

Holy Family
Catholic Church



Wedding Guidelines

Two interlocking gold wedding rings are positioned behind the text "Wedding Guidelines". The rings are rendered with a metallic sheen and are intertwined in a classic fashion.

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“Christ not only restored the original order of matrimony but raised it to the dignity of a sacrament, giving spouses a special grace to live out their marriage as a symbol of Christ's love for His bride the Church: 'Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the Church' (Ephesians 5:25)” (*Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church*, n. 341).

Please understand that all of the details in these guidelines are intended to do everything possible to assure that your celebration of the Holy Sacrament of Matrimony will, indeed, be both holy and sacramental.

PRELIMINARY:

1. A couple wishing to marry is expected to make an appointment with the Pastor at least six (6) months in advance.
2. At this time you should discuss your proposed wedding date, celebrant, religious backgrounds, previous attempts at marriage, or any other questions you may have.
3. Arrangements must then be made with the Pastoral Associate to complete the Pre- Nuptial Inquiry, obtaining all dispensations/permissions if needed; Baptismal certificates—not copies—issued within the last six (6) months are presented at this time. Completion of a prescribed *Catholic Marriage Preparation* program (e.g., Engaged Encounter, or www.CatholicMarriagePrep.com, or Witness to Love), and FOCCUS Inventory.
4. You are entering into a holy Sacrament and, as with all Sacraments, proper preparation must be undertaken. In addition to the prescribed *Catholic Marriage Preparation* program, and FOCCUS, the couple will meet with the Pastoral Associate and Priest two to three times.
5. Catholics should arrange with the priest for a time to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) before celebrating the Sacrament of Matrimony.
6. Our parish wedding coordinator will meet with the couple at least two weeks before the wedding to assist in the planning of the wedding ceremony. The coordinator will also conduct the rehearsal to assist in the logistical aspects of the wedding.
7. Our parish marriage policy fully and completely endorses the diocesan

statement in regards to a couple living together (“cohabitation”) before Marriage. It is the policy of our parish that couples who are living together separate before entering into Christian marriage. A state of GRACE is necessary for participation in any Sacrament.

CELEBRANT: We welcome and recommend that your parish priest or deacon officiate at your wedding. If you are inviting clergy from another parish or diocese to participate in the ceremony, it must be discussed and approved by the Pastor, at the initial meeting.

SCHEDULING OF WEDDINGS: Normally on a Saturday but any day of the week except Sunday is acceptable. Weddings are never scheduled on Holy Days of Obligation or major civil holidays. No weddings are scheduled later than 3:00 p.m. on Saturday.

WEDDING PREPARATION:

A. Extended – Engaged Encounter, Catholic Marriage Prep online and Witness to Love

1. Please go to the Holy Family website (www.hfccvic.org)
2. Go to the sacraments tab
3. Click on about the sacrament of Holy Matrimony
4. In the middle of the page under wedding preparation it lists the Three choices of extended marriage prep – Engaged Encounter and Catholic Marriage Prep On-line

B. Foccus inventory – the parish sets that up for you. Both of you will get an email login and you have 90 days to complete the inventory. Upon completion you will need to make an appointment with your scheduled celebrant, either Fr. Gabriel Bentil or Fr. Patrick Knippenberg.

ALLOTTED TIMES FOR WEDDINGS: Including decorating and photography – 1.5 hours before the wedding, provided there is no wedding before yours, and ½ hour after the wedding. Please consult with the Pastoral Associate if you feel you need more time. Contact information is on the back. Confession is scheduled from 11:30

am-12:30 pm; therefore the church is not available at that time.

CONFIRMATION OF DATE: In order that the wedding date be confirmed and entered into the reservation book, you must speak to the Pastoral Associate who will coordinate the schedules of the church and the celebrant. In cases of a celebrant who is being brought in for the wedding, the celebrant must call or write confirming that he will be officiating, complete the Pre-Nuptial Inquiry and seeing that the preparation requirements are done.

FEES: (Approximate)

Parishioner Church wedding fee Includes use of the church sanctuary for wedding and rehearsal, wedding coordinator fee, and bride’s room.	\$300.00 – payable in full 3 months before the wedding date.
Natural Family Planning Classes	\$100.00 - \$110.00
Engaged Encounter/ Catholic Marriage Prep Online	\$165.00 – \$270.00
Non-Parishioner fee if applicable	\$550.00 – payable before date is booked

CLERGY STIPEND: It is customary to gift the clergyman assisting at your wedding with a stipend. The amount is left for you to decide; however, the “standard” clergy stipend for a wedding begins at \$100.00.

PLANNING YOUR WEDDING LITURGY:

1. Please go to the Holy Family website (www.hfccvic.org)
2. Go to the Sacraments Tab
3. Click on Planning your Wedding Ceremony.
4. Choose your readings and fill out the form on that page.

REHEARSAL: The rehearsal normally takes place the evening before the wedding day and is conducted by the Wedding Coordinator or Priest. It is your responsibility to have planned seating arrangements, order of wedding party going down the aisle etc. prior to the rehearsal.

