marriage

AT BLESSED SACRAMENT



photo courtesy of Brenna & Matt Healy, © Emilee Meador Photography

PLANNING THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY MATRIMONY

table of contents

CONGRATULATIONS & WELCOME	1
THE CATHOLIC VISION OF MARRIAGE	2
BLESSED SACRAMENT GUIDELINES & POLICIES	5
REQUIREMENTS OF THE DIOCESE OF MADISON	8
STEPS FOR GETTING MARRIED AT BSP	9
STEP 1: CONTACT US	9
STEP 2: MEET WITH FR. CRISTOBAL	9
STEP 3: GATHER DOCUMENTS	9
STEP 4: MARRIAGE PREP	10
STEP 5: NFP COURSE	12
STEP 6: FOCCUS INVENTORY	13
STEP 7: 30-60 DAYS BEFORE REHEARSAL	14
PLANNING MUSIC & LITURGY	
WITNESSES	
MARRIAGE LICENSE	
STEP 8: REHEARSAL	15
STEP 9: WEDDING DAY	15
ADDENDUM 1:	
MASS OR WEDDING LITURGY OUTSIDE OF MASS?	16
ADDENDUM 2: PARTICIPANTS	19
ADDENDUM 3: FLOWERS & DECOR	22
ADDENDUM 4: MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS	24

congratulations & welcome

On behalf of Blessed Sacrament Parish, I congratulate the two of you on your engagement.

We rejoice with you, and assure you of our support and prayers in the months ahead!

As you prepare to enter into this beautiful sacrament, I hope that you will continue to grow closer to the Lord Jesus—the Author of marriage and of married love and to one another. I pray, too, that God will bless both of you with His peace and joy as you prepare to enter into this sacred union. This booklet has been prepared to assist you in your preparation. I trust that these guidelines will help you as you plan for your wedding day and, more importantly, prepare for your marriage. The purpose of these guidelines is to clearly explain the Church's expectations, to anticipate and address several common practical concerns that you may have, and to lay out the steps that you will be asked to complete in the months ahead. With the assistance of these guidelines, I am confident that your wedding day will be a prayerful and beautiful occasion that honors Almighty God, as well as an unforgettable day for you, your family members, friends, and other guests.

Once again, congratulations on your engagement, and may God bless your time of preparation and planning!

In Christ,

Fr. Cristobal Asenjo, I.S.P.

Fr. Cristidal Asenjo

the catholic vision of marriage

"Today [I want to] touch directly on the beauty of Christian marriage. It is not merely a ceremony in a church, with flowers, a dress, photographs.... Christian marriage is a Sacrament that takes place in the Church. and which also [builds up] the Church, by giving rise to a new family community. ...Indeed, Christian spouses participate as spouses in the mission of the Church. This takes courage! That is why when I meet newlyweds, I say: 'Here are the brave ones!', because it takes courage to love one another as Christ loves the Church And thus the life of the Church is enriched every time by the beauty of this spousal covenant, and deteriorates every time it is disfigured. The Church, in order to offer to all the gifts of faith, hope and love, needs the courageous fidelity of spouses to the grace of their sacrament!"

- Pope Francis

Marriage is the intimate union and equal partnership of a man and a woman. It comes to us from the hand of God, who created male and female in his image so that they might become one body and might be fertile and multiply (See Genesis chapters 1 and 2). Though man and woman are equal as God's children, they are created with important differences that allow them to give themselves and to receive the other as a gift.

Marriage is both a natural institution and a sacred union because it is rooted in the divine plan of creation, and the Catholic Church teaches that the valid

the catholic vision of marriage, cont'd.

marriage between two baptized Christians is a sacrament—a saving reality and a symbol of Christ's love for his church. In every marriage, the spouses make a contract with each other. In a sacramental marriage, the couple also enters into a covenant in which their love is sealed and strengthened by God's love.

The free consent of the spouses makes a marriage. From this consent and the Nuptial Blessing bestowed by the priest during the liturgy, a special bond arises between husband and wife. This bond is lifelong and exclusive. The marriage bond has been established by God and so it cannot be dissolved.

In the Latin Rite of the Catholic Church, the priest or deacon, the two official witnesses, and the congregation all witness the exchange of consent by the couple who themselves are considered to be the ministers of the sacrament.

Permanency, exclusivity, and faithfulness are essential to marriage because they foster and protect the two equal purposes of marriage, which are: 1) growth in mutual love between the spouses (unitive); and 2) the generation and education of children (procreative).

