

*Celebrating the Sacrament
of Holy Matrimony in
Holy Cross Pastorate*



Pine Bluff

Ashton

Martinsville

Middleton

Cross Plains

ST. MARY

ST. PETER

ST. MARTIN

ST. BERNARD

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER



Congratulations!

On behalf of Holy Cross Pastorate I want to congratulate the two of you on your engagement. Our Pastorate, and the parishes within it, St. Mary, St. Peter, St. Martin, St. Bernard, and St. Francis Xavier, rejoices with you and I assure you of our support and of our prayers in the months ahead!

I hope that during this time of immediate preparation you will continue to grow closer to the Lord Jesus – the Author of marriage and of married love – and to one another, and I pray 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 articulate 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. I am confident that by following these guidelines your wedding day will be a prayerful and beautiful occasion that honors Almighty God, as well as an unforgettable day for you and for your family members, friends, and other guests!

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

Fr. Scott Jablonski, *Pastor*



"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 [selflessly] 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 (General Audience on May 6, 2015)



The Catholic Vision of Marriage



“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. In addition, the Catholic Church teaches that the valid marriage between two baptized Christians is also a sacrament – a saving reality and a symbol of Christ’s love for his church (See Ephesians 5:25-33). 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 from the sexual consummation of marriage 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 (the unitive purpose); and 2) the generation and education of children (the procreative purpose).

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 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. ...Each [vocation] 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.”

(Taken from www.foryourmarriage.org/catholic-marriage/catholic-beliefs/meaning-and-purpose/)

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Holy Cross Pastorate Wedding Planning Guidelines and Policies

1. PRELIMINARY PLANNING

A. Parish Registration:

The free exchange of wedding vows in the Catholic Church (Holy Matrimony) is a sacrament when it occurs between two baptized Christians. All sacraments, including marriage, are to be celebrated in the presence of a faith community. As such, in order to be married in Holy Cross Pastorate we require that at least one member of the engaged couple (or one of their parents) be a registered parishioner for at least 6 months prior to the intended wedding date. By being a registered member (or child of a registered member) of our parish community you are signifying your commitment to practice the Catholic faith, which includes regular attendance at Sunday Mass, regular participation in the sacrament of reconciliation, and striving to live a Christian moral and spiritual life. If you need more information on becoming a registered member of our parish please call the parish office or visit our website.

If, for whatever reason, you cannot fulfill this obligation but would still like to marry at our parish please schedule an appointment with the pastor to discuss your options.

B. Setting the Date of the Wedding:

Couples are expected to contact the parish office at least 6 to 12 months prior to the date on which they hope to celebrate their wedding. A confirmed date will be set by the priest only after he has had sufficient opportunity to meet with the engaged couple to complete the necessary paperwork and to ensure that the couple is free to marry in the Catholic Church. 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 are scheduled with respect to the couple's wishes but are subject to the availability of the church and/or the priest.

C. Wedding Days and Times:

The timing depends of Priest availability, but these are the standard times:

Friday afternoon @ 2pm or 3pm,

Saturday afternoon @ 1pm.

If you would like a time or day other than this you will need to obtain the expressed consent of the priest.



C. Days and Times (Cont...)

Weddings are not celebrated on Sundays or on other solemnities of the church calendar. Weddings may take place during Advent or Lent but the couple is advised to take into consideration the somber nature of these liturgical seasons when planning, decorating, and celebrating.

D. Alcohol, Drugs, and Smoking Policy:

The sacred nature and location of your wedding excludes the use of alcohol and/or drugs both before and during the wedding rehearsal and the wedding liturgy. At no time are alcohol and/or drugs allowed on church property. The use of alcohol and/or drugs by the bride, by the groom, or by any member of the wedding party before or during either the wedding rehearsal or the wedding ceremony will not be tolerated. If the presiding priest suspects the use of such by any of these people he has the full right to refuse to allow the ceremony to occur and can postpone the wedding indefinitely. The bride and groom assume full responsibility for their own actions and those of their guests.

