

# Sacrament of Holy Matrimony

## Wedding Guide

St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church  
2618 S. Brentwood Boulevard

Brentwood, MO 63144

*Rev. Msgr. Timothy P. Cronin, Pastor*



Congratulations on your Engagement!

In seeking to be married in the Catholic Church, you are publicly proclaiming your faith in the Lord Jesus and asking to live as disciples of Christ in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony. This is a great gift from God!

Marriage, by its very nature, is a serious and sacred commitment deserving the most careful preparation and attention. The priests of this parish and our parish staff will help you to prepare both for your wedding day, but most importantly, and for the lifetime of marriage that follows your nuptial liturgy.

Our program of marriage preparation is designed to help prepare you to embrace the responsibilities of married love with freedom, joy, and integrity, and from the beginning of marriage preparation, six full months must elapse before the earliest possible date for your wedding.

### *Preparation Period*

First, couples who desire to be married at St. Mary Magdalen Church are to notify one of the parish priests or deacons as soon as they have the intention to marry, but *no later than six months prior to the intended date*. The priest or deacon will then arrange for an appointment with the couple to explain the preparation process.

A proposed date and time of the wedding can be discussed, but this date is only

tentative. It can be confirmed after the period of assessment is completed.

Next, the couple will begin the time of formation and assessment concerning personal commitment to God, the Church, and the Sacraments.

### *What is required for Marriage Preparation?*

The actual exchange of vows at a wedding is a ceremony lasting a few minutes; a marriage is a lifetime commitment of sacrificial love in a sacramental covenant. Planning your wedding and preparing for your marriage are two different things, and preparing for the marriage is by far the more important.

The priest or deacon will explain to you the marriage preparation process which focuses upon several topics: Communication, Self-Knowledge and Lifestyle Expectations, Finances and Budgeting, Faith, Prayer and Holiness; The Role of the Man and the Woman in the Family; God's Plan for Sexuality and Children; The Devil's Target on your marriage; and the Holy Essentials of the Marriage Covenant. In addition, every couple is required to take an introductory class on Natural Family Planning.

The focus during this time of preparation helps couples grow as individuals and together as disciples of the Lord Jesus.

*Who can be married at St. Mary Magdalen Church?*

For a couple to be married at St. Mary Magdalen, one of two conditions must be met:

(1) either the bride or groom or their parent(s) must be a registered, active, and regularly contributing member of St. Mary Magdalen (a parishioner)

(2) either the bride or groom (or both) must be a registered, active, and regularly contributing member of a parish where they live, and the pastor of that parish must certify that the couple would be eligible for marriage in his parish (non-parishioner)

*How is the church reserved and a wedding date decided?*

First, contact Barb Shaw, Business Manager, at (314) 961-8400 or by email:

[barb.shaw@stmmchurch.com](mailto:barb.shaw@stmmchurch.com)

After meeting with the priest or deacon, the date will be confirmed.

*When can weddings (and rehearsals) take place at St. Mary Magdalen Church?*

Weddings are celebrated on available Saturdays at 10:00 a.m or 1:00 p.m. Evening weddings are permitted on Fridays at 6:00 p.m. (except First Friday of the month, which has a regularly scheduled Mass and devotion to the Sacred Heart in Church.)

Wedding rehearsals are at 6:15 p.m. on Thursdays or between 5 and 7 pm on Fridays. (No rehearsals are permitted on First Fridays.)

Weddings are not permitted during the season of Lent, nor on any Holy Days of Obligation (January 1, August 15, November 1, December 8, December 25) or on All Souls Day (November 2).

*Should the wedding include Holy Mass?*

Weddings between two Catholics may be celebrated within Holy Mass, if both parties and their immediate families are in full communion with the Church and actively practice the faith by attending Sunday Mass.

Weddings between a Catholic and a non-Catholic are usually outside of Holy Mass. Instead, the Marriage Liturgy will include the Entrance and Introductory Rite, Liturgy of the

Word (Scripture readings and homily), the Celebration of Matrimony (The Consent, Blessing and Exchange of Rings), Prayer of the Faithful, the Our Father, the Nuptial Blessing and Dismissal and Recessional.

