

# ST. IGNATIUS CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Austin, Texas 78704  
512.442.3602  
[www.st-ignatius.org](http://www.st-ignatius.org)

## WEDDING INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES

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September 2022

Congratulations on your engagement!

The faith community of St. Ignatius Martyr Church is so happy you are considering to unite in the covenant of marriage at our parish. Your wedding is meant to be a joyful and meaningful celebration. The wedding day marks the beginning of your commitment that you will make through the Christian sacrament of marriage. We offer these guidelines and instructions to help facilitate the planning of the liturgy for you and for all who attend this celebration.

There was a wedding in Cana in Galilee,  
and the mother of Jesus was there.  
Jesus and his disciples  
were also invited to the wedding. John 2: 1-2

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## Requirements for a Catholic Marriage

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- You or your future spouse must be a participating member in the Catholic faith. An active faith is the foundation for a sacramental marriage.
- If Catholic, you must provide a new copy of your baptismal certificate issued no more than 6 months before the wedding date, to verify your freedom to marry. When requesting a baptismal certificate, please ask that notations be included.
- You must demonstrate that no previous marriages have existed. A form provided by the Church must be completed and signed by one witness—preferably a parent or a close relative.
- If either of you has been previously married, you will need to discuss this with the person assisting you with marriage preparation before you can set a date for your wedding.
- If either of you is not a Catholic, you will need to receive permission for a mixed marriage or dispensation for disparity of worship. The person assisting you in your marriage preparation will explain this procedure and answer any questions either of you may have regarding Catholic teaching or practices.
- Finally, a civil marriage license must be obtained from the county courthouse no earlier than three months and no later than 72 hours before the time of your wedding. Please present this marriage license to the presiding priest or deacon when you meet with him to plan the ceremony.
- You should not enter into a civil marriage before a church marriage.

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We/you'll need at least nine months to prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage. Our parish schedule is full and active and always busy. So please, contact the church office at least nine months before your intended wedding date. Planning ahead is even more important if you have been previously married as this procedure requires a certain amount of time to be completed.

If you attend St. Ignatius Martyr Church and know the name of the priest or deacon that you would like to preside at your wedding ceremony, please make that known upon contacting the parish. The parish will do its best to accommodate your request.

## Preparation Process for Weddings at St. Ignatius and for Weddings at other Parishes

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Now that you have read through the requirements for a Catholic wedding and are ready to pursue the preparation process. Please contact the parish office at 512.442.3602 to begin your marriage preparation. This also refers to couples who wish to be married in another parish.

Early in the preparation each couple will participate in the FOCCUS Couple Inventory. FOCCUS is a discussion inventory. A pre-nuptial questionnaire for gathering your names, addresses, birth dates, religions, and sacramental backgrounds will also be completed at one of these sessions. The person assisting you will describe the preparation programs and other recommendations for your marriage preparation. If there are no complications, your wedding and rehearsal dates and times may be set at the first meeting.

## Marriage Preparation Programs

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Completing the program early is strongly encouraged so that the busy preparations for a wedding ceremony do not interfere with the joy of your spiritual growth together. At St. Ignatius we use a variety of formats to help in your preparation.



## Planning the Liturgy

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After completion of all the preparation classes and paperwork, you will meet a few weeks before the wedding with your officiating priest or deacon to review the wedding liturgy plan and to make any final adjustments.

St. Ignatius Martyr Church uses the Roman Rite for all weddings. The diocesan policies for wedding and music are followed closely.

You will need to consult with the priest or deacon regarding the planning of the readings, prayer options and such. The protocol for weddings at the parish are coordinated only by the parish wedding coordinator under the supervision of the pastor. Outside wedding consultants are not permitted to give directions about the liturgy while in the church proper.

## Scheduling a Rehearsal

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Rehearsals are scheduled for one hour on Fridays. The time of rehearsals is normally scheduled for 4:00 or 5:00 p.m. All participants in the wedding party and readers are asked to be present. It is imperative that the rehearsal start and end on time. Rehearsals that are delayed or extended beyond the allotted time will incur additional fees.

