

Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Church Wedding Guide



ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT
GETTING MARRIED AT OUR LADY OF THE LAKES
CATHOLIC CHURCH IN DELTONA, FLORIDA

Congratulations on your engagement! Our Lady of the Lakes Parish community shares your joy as you prepare for Holy Matrimony. A Sacramental Marriage is an expression of love and commitment to one another as well as a sign of God's love for all people.

Preliminary Planning

Please contact Renee Storey at Our Lady of the Lakes parish, 386-574-2131, six to twelve months before your proposed wedding date. Renee will help you schedule your first appointment with Fr. Chris Hoffmann or Fr. Frank Cerio. You may not reserve the church for your wedding before meeting with Fr. Chris or Fr. Frank.

In case of an earlier marriage (Catholic, in a church of another faith tradition, or civil), you must obtain a declaration of nullity before beginning your marriage preparation and scheduling a date for your wedding. If you had an earlier marriage, please contact Diana Jimenez, the Regional Advocate for our Deanery, at 386-574-2131 or by email at djimenez@orlandodiocese.org.

Once you have completed your first interview with Fr. Chris or Fr. Frank, and have given all necessary documents, you may begin your marriage preparation program by registering for a required Pre-Cana session.

Pre-Cana weekend retreats or day workshops engage couples in communication exercises necessary to strengthen their marriage and live the covenant. It is advisable to schedule Pre-Cana early as the workshops may reach capacity several months in advance. Please ask Renee for information on registering for Pre-Cana.

Our Lady of the Lakes marriage preparation includes Fully Engaged, a Catholic, Catechetical pre-marital inventory and marriage formation program. Fully Engaged aims to help engaged couples solidify the foundation upon which they, together with Christ, will build their Sacrament of Marriage. Fully Engaged will help you grow in 16 areas of your marriage. You will work with a parish "Mentor Couple," who have been trained to facilitate your Fully Engaged experience. They will guide you to deepen your understanding of one another's values and expectations. This valuable program helps couples clarify and resolve any misconceptions before marriage. The Mentor Couple meets with the engaged couple at least six or seven times. The Mentor Couple will contact you to schedule your first meeting.

Please provide the parish with all required documents no later than two months before your proposed wedding date.

Marriage Preparation Checklist

Previous Marriages

If either party has been married previously, whether the marriage took place in a church or was a civil marriage, the party must obtain a decree of nullity. Diana Jimenez is the Regional Advocate for our deanery. Please contact Ms. Jimenez at (djimenez@orlandodiocese.org or 386-574-2131 Ext. 203) to begin the annulment process.

Initial Meeting with Fr. Chris or Fr. Frank

At this appointment, your questions will be answered about having your wedding at Our Lady of the Lakes.

Bride and Groom Interview Form

Otherwise known as Form A, this is a pre-nuptial questionnaire providing necessary information about the couple to begin the wedding preparation process. This will be prepared with the priest.

Witness forms **Bride** **Groom**

Known as Form B, the witness declarations of facts verify each party's freedom to marry. The Diocese of Orlando requires two completed witness forms for each party to the marriage. Each witness should be a family member or close friend who has known the individual for many years. The witness forms must be notarized or signed in the presence of the priest to be valid.

Dispensation or Permission

If a dispensation or permission is needed, as in the case of inter-religious marriages, the dispensation form will be included in the pre-nuptial file sent to the Diocese. Documents about a prior marriage, i.e., divorce/decreed of nullity, must be provided at your first meeting with a priest.

Baptismal Certificates **Bride** **Groom**

You must obtain an updated record of your baptism by contacting the Church where you were baptized. The new certificate complete with notations should be issued no more than six months before the proposed date of your marriage. You must provide an "original" certificate; the Diocese will not accept scanned or photocopied certificates. The requirement for newly issued certificate of baptism applies only to Catholic parties. Baptized non-Catholics may present their original certificate if they received one.

_____ Confirmation Certificates _____ Bride _____ Groom

If the updated baptismal certificate does not note the date and location of your Confirmation, please provide a certificate of Confirmation.