CIVIL LICENSE: A Marriage License issued by the State of Texas must be obtained. The

license must be obtained no sooner than thirty (30) days and no later than three (3) days prior to the wedding date. The license may be issued by any county in Texas.

CHURCH DOCUMENTS: All required church documents must be in the office at least **two weeks** prior to your wedding. The documents are your Pre-Nuptial Inquiry along with any dispensations/permissions, if needed, baptismal certificates with notations issued within the past six months and the certificate of completion from the approved *Catholic Marriage Preparation* program.

“HOUSE OF GOD”: It is imperative that an atmosphere of quiet prayer be maintained before and following the wedding ceremony. Boisterous conduct is inappropriate; so are food/drink and the use of tobacco products and chewing gum. The more you leave the doors open, the warmer the church will be. Please keep all doors closed before, during and after the ceremony.

BRIDE'S & BRIDESMAID'S DRESSES: No strapless dresses or low cut dresses are allowed for the bride and her wedding party.

PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEOGRAPHY: Photo and video cameras are welcome; however, photographers and videographers are **NOT** allowed anywhere in the sanctuary (the raised area surrounding the altar). Flash photography is not allowed during the ceremony itself. Please be sure you communicate this information to your photographer and/or videographer.

CANDELABRA & AISLE CANDLE RENTAL: Candelabra and aisle candles may be rented from the Holy Family Altar Society. A rental price list is available from the Pastoral Associate arranging your wedding or from the parish office.

FLOWER PETALS, RICE, BIRDSEED, ETC.: Rice, flowers petals (real or artificial), confetti, bird seed, etc. inside or outside the church are **PROHIBITED** for safety and maintenance reasons. Flower girls may **NOT** “scatter” flower petals in the aisle.

BRIDE'S DRESSING ROOM: A bride's dressing room is available for use by the bride and bridesmaids. It includes a large mirror, bathroom, large table and chairs.

MUSICIANS, EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER OF HOLY COMMUNION, READERS:

These arrangements are the responsibility of the couple and should be made well in advance. Extraordinary Ministers are required to be properly commissioned by the Diocese of Victoria in order to serve in this ministry at the wedding.

MUSIC: Not all music is suitable for a Nuptial Mass. Only religious music may be used during the Nuptial Mass. All music selections must be pre-approved by the Presider of the wedding. Any non-religious songs should be sung/played before the Nuptial Mass, or at the reception.

ALCOHOL: No alcohol whatsoever may be consumed on the day of the wedding prior to the ceremony. Neither should alcohol be consumed prior to the rehearsal. At no time is alcohol ever allowed anywhere on church property. Weddings **WILL BE CANCELLED** if alcohol is discovered on church property and/or members of the wedding party are thought, in the opinion of the celebrant, to be inebriated.

CHURCH CLEAN-UP: Someone from the wedding party (e.g., ushers) is to be assigned the responsibility of cleaning up the church after the ceremony. Programs, flower boxes, tissues, etc. should be picked up off the floor, removed from pews, or be disposed.

***NON-PARISHIONERS:** A “non-parishioner” is defined as someone who has neither been registered in the parish for at least one year prior to the wedding date nor has parents and/or grandparents who have been registered in the parish for at least one year prior to the wedding date. Non-Parishioners will be charged a \$550.00 wedding fee. A wedding date reservation will not be considered “confirmed” until full payment of the \$550.00 has been made. Non-parishioners must bring their own priest or deacon to conduct the rehearsal and ceremony and who will complete all of the pre-nuptial preparation as required by the Catholic Bishops of the State of Texas and in accord with the policies of this church.

CHURCH DÉCOR – One flower arrangement may be placed in front of the ambo provided it does not obstruct it. They may NOT be placed on the altar. Liturgical documents state that real flowers should be used in the sanctuary. It is befitting and the desire to have the best in the House of God.

Pew bows and all other decorations shall be removed immediately after the ceremony, to allow preparations for the Saturday evening Mass. Transparent tape is never to be used to affix the bows or other ornaments on the pews. The church is decorated throughout the liturgical year in accord with church art and environment documents. Especially during the Easter, Advent and Christmas season, the decorations that are in the church **may not** be removed for the wedding ceremony, as their presence enhances the primary liturgical points of focus.

Contact Information

Church Office	361-573-5304 Ex 200
parish@hfccvic.org	
Fr. Gabriel Benti, pastor	361-573-5304 ex 204
gabbybenti@hfccvic.org	
Fr. Ryan Kapavik, Parochial Vicar	361-573-5304 ex 232
rkapavik@hfccvic.org	
Pastoral Associate, Debbie Vanelli	361-573-5304 Ex 211
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Rental of Facilities, Jeff Williams	361-573-5304 Ex 201
jwilliams@hfccvic.org	
Parish Liturgist, Mark Zepeda	361-676-5895
mzepeda@hfccvic.org	
Wedding Coordinator, Christine Zepeda	361-571-5289
czepeda@hfccvic.org	
Dc. Eddie Huse, Deacon	361-573-5304 ex 207
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