The sacred nature of a church also demands that there be no smoking within church buildings. Please step outside and away from the building if you would like to smoke.

E. Fees and Offerings:

We know that weddings can be expensive affairs these days. Because of our desire to see couples marry in the Church we charge a minimal fee that simply covers our basic expenses for facilities and marriage preparation costs, plus a small stipend for the priest.

Please note that included in this fee is our basic "Standard Package" of live-streaming services (see page 18 for more information) and the use of the Church. This fee does not include the following, however: 1) the rental of our parish hall for a wedding reception; and 2) the registration costs associated with any of the Diocesan required marriage prep programs.

\$750 (discount of \$250 to parishioners or children of parishioners)

\$75 Priest Stipend

\$150 Music Director / Organist Stipend

\$100 Cantor (sometimes the same as the Music Director) Stipend

Please plan on giving these fees and offerings to the preparing priest or parish office at least 1 week before your wedding.

If you are only receiving Marriage Prep through the pastorate, and are getting married in another Catholic Church, the fee is \$300.



F. Cancellation Policy:

If, for whatever reason, you must cancel the wedding please let us know as soon as possible.

G. Starting the Wedding Preparation Process:

Please contact Fr. Michael Wanta 6 to 12 months before your intended wedding date (608-815-3011 or fr.michael.wanta@pastorate19.org). He will help you with any questions you have and connect you to one of the priests for the marriage preparation process.

H. The Wedding Preparation Process Timeline:

Please see the “Marriage Preparation Timeline and Checklist,” given at your first meeting with a priest, for more information. But, once again, this process must begin at least 6 to 12 months prior to your intended wedding date by scheduling an appointment with a priest.

I. Requirements of the Diocese of Madison:

The Diocese of Madison requires that couples who are preparing for marriage participate in one of the following three marriage prep programs.

1. Witness to Love
2. CatholicMarriagePrep.com
3. Diocese of Madison Weekend Retreat

For more information about each of these options please see page 22 of this booklet.

You are also asked to complete a Natural Family Planning (“NFP”) course. More information about these classes can be found at:

- www.madisondiocese.org/NFP

J. FOCCUS Facilitator Contact Information:

FOCCUS is a pre-marriage inventory that helps prepare couples for marriage by assessing their agreement, disagreement, or indecision about many important marriage-related issues. All engaged couples are required to take the FOCCUS inventory and to meet with a FOCCUS trained facilitator, who will use the FOCCUS inventory to help them better understand their relationship strengths and areas for growth.



K. Obtaining a WI Marriage License:

A valid Wisconsin marriage license must be obtained from the County Clerk's office and given to the priest on the day of the wedding rehearsal. It is against the law for a priest to witness a marriage without an official marriage license and he will be prevented from allowing the marriage to take place without one.

For more information about obtaining a marriage license please visit the following websites:

- 1) www.usmarriagelaws.com/marriage-license/wisconsin/county-clerks/office-requirements.shtml
- 2) www.countyofdane.com/clerk/marriage_license.aspx

L. Obtaining Official Baptismal Certificates and Confirmation:

For Catholics: A newly issued certificate of baptism must be presented to the presiding priest celebrant before the marriage. This official certificate is obtained from the parish in which the Catholic was baptized. It must be dated within six (6) months of the wedding date (originals are not allowed). Notations should be made on the back of the Baptismal Certificate regarding all of the other sacraments; if a particular sacrament has not been received "NONE" should be noted.

For Non-Catholic Christians: There is no date restriction for gathering a baptismal certification. Proof of baptism should be obtained by either contacting the church in which the non-Catholic was baptized or by bringing in the original certificate, which can be photocopied and placed in the marriage file.

Regarding Confirmation: While it is not an absolute requirement that Catholics be confirmed before they are married in the Church confirmation before marriage is something that the Church strongly urges. If you cannot receive the sacrament of confirmation before your wedding we ask that you seek it shortly thereafter. After all, why wouldn't you want to have as much of God's help as possible as you embark upon this great journey of married life together?