The mutual love of a married couple should always be open to new life. This openness is expressed powerfully in the sexual union of husband and wife. The power to create a child with God is at the heart of what spouses share with each other in sexual intercourse. Mutual love includes he mutual gift of fertility. Couples who are not able to conceive or who are beyond their child-bearing

the catholic vision of marriage, cont'd.

includes the mutual gift of fertility. Couples who are not able to conceive or who are beyond their child-bearing years can still express openness to life. They can share their generative love with grandchildren, other children and families, and the wider community.

As a result of their baptism, all Christians are called to a life of holiness. This divine calling, or vocation, can be lived in marriage, or in the single life, or in the priesthood or consecrated (religious) life. No one vocation is superior to or inferior to another. Each one involves a specific kind of commitment that flows from one's gifts and is further strengthened by God's grace. All vocations make a unique contribution to the life and mission of the Church.

- www.foryourmarriage.org/meaning-and-purpose

Blessed Sacrament guidelines & policies

CONTACTS

PRIESTS:

Fr. Cristobal Asenjo, I.S.P | 608.238.3471 x127 fr.cristobal@blsacrament.org
Fr. Mark Niehaus, I.S.P. | 608.238.3471 x117 fr.mark@blasacrament.org

WEDDING MATERIALS COORDINATION:

Rocio Munoz, *Parishioner Engagement* 608.238.3471 x110 | rocio@blsacrament.org

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COORDINATION:

Jacqui Hayes, *Family Ministry* 608.238.3471 x129 | jacqui@blsacrament.org

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY PLANNING:

James Langford, *Coordinator of Music & Liturgy* 608.238.3471 x138 | james@blsacrament.org

Parish Office Phone: 608.238.3471

PARISH REGISTRATION

To be married at Blessed Sacrament Parish, we ask only that you commit to becoming active members at a parish in the city where you will be living. If you will be in Madison, we would be glad to have you join Blessed Sacrament as parishioners. Since the sacraments are best celebrated within your faith community, if you are considering joining another parish in the area, it might

guidelines & policies, cont'd.

be worth contacting their office to inquire about getting married there instead.

Beyond registering at a parish, we also ask that you commit to practicing the Catholic faith fully, including regular attendance at Sunday Mass, regular participation in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and striving to live according to the Church's moral and spiritual teachings. If you would like more information on becoming a registered member of our parish, please call the parish office or visit our website.

SETTING THE TIME & DATE

Couples are expected to contact the parish office at least 7 to 12 months prior to the date for which they hope to celebrate their wedding, although we can only confirm the date after the couple has met with the priest celebrant. It is the responsibility of the engaged couple to secure the confirmed date with the priest before making any commitments with caterers, reception halls, photographers, etc. Weddings typically occur on Saturdays at 2:00 PM with the rehearsal taking place on Fridays (the day before) at 5:00 PM.

FEES & PAYMENT

Since weddings have grown to be very expensive, we avoid all unnecessary fees. We charge \$300, parishioner or non-parishioner, to cover the maintenance personnel, cleaning, and facilities use for a wedding. The presider (priest) generally receives a stipend of \$150, but you can give whatever you are able.

guidelines & policies, cont'd.

Additionally, marriage preparation has a fee of \$130-325 (depending on the program you choose).

MUSIC FFFS

Catholic wedding liturgies must be celebrated entirely with sacred liturgical music, that is, music that has been created for the purpose of being sung by a congregation within a Christian ceremony. Exceptions to this may be made for instrumental processional music, which may be in any style, provided it is dignified, fitting for a wedding, and has no problematic cultural associations. Sacred liturgical music features both a sacred text, such as a passage from the Bible, and sacred music language, which serves to musically emphasize the sacred text.

Additionally, note that music for the Responsorial Psalm should match the text of an approved liturgical translation and should not be a paraphrase. Finally, note that all music for the funeral liturgy must be performed live, as the Catholic Church does not allow the liturgical use of pre-recorded music.

To select the music for your wedding, you must meet with James Langford, our *Coordinator of Music & Liturgy* (james@blsacrament.org). There is a mandatory \$100 fee for coordinating the wedding music.

For the wedding liturgy, you may hire musicians from Blessed Sacrament at the following rates:

- Organist/Pianist (James Langford) \$250
- Cantor \$150
- Additional singers \$100 each

guidelines & policies, cont'd.