## Scheduling the Wedding Liturgy

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Weddings are scheduled on Saturdays at 11am and 1:30 pm. Weddings are not scheduled on Sunday, All Soul's Day, Palm Saturday/Sunday through Easter Saturday/Sunday, Christmas Eve, or Christmas Day. Please check with the parish office for more details. All participants must arrive 30 minutes early. Due to the full schedule of the parish weddings must start and end on time.

The Sacrament of Marriage is a covenant, which is more than a contract. Covenant always expresses a relationship between persons. The marriage covenant refers to the relationship between the husband and wife, a permanent union of persons capable of knowing and loving each other and God. The celebration of marriage is also a liturgical act, appropriately held in a public liturgy at church. Catholics are urged to celebrate their marriage within the Eucharistic Liturgy.

~from the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults

## Church Decorations

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Please note that during specific liturgical seasons of the Church year, such as Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter week I and II, and some Solemnity/Feast Day weekends, no additional decorations are permitted in the Church. During these times the church decorations are in keeping with the spirit of that particular liturgical season. Therefore, no other decorations are necessary. Please keep this in mind when deciding on the date and colors for your wedding.

The parish arranges for fresh flowers on the high altar for each weekend. If you wish to add to these arrangements or suggest the types of flowers, arrangements, etc., you will need to contact our flower coordinators. They will be happy to assist you. Please remember that all flower arrangements remain in the church for the duration of the weekend.

Please provide the Florist Guidelines to the person arranging the flowers for your wedding. This prevents any last-minute confusion over the position of flowers and the use of bows and flowers on the pews.

Please provide the Photographer Guidelines to your photographer and videographer. This prevents any last-minute confusion over the proper places for photographs and photographers. You will notice that photographers are not permitted in the sanctuary.

Any special customs or traditions, such as the unity candle, arras (coins), Bible and rosary and lasso, that you wish to include in your wedding, must be discussed with the presiding priest or deacon.

## Wedding Traditions Old and New

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Seating for the groomsmen and bridesmaids will be in the church pews with the congregation.

Ring and/or flower bearers are a welcome and beautiful addition to many weddings. The ring bearer and flower girl should be of an appropriate age so that their participation adds to the reverence of the rites.

The bride and bridesmaids may use the bridal room (located in the women's restroom) in the narthex for final preparations. The groomsmen gather in the Mother's Chapel. All members of the wedding party must come fully dressed as the church does not provide dressing rooms.

We ask you to please clean the bridal room afterward and remove all personal items and tidy-up the spaces that are used. St. Ignatius Martyr Church is not responsible for lost items.

Just a few Don'ts ...

The dropping of flower petals (real or artificial), throwing rice or birdseed, and floor runners are not permitted. The release of butterflies, birds, etc. after the liturgy are and the use of bells, whistles, balloons, bubbles before, during or after the celebration are also prohibited.

It is the responsibility of a member of the wedding party to remove flowers, bows, programs, and wrappers following the ceremony.

## Wedding Fees

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Wedding costs are an important concern of every couple. Our desire is to make our fees and the payment schedule clear and direct.

There is no cost for celebrating a sacrament in the Church. However, to offset the costs incurred at St. Ignatius Martyr Church (i.e. utilities and maintenance, reservation of the church, liturgy materials, assistance with preparation, classes, and a wedding coordinator for the Church rehearsal and wedding, etc.), a facility reservation fee is required. For active and registered parishioners, the fee is \$1100.00. For non-parishioners, the fee is \$1800.00. (An active parishioner is defined as regularly worshipping at St. Ignatius, supporting the mission of the parish financially, registered for at least one year, and participating in the life of the parish.)

Wedding Fees		Payable to St. Ignatius Catholic Church
Parishioner	\$1100.00	This is a non-refundable fee.
Non-parishioner	\$1800.00	This is a non-refundable fee.
Wedding Music Fees and Due Dates *		
Parish Organist/ Pianist	\$300.00	This fee is payable directly to the organist/pianist 30 days prior to the wedding date. An additional \$100.00 will be added for late payment of the fee.
Parish Cantor	\$200.00	This fee is payable directly to the cantor 30 days prior to the wedding date. An additional \$100.00 will be added for late payment of the fee.