M. Previously Married and Declarations of Nullity (Annulments):

If either party has (or both have) been previously married (even if now civilly divorced), you must let the preparing priest know ASAP. You must also present proof of your freedom to marry or pursue this proof (a declaration of nullity or an "annulment") before a wedding date will be set. Please be aware that if you need to pursue a declaration of nullity this process can take up to 18 months depending upon the circumstances. For more information please contact the pastor.



N. The Wedding Planner/Coordinator:

Please note that while you may be working with a wedding planner for everything from the invitations to the reception details all decisions regarding that which pertains to the wedding liturgy and/or the church is at the discretion of the pastor and is not determined by the wedding planner.

O. The Wedding Rehearsal:

The wedding rehearsal will be scheduled and conducted by the priest witnessing the marriage. It will take approximately one hour. Given the importance of marriage the rehearsal is meant to be a time of prayer, reflection, and final preparation for all those involved in the wedding liturgy. In particular, the rehearsal allows members of the wedding party to become familiar with the environment and the roles that they will assume as part of the wedding liturgy. Therefore it is extremely important that all participating members of the wedding party be present for the rehearsal, including the bride and groom, the maid of honor, the bridesmaids, the flower girls, the best man, the groomsmen, the ring bearers, the lectors, the musicians, the ushers and the parents. Also, we ask that as a sign of courtesy all people should please show up promptly on time.

P. Official Witnesses:

The marriage license and the Church require 2 official witnesses who are physically present in observing the consent given by the bride and groom.

Some additional requirements for the two witnesses include the fact that they must have the use of reason and possess a sufficient discretion to know, understand and be capable of testifying about what they observe at the time of the consent that they have been asked to witness. In most wedding Masses or liturgies outside of Mass currently celebrated in Catholic parishes the task of witnessing is entrusted to the persons designated as “best man” and “maid or matron of honor,” however, any member of the bridal party or in attendance at the service can be designated as a “witness” to the consent.

One question often asked during the course of marriage preparation is whether the witnesses chosen are to be Catholic. The answer is no - they do not need to be Catholic. Also, the witnesses need not be married themselves, nor married to one another. Both witnesses may be male or female and should be 18 years of age or older.

Immediately after the wedding the two official witnesses should meet the presiding priest in the sacristy to sign the marriage license.



Holy Cross Pastorate Wedding Planning Guidelines and Policies

2. PLANNING THE WEDDING LITURGY

A. Nuptial Mass or a Wedding Liturgy outside of Mass?

When two practicing Catholics seek to be married the norm is for them to have a Nuptial Mass. When a Catholic and a baptized non-Catholic (Protestant Christian) are to be married a Nuptial Mass is permitted although it is not recommended since the non-Catholic party would be unable to receive Holy Communion. This decision, though, is left up to the couple. A Nuptial Mass is not permitted for a marriage between a Catholic and a non-baptized person. Whatever your case may be, however, please know that both the Nuptial Mass and the wedding liturgy outside of Mass are both beautiful and dignified liturgies. Both include prayers, readings, and all of the other things that one typically associates with a wedding. You can be sure that whatever type of wedding you have it will be both beautiful and memorable. Please also note that whatever you choose we will do our best to make any non-Catholic guests feel welcome.

B. Musicians:

In Holy Cross Pastorate, we have a few Directors or Coordinators of Sacred Music at the different parishes. Depending upon their availability one of them is able to serve as organist, pianist, and/or cantor for your wedding. Or they can also assist in finding accompanying musicians as needed. Please note that if you would like to use other musicians who are not regular members of Holy Cross Pastorate (i.e., family members, friends, and/or other contacts) they must be approved by the priest and they must also have some basic knowledge of Catholic liturgical worship. If you have any questions please contact the priest and/or the director of Sacred Music of the Church where you are being married.