You are also free to hire outside musicians at your own expense. Note that the following fees will apply to the following situations:

- Copyrighted music that is not currently owned by Blessed Sacrament - \$50 acquisition fee for each song
- Including outside musicians, such as violinists, harpists, etc., while James Langford is organist/pianist - \$50 coordination fee
- Wedding ceremony beginning 15 or more minutes late, due to the fault of the wedding party: \$100 per hour per musician hired from Blessed Sacrament

Musicians and presider fees can be given according to your preferences, before or on the wedding day.

ALCOHOL, DRUGS, & SMOKING

During "Questions Before the Consent," the celebrant will ask if you have come freely and willingly. Since drugs and/or alcohol alter the mental state of the couple and thus compromise their free consent, we do not allow either of these substances on church grounds at any time. If the priest suspects the use of any drugs and/or alcohol, he may refuse to proceed with the ceremony. We are a smoke-free campus. Please cross the street or refrain from smoking while at Blessed Sacrament.

Diocese of Madison requirements



The Diocese of Madison requires couples to go through the Sacrament of Matrimony process including a pre-nuptial investigation, FOCCUS Inventory, and marriage preparation program (sometimes called pre-Cana) along with a natural family planning (NFP) course. Once you have received permission from your priest celebrant, please sign-up for the appropriate marriage preparation option, retreat(s), and NFP class.

Diocesan steps and requirements can be found in this booklet and on the Diocese of Madison website at https://madisondiocese.org/mp.

WI MARRIAGE LICENSE

A valid Wisconsin marriage license must be obtained from the County Clerk's office and given to the priest on the night of the wedding rehearsal. It is against the law for a priest to witness a marriage without an official marriage license.

Please see the following websites for more information: https://clerk.danecounty.gov/Marriage https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p01060.pdf

steps to getting married at BSP

STFP 1: CONTACT US

The first step in getting married at Blessed Sacrament Parish is to contact us. Rocio Munoz, our Parishioner Engagement and Stewardship Assistant coordinates the wedding process. If you're reading this book, congratulations! You've already completed step 1!

STEP 2: MEET WITH FR. CRISTOBAL

Rocio will set you up with to meet a priest celebrant (generally Fr. Cristobal Asenjo, I.S.P.). He will conduct your pre-nuptial investigation and get you started on your FOCCUS Inventory. Again, if you're reading this book, you've completed step 2 as well!

STEP 3: GATHER DOCUMENTS

Once you've met with Father and Rocio, you will need your documentation. Please start this process as soon as possible as paperwork snafus can derail a wedding. It's best to handle this as early on as you can. You will need your baptismal certificate with notations (reissued from the parish at which you each were baptized) sent to us with the parish seal on them.

• For Catholics: You need to obtain a newly issued certificate of baptism before the ceremony (issued within six months of the wedding date). You can get it from the parish where you were baptized, and it should include dates for when you received the other sacraments (First Reconciliation, First Communion, and

Confirmation, if possible).

- For Non-Catholic Christians: You can obtain proof of baptism either by contacting the church where you were baptized or by bringing in the original certificate, which will be photocopied and placed in our marriage file.
- Regarding Confirmation: While the Church does not require that Catholics receive the Sacrament of Confirmation prior to the Sacrament of Matrimony, She does strongly urge it.
 - Since "by Confirmation Christians [...] share more completely in the mission of Jesus Christ" (CCC 1294), the graces of this sacrament will equip you to carry out faithfully your vocation as a married man or woman.

If you fall under a "special case" scenario, Rocio and Father will guide you through the paperwork process.

Special cases can include (but are not limited to): Catholics marrying non-baptized persons or persons of another faith, civil unions, or previous marriages from either party).

STEP 4: BEGIN MARRIAGE PREP

AT LEAST 6 MONTHS PRIOR to your desired wedding date, you will start marriage prep. Marriage preparation in the Diocese of Madison has two regular options (and a third option for rare and unique circumstances such as military/international couples).

OPTION 1: Witness to Love (\$100 materials fee + \$30 for retreat, at least 6 months of preparation)

Witness to Love is a mentor-based program that focuses on building a relationship between the engaged couple and the mentor couple, while also helping everyone to grow in virtue. You will begin by choosing a mentor couple, ideally one that you already trust and admire, who will walk with you before and after your wedding day. The relationship you develop with them will provide you with spiritual and relational support throughout your engagement and into married life. Rooted, lasting relationships are vital for every newly married couple!

With this option, you will also participate in a daylong online retreat. Jacqui Hayes, our marriage prep coordinator, will explain this step in greater detail at your first meeting. Then, you can register for a retreat on the diocesan website at https://madisondiocese.org/wtlretreat.