*What are the various fees for a wedding at St. Mary Magdalen Church?*

The fees for a wedding include:

(1) Donation to the Church:

for parishioners - \$200 (recommended)

for non-parishioners - \$750 (required)

(2) Parish Wedding Coordinator - \$250

Contact [amy.graham@stmmchurch.com](mailto:amy.graham@stmmchurch.com)

(3) Organist (Jerry Dorhauer) - \$150

(3) Cantor (Sarah Dorhauer) - \$150

(4) Altar Servers - \$10 (or more, if desired) cash gift per server (usually two servers)

(5) Donation to the priest or deacon, if desired

Checks should be made payable to St. Mary Magdalen Church and to the individuals. We ask that all the above payments in cash or check be submitted to the parish office one month before the wedding ceremony.

Couples for whom any fees would be a burden and who can demonstrate financial need are welcome to speak with the pastor about a reduction.

*Are there any guidelines about the Bridal Gown and Dresses of Bridal Party?*

Please remember that your wedding is a sacred and public act of worship taking place in a consecrated place of divine worship. All of your wardrobe selections should reflect the modesty and noble simplicity which the Church expects will characterize every part of the sacred liturgy.

*What about Church Flowers?*

St. Mary Magdalen welcomes flowers for the sanctuary of the church; the flower arrangements should be designed according to the needs of the sacred liturgy, and they should remain in the church after the wedding.

*What about Personal Flowers, Corsages, Boutonnieres, and other decor?*

The wedding party is responsible for making all arrangements for personal flowers, corsages, and boutonnieres to be worn or

carried by anyone in the wedding. These must be brought to the church by the wedding party or be delivered to the church by your florist not less than two hours before the wedding. (Please note: Some florists have delivered to the wrong church. Make sure your florist is aware that the delivery is to St. Mary Magdalen in Brentwood, not Church of the Magdalen in the City of St. Louis.) If the florist delivers the flowers, they must be left in the vestibule on the table at the rear of the church, and the flowers must be in a disposable cardboard box that will be thrown away after the wedding. Flowers should be labeled with the name of the person designated to wear or carry them.

No flowers, ribbons, or greenery are permitted in the windows or aisles which require tape or clips.

Pew markers for the reserved pews of the church are provided by St. Mary Magdalen, and aisle runners, rice, bird seed, and balloons are not permitted either inside or outside the church at any time.

*Who plans the wedding liturgy?*

Weddings are public liturgical actions of the Church, and the celebration of weddings is governed by liturgical law. The basic form of the wedding liturgy is given by the Church, and no variation from that form is permitted. Within that basic form, the selection of the Scripture readings and prayers is made by the priest or deacon who will preside at the wedding after consultation with the bride and groom. A list of possible Scripture readings is found at the end of this document.

### *What about Candles and Liturgical Furnishings?*

The furnishings for the sacred liturgy are provided by the church; this includes all vestments, books, candles and candlesticks, kneelers, chairs, and other elements as needed. We cannot use family heirlooms in the celebration of the sacred liturgy. Candles are a symbol of the Lord Jesus and the baptized's participation in Him. The "Unity Candle," a recent innovation some worship services, is not a part of the Catholic wedding liturgy of the Catholic Church, and it may not be used at St. Mary Magdalen. The exchange of wedding

rings is the symbol of the committed love and fidelity of one to another.

*Who plans the music?*

Jerry Dorhauer ([hammer1203@icloud.com](mailto:hammer1203@icloud.com)) is the Director of Music at St. Mary Magdalen. Because the celebration of a wedding is a public liturgical action of the Church, only music which is truly sacred is permitted at weddings. Under the supervision of the pastor, Jerry and Sarah Dorhauer, organist and cantor, make all decisions about the music allowed at St. Mary Magdalen, including permission to invite visiting vocalists and instrumentalists. They will review with each couple the various options which are best suited for your wedding.