St. Francis Xavier, Cross Plains

Josephine Cowen – Josephine.cowen@pastorate19.org

St. Peter, Ashton, and St. Martin, Martinsville

Andrew Jones – Andrew.jones@pastorate19.org

St. Bernard, Middleton

Glen Schuster – Glenn.schuster@pastorate19.org

St. Mary, Pine Bluff

Aristotle Esguerra – Aristotle.esguerra@pastorate19.org



C. Music Guidelines:

As with any other sacred celebration the music you choose should express and reflect the dignity of the what is taking place. Accordingly, the texts of songs to be sung ought to reflect the Christian understanding of love and marriage, the mystery of Christ and the Church. Music from the entertainment industry, pop-culture or similar genres is not appropriate during the celebration of Christian marriage, no matter how beautiful or catchy the lyrics, or how meaningful they may be to your relationship. You may enjoy them at your wedding reception but they are not appropriate for church. Only music that has been composed for the liturgy can be used during the sacred celebration. Some pieces of festive classical music are acceptable during the procession/recession. In addition, all music to be performed at your wedding ceremony (before, during, and after) must be performed by trained and capable musicians or soloists. We do not allow at any time pre-recorded accompaniments for solo or ensemble singing. We also do not allow devices to play recordings. Only live music of appropriate sacred, Christian or classical wedding repertoire is allowed. The pastor may refuse to allow any song or musical piece that is not liturgically appropriate. Thank you for your understanding.



D. Song Suggestions:

Prelude (instrumental - typically begins 15-20 minutes before the liturgy starts):

1. Ave Maria - Schubert
2. Sheep May Safely Graze - Bach
3. Air - Bach
4. For the Beauty of the Earth - Kocher
5. Panis Angelicus

Processional/Recessional (instrumental; you may pick one for the bridal party and another for the bride for the procession, and a separate song for the recession):

1. Canon in D - Pachelbel
2. Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring - Bach
3. Trumpet Voluntary in D - Jeremiah Clarke (Purcell)
4. Ode to Joy - Beethoven
5. Trumpet Tune in C - Jeremiah Clarke (Purcell)
6. Allegro Maestoso from "Water Music" - G.F. Handel
7. Prince of Denmark March - Clarke
8. Wedding March - Mendelssohn

Preparation of the Altar:

1. Now Thank We All Our God
2. Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
3. At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing
4. Bridal Prayer - Roger Copeland
5. How Beautiful - Twila Paris
6. When Love is Found - Brian Wren



D. Song Suggestions - continued:

Communion Song (depending upon the number of guests you may wish to choose 2):

1. Praise to the Lord
2. Gift of Finest Wheat
3. Ubi Caritas
4. Pange Lingua
5. Panis Angelicus
6. Adoro Te Devote/Godhead Here in Hiding
7. Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Mass Settings (for the Gloria, the Sanctus, the Mystery of Faith, the Lamb of God, etc.):

1. Please consult with the Musician (see page 9)



E. The Readings:

The priest will provide you with a series of readings from Sacred Scripture to choose from. Outside extra-biblical readings are not appropriate for the wedding liturgy and are therefore not permitted.

F. Prayers of the Faithful/General Intercessions:

You may choose to write your own “prayers of the faithful” based off of examples that the priest will provide for you. If you choose to do so they must be pre-approved by him prior to the wedding rehearsal. If you would rather not write your own petitions a series of petitions specifically designed for weddings will be provided.

G. The Lectors/Readers:

Proclaiming God’s Word from Sacred Scripture and reading the intercessions are important aspects of the wedding liturgy. Therefore, only those people who have either done this previously or who are comfortable speaking in public should be considered for these roles. You are welcome to choose between 1 and 3 people to fulfill the following reading roles: 1) 1st Reading; 2) 2nd Reading; and 3) General Intercessions. The people who you choose should be practicing Catholics (or other Christians when circumstances warrant; but please speak to the pastor about this first before asking any non-Catholics).