OPTION 2: Diocesan Marriage Prep Weekend Retreat (\$300, 2 nights + 2 days)

If you live in different cities or simply do not have enough time to participate in *Witness to Love*, you can join us on a weekend retreat, where you will focus on one another away from the distractions of daily life. Throughout the weekend, you will learn

more about the vocation of marriage, receive tips and tools for how to live a joy-filled marriage, spend time in deep conversation with your beloved, and encounter the love and grace of Jesus Christ through Confession, Eucharistic Adoration, and Sunday Mass. The retreat typically begins on Friday evening and ends on Sunday afternoon.

The retreat starts on Friday at 6 p.m. and ends on Sunday at 12 p.m. The cost is \$300 per couple and includes meals, lodging, and materials. Register early! Session size is limited, and registration closes two weeks prior to the retreat.

https://madisondiocese.org/weekendretreat

OPTION 3: Extenuating Circumstances (cost & time commitment vary)

If you believe you have extenuating circumstances which may necessitate a different marriage preparation method, please let Jacqui know. Option 3 is not readily used as it requires presider and diocesan approval for unique relationships such as overseas military couples.

STEP 5: TAKE AN NFP COURSE

Natural Family Planning (NFP) is an umbrella term for certain methods used to achieve and avoid conception. These methods are based on the observation of the naturally occurring signs and symptoms of the fertile and infertile phases of a woman's cycle.

NFP reflects the dignity of the human person within the context of marriage and family life, promotes openness to life, and recognizes the value of the child. By respecting the love-giving and life-giving natures of marriage, NFP can enrich the bond between husband and wife. (Standards for Diocesan Natural Family Planning Ministry, p. 23)

To learn more and register, please visit: https://madisondiocese.org/nfp.

STEP 6: COMPLETE FOCCUS

(\$25 license fee + 2-3 meetings with Father)

Complete the FOCCUS Inventory with Father. Couples meet with a Father, who then distributes the Pre-Marriage Inventory to the couple- via online access. It's not a test but, rather, is the source of the FOCCUS® Couple Report, which shows patterns of strengths and areas that need the couples' attention. A Couple Report provides a personalized profile of topics and areas warranting time and attention, affirmation and/or problem-solving by the couple. Couples are provided with a rating and planning booklet to help them integrate what they have learned from the FOCCUS Pre-Marriage Inventory and build on the awareness The results are never shared with anyone, but kept between the couple and Father. Upon completion of the Inventory and meetings, the report is shredded and the completion certificate is the only thing that remains on file.



STEP 7: 30-60 DAYS BEFORE THE REHEARSAL DATE

- Read through the booklet, Together for Life (provided in your meeting with Rocio).
 - Fill out the liturgy selection form (also provided by Rocio) and bring it with you to your meeting with Carl.
- Meet with Carl to discuss the music and liturgy.
- Provide the names of your two witnesses. (Please be sure they fit the necessary criteria for witnesses:
 - Canon Law: Although it is preferable that both witnesses at a marriage ceremony in the Catholic Church be Catholic, when circumstances warrant, non-Catholic persons may serve as witnesses without the need for special permission. A witness to marriage must be over the age of 18 years and able to indicate what events transpired during the wedding ceremony.
 - State of Wisconsin: Two adult witnesses (18 years of age or older) are required in addition to the person officiating, but they do not have to be in the wedding party.
- Obtain a marriage license.
 - Please see the following for more information: https://clerk.danecounty.gov/Marriage
- Go to Confession. We encourage you to prepare yourself spiritually by receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation shortly before your wedding day, so as to receive all the graces that God desires to pour out upon you in the sacrament of marriage. Make an appointment with Father, or check out the confession schedule at another nearby parish.

STEP 8: 1 DAY BEFORE WEDDING

Have your wedding rehearsal. Typically (with Saturday weddings) these are done on Friday evening from 5:00 to 6:00 PM. While it may be hard to enjoy this time, try to relax. Ask all of the last-minute questions you may have. Father will walk you through the logistics and your entire wedding party along with your readers and any other participants (i.e. ring flower girls, ring bearers, readers, etc.) will get to practice.

STEP 9: WEDDING DAY

Congratulations! You've made it!

Take a deep breath. Something will go wrong on this day whether it be a cranky gift bearer or a small tear in a veil to someone stumbling over their vows. The important thing is that this is one day in your beautiful marriage. God has blessed it, so let no man put it asunder! Go forth and enjoy this day and your new life together! We wish you all the best and will continue to pray for your marriage.

addendum 1: nuptial Mass or wedding liturgy outside of Mass?