Jerry and Sarah should be contact no later than 2 months prior to your wedding.

You are welcome to hire additional instrumentalists or singers from outside the parish, but you must speak with Jerry Dorhauer before arranging any outside musicians, whether hired professionals or volunteers from among family or friends.

Fees for outside musicians are the responsibility of the bride and groom. No

music by recording or automation is ever permitted for any reason.

### *What about a Visiting Priest or Deacon?*

The priests and deacons of St. Mary Magdalen Church ordinarily preside at all weddings here; exceptions are made because a member of the family or a very close friend is a priest or deacon from elsewhere. Only the pastor of St. Mary Magdalen can grant permission (canonical delegation) for a visiting priest or deacon to preside at a wedding in this parish.

If you desire to invite a non-Catholic clergyman to participate in the wedding liturgy, you must submit a written request to Monsignor Cronin, the pastor of St. Mary Magdalen, giving the name, title, postal address, phone number, and email address of the clergyman you want to invite. Non-Catholic clergy are permitted to participate in a Catholic wedding by their presence in the sanctuary, but they cannot preside at the liturgy. This means, among other things, that the Catholic priest or deacon must

receive the wedding vows and impart the nuptial blessing.

### *What about Programs?*

The bridal party is responsible for the design and printing of the wedding program, but the content of your program is determined by whether or not the wedding takes place inside or outside of Mass.

### *Who may Lector at our wedding?*

The texts of Sacred Scripture are proclaimed from the ambo, and the person who performs this function is called a lector. Most couples choose one or two persons from among their families and friends to fulfill this role at the Liturgy. Those whom you select should be good public speakers and must be at the rehearsal to practice the proclamation in the church; all lectors must be Catholics in full communion with the Church.

### *What provisions are available for Handicapped Guests?*

A ramp for handicapped guests is available at the Northeast entrance to the church, which faces the main church parking

lot. Please inform the Wedding Coordinator of guests with special needs.

*Where are the Restrooms?*

A restroom is available in the vestibule of the Church. There are also restrooms available in the Church basement.

*Where is the Bride's Room?*

There is a lower level Bride's Room inside St. Mary Magdalen Church which the bride and her attendants may use to dress. Please note that this room is not locked, and to avoid lost and stolen items, the bride may want to consider providing shopping bags for each attendant, and all personal belongings (shoes, clothes, makeup, etc.) should be locked in the trunk of a vehicle before the wedding begins.

*How many Attendants may be in the Wedding?*

The bride and groom are permitted up to seven attendants each, including best man and maid/matron of honor (exceptions may be made, but seating may be limited). Children under the age of five are not permitted to participate in the procession or to stand in the

front of the church, and this includes service as flower girls and ring bearers.

*What is the seating arrangement for the Bridal party?*

Usually, the bride and groom kneel in the center of the sanctuary. On either side is a kneeler for the maid (or matron) of honor and the best man. If desired, chairs can be available for these four individuals to be seated.

Members of the bridal party will have chairs outside the sanctuary (the first row of chairs in front of the pew for the parents/grandparents.)

*What about Food, Smoking, and Alcohol?*

No food or drink is permitted in the church before, during, or after the wedding and rehearsal. Smoking and the use of chewing gum are also prohibited on the campus of St. Mary Magdalen at all times.

The wedding party is expected to refrain from using any alcoholic beverages (no open containers of alcohol) both before the rehearsal and the wedding. The priest or deacon celebrating the wedding reserves the right to remove from the church anyone under the

influence of alcohol. Please remind everyone in the wedding party to preserve the sacred character of this event by not abusing alcohol.

*What about Photographs and/or Video?*

**Before the wedding**, photographs or videos may be taken outside the church but NOT inside.

**During the wedding**, all photographs or videos must be taken from the choir loft or from outside the sanctuary.

**After the wedding**, the photographer or videographer may pose the bride and groom inside the sanctuary. The entire wedding party may be posed outside the sanctuary (communion rail), or on the steps of the Blessed Mother altar. There are a number of places outside (under the portico) or outside the front doors of the Church (facing Manchester Road) which may be used for photographs and video.