H. Servers:

If you have friends or relatives who are currently Catholic altar servers at their home parish and would like to have them serve at the wedding liturgy please ask the presiding priest prior to the rehearsal if he is okay with their assistance.

I. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

At a Nuptial Mass 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 is in good standing with the Catholic Church) and who would like to assist the priest in the distribution of Holy Communion please ask the presiding priest about this prior to the wedding rehearsal.

J. Ushers:

The bride/groom should choose 2-4 ushers to help escort family/friends into church, as well as dismissing guests after the liturgy. Ushers should be able to give direction and be outgoing to inform guests that it is time to be seated. Ushers must make sure that programs and other items are not left in the pews after the wedding. 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. They should also attend the rehearsal.



K. Gift Bearers:

If you will be having a Nuptial Mass there is an opportunity to include 2-4 people or a family to bring up the gifts (bread and wine) at the Preparation of the Altar. Many couples choose their Godparents.

L. Guest Catholic Priest/Deacon Celebrants:

A guest priest/deacon is welcome to celebrate your wedding. However, if your marriage is scheduled at our parish with the understanding that you will obtain the services of a guest celebrant priest/deacon the parish will not be responsible for substituting for your guest celebrant priest/deacon if he is suddenly unable to make it. It will be your responsibility to obtain the services of another substitute priest/deacon (who is in good standing with the Catholic Church). Therefore, be sure that you have a firm commitment from the guest priest/deacon before arranging your wedding to be celebrated by him.

The guest priest/deacon must also have current credentials from his diocesan bishop or his religious superior. A letter of suitability must be sent to the Diocese of Madison (Office of the Vicar General) if the priest is not from our diocese and to the pastor (at least 1 week) before the wedding. Guest priests should also contact the pastor a few weeks prior to the wedding to arrange logistical details.

M. Guest non-Catholic Clergy:

Please speak with the preparing priest about this if you have a legitimate reason to want a non-Catholic clergy member to assist at your wedding.

N. Programs:

We encourage you to create and print (we do not print for you) your own 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 # from the hymnal plus any relevant copyright information if the song is to be printed in the program) and readings, as well as a basic outline of the wedding liturgy.

Please also inform guests in the program that no flash photography is allowed, that they should silence their cell phones (turn to vibrate), and that no food or drink is allowed in church.

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

Please contact the pastor if you need examples to help you create your own program.



O. Photography/Video Guidelines:

Selecting a photographer or videographer is an important concern for every couple planning a wedding. It is important that the person(s) you choose be familiar with some simple regulations. Above all, a prayerful atmosphere must be maintained at all times. Anything that intrudes upon this or interrupts the wedding liturgy is inappropriate. Also, the photographer should be positioned in such a way that he/she does not call attention to himself/herself. Below are a few other important guidelines:

1. The use of flash equipment during the wedding liturgy is not permitted unless pre-approved by the pastor.
2. Absolutely no photography is allowed during the Nuptial Mass from the end of the vows to the end of the “Our Father” prayer.
3. Photographers are not allowed into the sanctuary during the wedding liturgy (the sanctuary is the raised part of the church where the altar and wood floor are located).
4. Photographers should be careful not to impede the procession.
5. When pictures/video is being taken after the liturgy the photographer must remember (along with all of the wedding guests!) that all of you are still inside church and therefore he/she should act in a reverent and respectful manner.
6. No umbrellas, other extraordinary lighting equipment, or backdrops may be set up during the Mass/liturgy. Also, no taping of wires is permitted.
7. Photographers should keep their equipment in an area of the church where it will not be in the way of guests and/or the priest.
8. Equipment can only be brought into church and set up after all previous liturgies are finished unless you obtain the expressed permission from the pastor. Equipment must be removed immediately after the wedding.
9. On Saturdays, all photography/video after the wedding must be finished by 3:00pm (because people will possibly be coming into the church for Confessions/Mass).