\* Information about music for the wedding begins on page 10.

### Additional Fees

If you are preparing for marriage at St. Ignatius Martyr Church, but are celebrating your sacrament at another parish, a fee \$500.00 for the paperwork and the time of the person working with you is required before the process begins. This non-refundable.

There is a *Couple Inventory* fee for FOCCUS which will be paid to FOCCUS when you log on to take the test.

A personal gift for the minister is appropriate. It should be given to the celebrant (priest or deacon) at the conclusion of the wedding liturgy. The suggested amount is \$150-\$200, but it can be more or less depending on your means.

## Florist Guidelines

As was already stated under Church Decorations the parish provides large arrangement each weekend next to the tabernacle. These are not to be moved. Additional flowers may be added but are not permitted during the liturgical seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent or the first several weeks of Easter. Church decorations for these seasons are specifically arranged for the proper spirit of the Catholic community, hence, no other decorations are permitted. During the liturgical seasons when additional flowers are permitted, flowers may be positioned in the sanctuary in any way that will not obstruct the altar, ambo, tabernacle, presider or members of the wedding party. A stand is available to place flowers for the Blessed Mother. These flowers may be removed after the celebration or they may be repositioned by the wedding coordinator for the parish.

Bows or flowers attached to the end of the pews must not use anything that will cause damage. Tape, tacks, any sticky substance, and some plastic clips will damage the pews.

Altar candles are lit for your wedding ceremony; additional candles or candelabra are not allowed. If you plan to use the Unity Candle, the church will provide a stand for it.

After the wedding ceremony, packaging materials and rented decorations must be removed from the church immediately after the wedding ceremony. For further information or if you have any questions, please contact the presiding priest or deacon, who will direct you to our sacristan.

## Photographer Guidelines

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Photographers and videographers must not inhibit or distract from the sacred nature of the liturgy.

Flashes or other bright lights are prohibited during the ceremony.

Digital sounds from the camera must be silenced.

Blocking the sight lines of those attending the ceremony is not permitted. Photographers and videographers Must remain behind the people at all times.

Roaming around and other movements are strongly discouraged.

Posed photographs may be taken before or after the wedding ceremony.

Post wedding photography cannot exceed 30 minutes. For 11:00 a.m. wedding the church must be cleared out by 12:30p.m. For a 1:30 p.m. wedding the church must be cleared out by 3:30 p.m.

Drone controlled cameras are not permitted anywhere on the parish campus.

Ancillary microphones at the pulpit/ambo are not permitted.

Additional lighting is not permitted during the ceremony.

No aisle must ever be blocked by equipment. Extension cords must not be taped to the floor and are permitted only if they do not lay in any access area.

## Wedding Music Guidelines

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*Any exceptions to the policies stated below will be at the discretion of the Director of Music or ultimately the Pastor of St. Ignatius Martyr Catholic Church.*

There are few occasions as special to a couple as their wedding. The celebratory day will often include, family gatherings, parties, food, drink, and the ceremony itself. For Catholics, the celebration of matrimony takes place within a mass or a liturgy of the word. Both liturgies, when performed with music, add a dimension of glorious reverence to our worship. It is important, therefore, that this part of your liturgy be prayerfully planned. The music selections must reflect the sacred nature of the liturgy of matrimony. Selections must be music that is composed specifically for the liturgy and may also include some sacred music when it facilitates a reverent atmosphere.

Because your wedding will take place in a sacred place, you must reserve the use of popular songs, music from musicals, and other secular music for your reception. As well, all music must be performed live. No recordings are permitted. In addition, St. Ignatius, in conformity with the diocesan regulations regarding music for weddings, does not permit the use of the popular wedding march, *Bridal Chorus*, "Here Comes the Bride" by Richard Wagner, nor Mendelssohn's *Wedding March*. These and other theatrical music must conform to the Catholic understanding of the sacrament of matrimony.

The Director of Worship and Sacred Music must approve all music selections.