When two practicing Catholics seek to be married, they will normally celebrate the Sacrament of Matrimony within a Nuptial Mass. In the case of a Catholic and a baptized non-Catholic, a Nuptial Mass is permitted, although it is not recommended, as the non Catholic party would be unable to receive Holy Communion. A Nuptial Mass is not permitted for a marriage between a Catholic and a non-baptized person. You can be sure that, whether you celebrate the sacrament within or outside of Mass, it will be a dignified and beautiful occasion.

THE NUPTIAL MASS

- The Introductory Rites
 - Entrance Procession
 - Greeting & Opening Prayer
 - Gloria
 - Collect
- Liturgy of the Word
 - 1st Reading
 - Responsorial Psalm
 - 2nd Reading
 - Gospel Acclamation
 - Gospel Reading
 - Homily

addendum 1: nuptial Mass or wedding liturgy outside of Mass, cont'd.

- Celebration of Matrimony
 - Questions Before the Consent
 - The Consent and Reception of the Consent
 - Blessing and Giving of Rings
 - Universal Prayer/General Intercessions
- Liturgy of the Eucharist
 - · Presentation of Gifts & Preparation of Altar
 - Prayer over the Offerings
 - The Eucharistic Prayer
 - The Lord's Prayer
 - Nuptial Blessing
 - Sign of Peace
 - Lamb of God
 - Distribution of Holy Communion
- The Concluding Rites
 - Solemn Blessing
 - Dismissal
 - Recessional

LITURGY OUTSIDE OF MASS

- The Introductory Rites
 - Entrance Procession
 - Greeting & Opening Prayer
 - Gloria
 - Collect
- Liturgy of the Word
 - 1st Reading
 - Responsorial Psalm
 - 2nd Reading
 - Gospel Acclamation
 - Gospel Reading
 - Homily

addendum 1: nuptial Mass or wedding liturgy outside of Mass, cont'd.

- Celebration of Matrimony
 - · Questions Before the Consent
 - The Consent and Reception of the Consent
 - Blessing and Giving of Rings
 - Universal Prayer/General Intercessions
- The Concluding Rites
 - Solemn Blessing
 - Dismissal
 - Recessional

PROGRAMS

We encourage you to create and print wedding programs. Given that some of your guests may not be familiar with a Catholic Nuptial Mass or wedding liturgy, a program will enable them to follow along and participate more fully. The program should contain the music (with either the words or song number from the hymnal, along with any relevant copyright information if the song is to be printed) and readings, as well as a basic outline of the wedding liturgy.

Before printing the program, please consult with the presiding priest and Carl for clarification and final approval.

addendum 2: participants

PARENTS OF THE COUPLE

Parents of the couple will be seated right behind the bridal party on their traditionally respective sides of the church: the groom's family on the right-hand side of the church when facing the altar (the "Joseph side") and the bride's family on the left-hand side of the church when facing the altar (the "Mary side").

BRIDESMAIDS & GROOMSMEN

Along with the ushers, collectively known as the "Bridal Party," these women and men will stand up with the couple during the wedding. The bridesmaids will sit on the Mary side while the groomsmen will sit on the Joseph side. Typically, the maid/matron-of-honor will hold the bride's bouquet during key moments and will tend to her needs (such as tissues) during the ceremony. The best man will usually hold on to the rings (if there are no ring bearers or if they are too young to actually hold the rings).

LECTORS

Proclaiming God's Word from Sacred Scripture and reading the intercessions are important aspects of the wedding liturgy. Therefore, you will want to ask those who have either had prior experience or who are comfortable speaking in public. You will choose between one and three people to serve as lectors in the following roles: 1st Reading; 2nd Reading; and General Intercessions

addendum 2: participants, cont'd.

ALTAR SERVERS

We generally do not have altar servers at our wedding liturgies. If you have friends or family who serve at their home parish, and you would like to have them serve at your wedding, we would be happy to work with them.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

At a Nuptial Mass in the Diocese of Madison, Holy Communion is only distributed under one species: the Precious Body. If you have a friend or family member who is a trained extraordinary minister of Holy Communion at his/her home parish and who would like to assist the priest in the distribution of Holy Communion, please talk to the presiding priest prior to the wedding rehearsal.

USHFRS

The couple should choose two to four ushers to help escort family and friends into the church and dismiss them after the liturgy. Ushers should be outgoing people, able to give directions and inform guests when it is time to be seated. After the wedding, they should check the pews for any programs or other trash. They may also be asked by the priest to help move kneelers/chairs for the bride and groom during the liturgy, if there is a need.