_____ Fully Engaged Program Completed.

_____ Pre-Cana

A Pre-Cana session must be completed at least 3 months prior to the wedding date. As Pre-Cana is a diocesan requirement, the Pre-Cana certificate of completion must be given to Renee Storey for the pre-nuptial file.

_____ Certificate of Marriage Preparation Completion

Upon completion of Fully Engaged and Pre-Cana, each couple receives a Certificate of Completion from Our Lady of the Lakes. This certificate shows that the couple has completed a marriage program which meets the requirements of the State of Florida and therefore qualifies for a Florida resident's discount on the license fee. This certificate may be taken to the County when applying for the license to qualify for the discount.

_____ Rehearsal date & time confirmed by wedding liturgy coordinator.

_____ Civil marriage license

Obtain your marriage license at the county courthouse. The license is valid for 60 days therefore plan to apply no sooner than 60 days prior to your ceremony. If you have not already given your marriage license to Renee at the parish office or to the priest who is supervising your marriage preparation, you must give it to the Wedding Liturgy Coordinator at the rehearsal.

_____ Music Director has been contacted and music selected.

Couples may contact Jeff Kuznicki at the church office (386) 574-2131 three months prior to the wedding date to discuss musicians and arrange music selections. You must obtain the approval of our Music Director before inviting a guest musician(s).

_____ Liturgy Planning Sheet has been completed.

_____ Rehearsal

Prior to your rehearsal, your pre-nuptial file will have been completed, sent to the Diocese of Orlando, been approved by the Marriage Tribunal and returned to the parish. The Wedding Liturgy Coordinator will have your ceremony outlined and prepared. Your responsibility is to have your bridal party arrive on time so as not to delay the start of the rehearsal.

Please advise your bridal party that no food, beverages and, most importantly, no alcohol, are allowed in the Church at the rehearsal or the ceremony. If the groom or bride are found to be under the influence of alcohol or any illegal substances are suspected, the wedding will not take place. You are entering into a contract and, as with any binding contract, you must be of a sound mind.

Wedding Rehearsal

Scheduling

Rehearsals usually take place one day prior to the wedding ceremony. Times are reserved according to the availability of the Church. Please be on time to rehearsal as there may be another function the same day.

Marriage License

If you have not already given your marriage license to Renee or to the priest, please present it to the Wedding Liturgy Coordinator at the Rehearsal.

Accessories

If you wish to have a unity candle, arras, lasso (double rosary) or programs, bring these items to the Church, give the item(s) to the wedding coordinator at the rehearsal. Note: Unity candles are not a tradition of the Catholic wedding ceremony. They are a secular tradition symbolizing the joining of two families through marriage. If couples choose to have a unity candle in the ceremony, the couple must provide the unity candle and two taper candles. We will provide a candle stand.

Etiquette

Since your rehearsal is held in a sacred space, please dress appropriately for the rehearsal.

Offerings for the Church and for the Professionals Involved in Your Ceremony

Our Lady of the Lakes requests the following offerings:

Priest \$150
Church \$150

Music Director \$150
Sacristan \$25
Wedding Liturgy Coordinator \$75

You may provide these offerings in advance at the parish office (contact Renee Storey) or at the Wedding Rehearsal. If you choose the latter option, please provide the offerings to the Wedding Liturgy Coordinator.

Your Wedding Day

The Wedding Liturgy

A selection of readings, blessings and prayers for the Liturgy is provided in Together for Life, a book received at Pre-Cana. Please complete the selections form from Together for Life at least one month prior to their ceremony.

Photography and Videography

You may have photographs taken for thirty minutes following the ceremony. Photographers may discreetly photograph during the ceremony. A page of specific guidelines is available with this guide for you to present to your photographer and videographer.

Wedding Liturgy Coordinator

A wedding liturgy coordinator from Our Lady of the Lakes is essential in aiding at the rehearsal and at the wedding ceremony. Although welcome at weddings, your private wedding coordinator's role in the wedding concerns the secular aspects of the day. If you have a coordinator for the secular elements, please tell this coordinator that Our Lady of the Lakes has a wedding liturgy coordinator that will oversee all matters of the rehearsal and wedding ceremony.