P. The Unity Candle:

Even though the “Unity Candle” is somewhat common these days at weddings it is not officially apart of the Catholic wedding liturgy. In fact, many people trace its origins back to only the 1970s and its widespread popularity to 1981 when it was featured in a tv wedding on the soap opera, *General Hospital*.

And while its symbolic value is not without some merit, the reality is that for us Catholics we have a far greater symbol of unity in the Eucharist - an “efficacious sign” that Jesus himself has given to us (as opposed to some people in Hollywood who were simply trying to get more viewers for a tv show!). In fact, as a reminder, this is what we as Catholics believe about the “unity value” of the Eucharist:

“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!’

(Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraphs 1391, 1396, 1398).

As such, we do not allow unity candles at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Parish. If you would like to use one we encourage you to use it afterwards at the reception. “Unity Sand” is also prohibited for the same reason.



Q. Flowers and Decorations:

The church is God's house - it is a sacred place of divine worship. As such, we ask that you please respect the sense of the sacred and foster an attitude of prayerfulness and reverence when inside. The sanctuary area of the Church is usually decorated according to the liturgical season or for a special feast/solemnity. If you would like to move or change any of the decorations in the sanctuary please ask the pastor first and if he gives you permission please know that you will be responsible for returning everything to its original location before leaving for pictures or the reception.

Please use tastefully done and appropriate floral arrangements for your wedding celebration. Artificial flowers are acceptable, although natural flowers are preferred. You are welcome to leave floral arrangements in the church after the wedding, but there is no requirement to do so. Flowers are not to be placed on the altar or directly in front of the tabernacle.

For practical reasons we do not allow the use of rice, birdseed, real flower petals, etc. in the aisle. Artificial flower petals are okay but please ensure that they are cleaned up afterwards.

All necessary candles are provided - please do not bring any extra candles for decoration.

Also, please do not use any sort of adhesive that will damage the pews, floors, or walls when decorating. If you cause any damage you will be held responsible for its repair.

You are also responsible for cleaning up all decorations before the Saturday evening Vigil Mass or the next liturgical function begins.

R. Flowers for Mary:

In many places it is customary for a newly married couple to place flowers before a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary and to ask for Mary's intercession as they begin their new life together. Typically this is done at the end of the wedding liturgy but before the final blessing and a Marian hymn, such as the "Ave Maria," is played/sung. If you are interested in making this beautiful devotion part of your wedding please let the priest know.

S. Wedding Attire:

When choosing wedding attire, your choice must reflect the dignity of Christian marriage. Some styles are more appropriate for evening wear than they are for a sacred event held in a holy place. All wedding attire worn should be modest. Low necklines and high slits are not in keeping with appropriate guidelines for a religious service. Suits or tuxedos worn by groomsmen must be appropriate for a religious service as well, and not detract from it.



T. Dressing Rooms:

At St. Francis Xavier we have our hospitality room (located right off of the narthex) and office conference rooms available for your use. Please make sure that they are cleaned up afterwards.

U. Parish Hall Rental:

If you are interested in renting St. Francis Xavier's parish hall for your wedding reception please contact Stacey Eslinger (stacey.eslinger@sfxcrossplains.org or 608-798-2423). The hall rental fees are as follows:

- Parish Members: \$1,500.00*
- Non-members: \$2,000.00*

*There are additional fees if you require the presence of a staff member, etc.

V. Live-Streaming:

St. Francis Xavier is happy to provide live-streaming services for your wedding. We offer 3 options:

1. Standard Package - FREE
 - High quality video and sound recording
 - Stationary camera view
 - Broadcast on our parish website (www.sfxcrossplains.org) and YouTube channel
 - Live-stream video is available for 30 days
2. Premiere Package - \$250.00
 - High quality video and sound recording
 - Camera operator that will film your event (including various camera angles, zooming in and out, etc.)
 - Personalized video title/logo
 - Broadcast on our parish website (www.sfxcrossplains.org) and YouTube channel or on your own private social media account
 - Live-stream video is available for 60 days
 - Downloaded MP4 video file on a flash drive
3. Standard Package + Downloaded MP4 video file - \$50.00
 - Includes everything from our Standard Package + a downloaded copy of your MP4 video file on a flash drive