### How is the music chosen?

You will need to contact Director of Worship and Sacred Music 60 days prior to the wedding to allow ample time of preparation and planning. Attached you will find a list of suggested and appropriate music that can be used for your ceremony. Listening samples of the songs listed can be found on popular websites such as iTunes and YouTube. Fill in the form provided with this information sheet and select songs from the various categories. You may arrange for a personal wedding music consultation if you live in Austin or plan to visit.

Once the selections are finalized email them to [jhoffman@st-ignatius.org](mailto:jhoffman@st-ignatius.org). The Director of Music will then contact you to go over the selections and provide guidance as needed and/or desired.

E-mail is the preferred method of communication.

### Who Will Play the organ/piano/lead the music at the Wedding?

The Director of Worship and Sacred Music, Organist will play for all weddings at St. Ignatius. If he is unavailable, a first-rate substitute will be secured to play.

Can other musicians participate in the wedding liturgy?

Yes. Some weddings want to supplement the musical offerings. However, this must only be done after consulting with the Director of Music. Please do not hire or commit to any musicians until you have been provided with all the options available. This includes strings, brass, Mariachis, etc.

The Director Worship and Sacred Music routinely contracts with many fine trumpet, string, flute, and guitar players from the parish and the Austin area. Allowing the Music Director to contract with the musicians will guarantee a high standard of musicianship at your wedding. In addition, the Director of Music works with vocalists/cantors from St. Ignatius and occasionally from the Austin area. A list with contact information will be provided if requested.

A request for a family member or friend to sing/play a vocal/instrumental solo is permitted. But again, please consult with the Director of Music.

#### What fees and stipends are required?

The organist's fee is \$300.00. This will include all music for the liturgy and some prelude music as needed. This fee is due 30 days prior to the wedding day. (Mail or bring to the parish office.)

The cantor's fee is \$200.00. This will include any solo works and all ritual music within the liturgy. This fee is due 30 days prior to the wedding day. (Mail or bring to the parish office.)

Separate checks for each musician are to be mailed or delivered to St. Ignatius Martyr Catholic Church to the Director of Music's attention.

Fees for musicians are non-refundable.

#### Closing

St. Ignatius Martyr Catholic Church is committed to providing a liturgy that leads people closer to God through Sacrament, Word, and Music. The responsibility of maintaining dignity and reverence in the liturgy is a priority of all our ministers and musicians. The planning that is offered should help create a celebration that is both meaningful to you and in which the finest music is offered in thanksgiving to God for your vocation of marriage through the Catholic Church.



Liturgical music is given a more noble form when it is celebrated in song, with the ministers of each degree fulfilling their ministry and the people participating in it.

#5 Musicam Sacram, 1967

## Wedding Music Selections Form

Dr. John J. Hoffman, Director of Worship and Sacred Music, Organist

*Please complete all parts of this form and return to St. Ignatius Martyr  
Attn: Dr. John J. Hoffman or email the form to: jhoffman@st-ignatius.org*

Wedding Liturgy Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Wedding Liturgy Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Celebrant (Priest/deacon): \_\_\_\_\_

Bride's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Groom's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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*Please Mark Selections with and "X".*

\_\_\_\_ Nuptial Mass                      \_\_\_\_ Marriage Ceremony, without Holy Communion  
\_\_\_\_ Bridesmaids (Number \_\_\_\_ )      \_\_\_\_ Flower Girl                      \_\_\_\_ Ring Bearer  
\_\_\_\_ Seating of Parents (# of couples \_\_\_\_ )      \_\_\_\_ Seating of Sponsors (# of couples \_\_\_\_ )

Procession/Seating of Family and Sponsors

(Select one piece from below and indicate it by the number.) # \_\_\_\_\_

Procession of Wedding Party

(Select one piece from below and indicate it by the number.) # \_\_\_\_\_

Procession of the Bride

(Select one piece from below and indicate it by the number.) # \_\_\_\_\_

Processional Options *(Normally #4, 5, 6 and 7 make for a good entrance of the bride.)*

1. \_\_\_\_ La Grace / Grazioso, Telemann
2. \_\_\_\_ Canon in D, Pachelbel
3. \_\_\_\_ Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring, Bach
4. \_\_\_\_ Prince of Denmark's March, Clarke
5. \_\_\_\_ Rondeau, Mouret
6. \_\_\_\_ Trumpet Tune, Purcell
7. \_\_\_\_ Te Deum, Charpentier

*Please note that the diocese prohibits the use of "Here Come The Bride" / Wagner's Bridal Chorus and Mendelssohn's Wedding March. See previous explanation.*

Responsorial Psalm is always sung.

