. From the wedding ceremony itself, to the special prayers of the Nuptial Mass, the Catholic couple are presented with many prayers and enriching ceremonies which will assure them that they are beginning their life together on the very threshold of Heaven itself.

It is the practice at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church to perform the Marriage Ceremony according to the traditional Roman Catholic Rite. The use of the church and its facilities for a Catholic wedding is open to all who are members in regular attendance of the parish. Those who are not parish members need to make special arrangements with the Pastor in order for the wedding to take place in the parish facilities. Regular Mass attendance in the parish for at least 4 months prior to the wedding will be part of those arrangements.

The following is a list of guidelines and other requirements for the Catholic wedding ceremony to take place in the parish. All requirements will be strictly adhered to.

1. An interview with the pastor is required at least four months prior to the wedding. The purpose of this interview is to make arrangements for a date of the wedding, to review the documentation necessary for a Catholic wedding to take place, and to set a date for the Marriage Instructions. *No wedding date should be set by the couple until after a meeting with the Pastor.*

2. Catholic Wedding: A definition. By a *Catholic Wedding* is meant a nuptial ceremony that takes place between two baptized, practicing Catholics following the rites of the Roman Catholic Church. A marriage between a Catholic and a non-Catholic is known as a *Mixed Marriage* and is allowed under special circumstances which can be reviewed with the Pastor. *It is not the practice at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church to allow Mixed Marriages inside the church building.*

3. Marriage Preparations: A Life Spent Centered In Christ. It is expected that a Catholic couple preparing for Matrimony will spend time in prayer and spiritual reading together, as well as attending Holy Mass and receiving the Sacraments on a regular basis. Likewise, it is a pastoral requirement that couples preparing for Matrimony do not live together prior to the wedding. This means that couples who cohabit cannot be married at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, nor will the pastor assist at a wedding of cohabitating couples away from the parish church. Any concerns in this regard must be addressed with the pastor at least 6 months in advance of the wedding.