W. Outline of the Nuptial Mass:

Prelude

Procession

Introductory Rite

- Greeting & Introduction
- Gloria
- Collect (Opening Prayer)

Liturgy of the Word

- 1st Reading
- Responsorial Psalm
- 2nd Reading
- Gospel Acclamation (Alleluia verse)
- Gospel
- Homily

Celebration of Matrimony

- Statement of Intentions
- Consent and Exchange of Vows
- Blessing and Giving of Rings

Prayers of the Faithful/General Intercessions

Liturgy of the Eucharist

- Presentation of the Gifts and Preparation of the Altar
- Prayer over the Offerings, Preface, and Sanctus ("Holy, Holy, Holy")
- Eucharistic Prayer (Memorial Acclamation/Great Amen)
- The Lord's Prayer (Our Father)
- Nuptial Blessing
- Sign of Peace
- "Lamb of God"
- Communion

Concluding Rite

- Prayer after Communion
- [Optional: Presenting Flowers to the Blessed Virgin Mary]
- Presentation of the Couple
- Solemn Blessing at the End of Mass
- Dismissal
- Recessional



X. Outline of the Wedding Liturgy outside of Mass:

Prelude

Procession

Introductory Rite

- Greeting & Introduction
- Collect (Opening Prayer)

Liturgy of the Word

- 1st Reading
- Responsorial Psalm
- 2nd Reading
- Gospel Acclamation (Alleluia verse)
- Gospel
- Homily

Celebration of Matrimony

- Statement of Intentions
- Consent and Exchange of Vows
- Blessing and Giving of Rings
- Prayers of the Faithful/General Intercessions

Concluding Rite

- The Lord's Prayer (Our Father)
- Nuptial Blessing
- Presentation of the Couple
- Final Blessing
- Dismissal
- Recessional



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Diocese of Madison

3. MARRIAGE PREP PROGRAM OPTIONS



OPTION 1: *Witness to Love* Mentorship Program

- *Witness to Love* is an in-person, virtues-based marriage prep program where the two of you will be mentored by a married couple from St. Francis Xavier.
- This is the preferred program for those living in the Cross Plains area.
- Cost: \$100.00
- Time Frame for Completion: 3 - 6 months
- For more information and/or to sign up please contact SFX's Director of Faith Formation, Marc Laudonio, at marc.laudonio@sfxcrossplains.org or (608) 798-2975.



OPTION 2: CatholicMarriagePrep.com Online Program

- CatholicMarriagePrep.com is an online marriage prep program where the two of you are virtually mentored by another couple.
- This program is ideal for those who are in a long-distance relationship and during times of a pandemic.
- Cost: \$194.00
- Time frame for Completion: 3 weeks - 3 months
- To sign up please visit: www.catholicmarriageprep.com/course-info/online-pre-cana



OPTION 3: Diocese of Madison Weekend Retreat

- The Diocese of Madison Weekend Retreat is an in-person group event where the two of you will go on a weekend-long retreat with other engaged couples and where a priest and other couple-leaders will serve as facilitators/instructors.
- This program is ideal for those who are looking to get away for a weekend together so as to focus on God and on their relationship without so many distractions.
- Cost: \$245.00
- Time frame for Completion: 1 weekend (Friday evening through Sunday midday)
- To see upcoming retreat dates and to sign up please visit: www.madisondiocese.org/marriage-preparation-retreats



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Holy Cross Pastorate Wedding Planning Guidelines and Policies

We have read and reviewed these guidelines and policies,
we understand them, and we agree to abide by them.

(Please return to the pastor ASAP.)

Bride's Name (Please print)

Groom's Name (Please print)

Bride's Signature

Groom's Signature

Date



Once again, congratulations!
May God bless your time of preparation
and may He also bless you with
a long, happy, healthy, and holy marriage!