Groom, Ushers and Groomsmen

The groom is asked to arrive forty-five minutes prior to the scheduled time of the ceremony. The groom and groomsmen are expected to arrive dressed in their wedding attire. Ushers and groomsmen should be attentive to guests, escorting them to seats. Mingling in the narthex of the church is discouraged as this may delay the start of the ceremony.

Bride and Bridesmaids

The bride and bridesmaids are asked to arrive no less than fifteen minutes prior to the ceremony. All the ladies are expected to arrive dressed in their wedding attire, make-up applied and hair ready. It is customary that the bride waits for the ceremony to begin so that she and the groom do not see one another prior to the bride's procession into the church to begin the ceremony.

Bride's and Attendants' Dresses

We ask that you use discretion when choosing your wedding gown as well as those dresses of your wedding party. Be attentive and choose modest, beautiful dresses. Please consider that your wedding day is a sacred celebration. On a practical note, this means that the following must be avoided: low-cut fronts showing cleavage, strapless dresses, sleeveless dresses, mini-skirt-like bottoms, low cut backsides, open midsections, and/or tight-fitting designs. Covering shoulders with a wrap for the ceremony is proper as well as respectful.

Modesty protects the mystery of persons and their love. (Catechism of the Catholic Church 2522)

Flowers and Decorations

Brides often prefer to donate their floral altar arrangements to the church in remembrance of a family member. Our Lady of the Lakes gratefully accepts these offerings.

Please tell the wedding coordinator about any flowers that will be delivered to the Church. Recommend that the florist make their delivery one hour prior to the ceremony start time. Floral arrangements may be placed in the sanctuary, but never directly upon the altar.

Flower girls are not allowed to drop petals or any other materials in or outside of the church. Bows and silk flowers are acceptable for the pew ends. Fresh flowers may hang from the pews if they are hand tied. Ask the wedding liturgy coordinator about the proper attachment of these decorations. We do not allow use of nails, tacks, or tape to affix decorations. Unless being delivered by the florist, we prefer pew bows to be brought to the church the evening of the rehearsal allowing time for their placement. Please assign someone in the bridal party with the responsibility of removing pew bows and any flowers that will be taken with you at the end of the ceremony.

Receiving Line

Please reserve the receiving line for the reception. This will allow a smooth transition after the ceremony for photographs.

No Rice, Bird Seed, Confetti, Petals (silk or real): We ask those attending the wedding ceremony not to throw rice, bird seed, confetti, sparklers, streamer poppers, glitter, feathers, flower petals or buds in the church or anywhere on the property. Please consider these items for the reception. If celebratory items are thrown on Church property a cleaning fee will be assessed.

Please note that if there are any changes or alterations to the original wedding plan, you must notify the wedding coordinator at once and have all changes approved prior to the rehearsal.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Baptized Catholics are encouraged to celebrate the Holy Sacrament of Marriage in a state of grace. To complete their marriage preparation, the bride and groom may plan with the priest to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the week before their wedding.

Photography & Videography Guidelines

Please share this page with your wedding photographer and/or videographer.

Professional photographs and videography play important roles in preserving memories of a beautiful wedding ceremony. We have developed these guidelines to ensure the sacredness of the ceremony as well as to aid the wedding party and the photographer in adhering to the schedule of the service.

Photographs may be taken thirty minutes at once following the wedding ceremony. Any photos taken prior to the ceremony must not interfere with the arrival and seating of the guests or delay the start of the ceremony. Please be mindful that there may be another wedding or a weekend Mass following your wedding, so please adhere to the schedule for your ceremony.

Photography and videography must not interfere with the liturgical action of the wedding ceremony in any manner. The wedding liturgy coordinator will greet photographers when they arrive and answer any questions they may have.

When using audio (microphones), adjust the frequency to be different than that of the church to avoid any interference.

Photographers and cameras are not allowed beyond the steps of the sanctuary. A designated area for video equipment is available.

Photographers and videographers should adhere to the directions of the parish's wedding liturgy coordinator. Photography tripods and other equipment must be kept in a stationary manner with no movement during the ceremony. In keeping with the reverence of the wedding liturgy, photographers and videographers may take photos or record videos discreetly during the service.

The use of added lighting is not allowed.

Flash photography will be allowed only before and after the ceremony.

These directions apply to professional photographers and all guests taking photos.