- Psalm 33 “The earth is full of the goodness of God”
- Psalm 34 “Taste and see the goodness of the Lord”
- Psalm 103 “The Lord is Kind and Merciful”
- Psalm 128 “Blest are those who love you”
- Psalm 145 “I will praise Your name, my King and my God”

Recessional Options

- Hornpipe (Handel)
- Rondeau, Mouret
- Sortie Toccata, Dubois
- Toccata in D, Peeters
- Te Deum, Charpentier
- (Other \_\_\_\_\_)
- Psalm XIX, Marcello
- The Rejoicing, Handel
- Hymn to Joy, Beethoven
- Trumpet Tune, Purcell
- Emperor’s Fanfare, Soler

Communion Processional Hymn/Song *Any mass will need to have one of the following sung during the distribution of Holy Communion.*

- One Bread, One Body
- I Am the Bread of Life
- Pan de Vida
- (Other \_\_\_\_\_)
- Gift of Finest Wheat
- Take And Eat
- Draw Near

Meditative Solo (Optional) *One of the following may be sung when presenting flowers to the image of the Blessed Mother and/or after Holy Communion. Please indicate which option.*

- Presentation of Flowers to the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Ave Maria, Schubert
- Ave Maria, Bach-Gounod
- (Other \_\_\_\_\_)

\_\_\_\_ After Communion, when there is a very large number of Catholics receiving Holy Communion:

- Be Thou with them / *Bist Du Bei Mir*, Bach
- Panis Angelicus, Franck
- (Other \_\_\_\_\_)

## Conclusion

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The information and guidelines provided will give you with some directions that respects the sacred nature of this celebration.

If have any questions regarding these guidelines or need help in planning your wedding liturgy contact the parish office at 512.442.3602.

Our goal is to help you prepare for the sacrament of marriage and to ensure that your wedding celebration at the parish runs smoothly.



Thank you for choosing to celebrate your wedding at St. Ignatius Martyr Church. Our parish community prays for you and asks God to bless you with many happy years of marriage.

### **The Nuptial Blessing**

O God, who by your mighty power created all things out of nothing, and, when you had set in place the beginnings of the universe, formed man and woman in your own image, making the woman an inseparable helpmate to the man, that they might be no longer two, but one flesh, and taught that what you were pleased to make one must never be divided;

O God, who consecrated the bond of Marriage by so great a mystery that in the wedding covenant you foreshadowed the Sacrament of Christ and his Church;

O God, by whom woman is joined to man and the companionship they had in the beginning is endowed with the one blessing not forfeited by original sin nor washed away by the flood.

Look now with favor on these your servants, joined together in Marriage, who ask to be strengthened by your blessing. Send down on them the grace of the Holy Spirit and pour your love into their hearts, that they may remain faithful in the Marriage covenant.

May the grace of love and peace abide in your daughter, and let her always follow the example of those holy women whose praises are sung in the Scriptures.

May her husband entrust his heart to her, so that, acknowledging her as his equal and his joint heir to the life of grace, he may show her due honor and cherish her always with the love that Christ has for his Church.

And now, Lord, we implore you: may these your servants hold fast to the faith and keep your commandments; made one in the flesh, may they be blameless in all they do; and with the strength that comes from the Gospel, may they bear true witness to Christ before all; may they be blessed with children, and prove themselves virtuous parents, who live to see their children's children.

And grant that, reaching at last together the fullness of years for which they hope, they may come to the life of the blessed in the Kingdom of Heaven. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*From the Marriage Rite*