GIFT BEARERS

If you will be having a Nuptial Mass, you should ask two to four family members or friends to bring up the

addendum 2: participants, cont'd.

gifts (bread and wine) during the Preparation of the Altar. Many couples choose their Godparents.

FLOWER GIRLS & GIFT BEARERS

Children as flower girls and gift bearers are a lovely addition to any wedding. Please be sensitive in choosing your loved ones as large crowds a loud music (especially organ pipes) can be very startling for young children. Please also note that we do not allow for actual flower petals to be thrown. As such, flower girls a simply symbolic during your sacrament.

GUEST CELEBRANTS

A guest priest/deacon is welcome to celebrate your wedding, but he should have current credentials from his diocesan bishop or religious superior. A letter of suitability must be sent both to the Diocese of Madison (Office of the Vicar General) if the priest is not from our diocese and to the pastor of Blessed Sacrament Parish at least one month before the wedding. Guest celebrants should also contact the pastor a few weeks prior to the wedding to arrange logistical details.

addendum 3: flowers & decor

LITURGICAL SEASON

We decorate the church in accordance the liturgical season, so please bear that in mind as you plan your decorations.

DECORATION DOS & DON'TS

For safety reasons, we do not allow the use of candles (beyond what we normally have in the sanctuary), rice, birdseed, or flower petals in the aisle, nor do we allow aisle runners.

We allow removable pew bows/flowers (without water in them) to be tied to the end of the pews. We do not allow hangings on walls or off of the ambo or altar. If you cause any damage, you will be held responsible for its repair.

Although we allow artificial flowers, we prefer living flowers, as they call to mind more immediately the goodness of God's creation. Please do not place flowers on the altar or directly in front of the tabernacle. Any flowers that you place in front of the altar or ambo should not obscure or extend above it. See the next page for a diagram of where we allow flowers. Finally, we do also allow bouquets to be placed (during the liturgy) in front of Mary and/or Joseph.

Because have Mass at 5:00 PM on Saturday evenings, we ask that you please clean up after the ceremony.

ACCEPTABLE FLOWER PLACEMENT

Please note the areas in rose that are acceptable for floral arrangements. If you would like to donate your arrangements (outside of the bridal party's bouquets and boutonnieres), we'd greatly appreciate a little extra beauty in our church. Just let us know ahead of time.



Decorating the church may only take place on the day of the wedding no earlier than 12:00 PM unless otherwise noted as we have Mass, adoration, and Saturday morning cleaning along with potential baptisms beforehand.

addendum 4: miscellaneous items

THE UNITY CANDLE

Even though the "Unity Candle" is somewhat common these days at weddings, it is not officially a part of the Catholic wedding liturgy, and we do not allow it at Blessed Sacrament Parish. While its symbolic value is not without some merit, as Catholics, we have a far greater symbol of unity in the Eucharist, an "efficacious sign" that Jesus himself has given to us. The Catechism expresses the fullness of our Catholic belief:

"The principal fruit of receiving the Eucharist in Holy Communion is an intimate union with Christ Jesus. Indeed, the Lord said: 'He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him.' [...] Those who receive the Eucharist are united more closely to Christ. Through it Christ unites them to all the faithful in one body - the Church. [...] Before the greatness of this mystery St. Augustine exclaims, 'O sacrament of devotion! O sign of unity! O bond of charity!" (CCC 1391-1398)

PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEO GUIDELINES

Most of all, we ask that your photographer and/or videographer work to maintain a reverent atmosphere throughout the liturgy. He or she should avoid doing anything that intrudes upon the ceremony or draws attention to himself or herself. As such, we do not allow flash photography during the ceremony. Photographers should not advance beyond the front pews at any point. Likewise, umbrellas and other

addendum 4: miscellaneous items

lighting equipment should not be set up until after the ceremony. In general, a bit of common sense will ensure a beautiful occasion!

FACILITIES/DRESSING ROOMS

In general, the bride and her bridesmaids will get ready in the band room, located directly below the sanctuary. This will be unlocked at 12:00 PM on the day of the wedding. We also have a small room located next to the sacristy, where the groom and his groomsmen can get ready, if needed.



CHURCH

608.238.3471 2121 Rowley Ave. Madison, WI 53726

PARISH CENTER

608.238.3471 2116 Hollister Ave Madison, WI 53726.

BLSACRAMENT.ORG

under the administration of the