**All photographs and videos must be completed within 30 minutes of the end of the wedding.** If a video is to be made, no microphone for the video will be worn by the priest or deacon who is presiding.

*What documents are required?*

(1) For a Catholic, a baptismal certificate issued within six months from the date of the wedding. [This document will have the Church seal. Contact the parish where you were baptized and ask for a certificate of Baptism for your upcoming marriage.] If the parish where you were baptized has been closed, contact the Archives office. Here in the Archdiocese of St. Louis, you may contact (314) 792-7020 or submit your online request at [archstl.org/archdiocesan-archives](http://archstl.org/archdiocesan-archives)

(2) For a Catholic, a certificate of Confirmation. (This is usually included with the baptismal certificate.)

(3) If being prepared outside the parish, a Marriage Preparation Course Completion certificate.

(4) A certificate to verify attendance at a Natural Family Planning Introductory class.

(5) The Marriage License: At the beginning of the wedding rehearsal, the bride and groom should bring the Missouri Marriage License to the priest or deacon, who will complete the legal document except for the signature of the priest (or deacon) and the witnesses, which are added after the wedding. No wedding is permitted at St. Mary Magdalen without this document. Licenses may be

obtained from any County office, but by law no earlier than 30 days before the wedding. Be sure to give yourself sufficient time to find a License Office which is open and available for both parties.

## *Order of the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony*

Procession

Introductory Rites (*including* Gloria)

The Liturgy of the Word

Old Testament Reading

Responsorial Psalm

New Testament Reading

Gospel

The Celebration of Matrimony

Questions before the Consent

The Consent (Wedding vows)

Reception of the Consent by  
the priest (or deacon)

Blessing and Giving of Rings

The Prayer of the Faithful

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Nuptial Blessing (*after the* Our  
Father)

Reception of Holy Communion

[Presentation to Blessed Virgin Mary]  
Recessional

*Scripture Readings*

Old Testament

Genesis 1: 26-28, 31a

*Male and female He created them*

Genesis 2: 18-24

*The two of them become one body*

Genesis 24: 48-51, 58-67

*In his love for Rebekah, Isaac found  
solace after the death of his mother*

Tobit 7: 6-14

*May the God of heaven grant both of you  
peace and prosperity*

Tobit 8: 4b-8

*Allow us to live together to a happy old age*

Proverbs 31: 10-13, 19-20, 30-31

*One who finds a worthy wife, her value is  
Beyond pearls*

Song of Songs 2: 8-10, 14, 16a; 8: 6-7a

*Hark my lover, here he comes: Set me as a  
seal on your heart*

Sirach 26: 1-4, 13-16

*Blessed the husband of a good wife; a good  
wife is a generous gift...Like the sun rising,  
the beauty of a virtuous wife is the radiance  
of her home*

Jeremiah 31: 31-32a, 33-34a

*I will make a new covenant with the house of  
Israel and the house of Judah*

## New Testament

Romans 8: 31b-35, 37-39

*What will separate us from the love of Christ?*

Romans 12: 1-2, 9-18 (or 12: 1-2, 9-13)

*Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God. Let love be sincere; love one another with mutual affection*

Romans 15: 1b-3a, 5-7, 13

*Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you. May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace*

1 Corinthians 6: 13c-15a, 17-20

*Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you*

1 Corinthians 12: 31 – 13: 8a

*Love is patient, love is kind...Love never fails*

Ephesians 4: 1-6

*You were also called to the one hope of your call; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all*

Ephesians 5: 2a, 21-33 (or 5: 2a, 25-32)

*Be subordinate to one another. Wives subordinate to your husbands, husband love your wives. This is a great mystery, but I speak in reference to Christ and the Church*

Philippians 4: 4-9

*Rejoice in the Lord always! The God of peace will be with you*

Colossians 3: 12-17

*Holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one*

*another and forgiving. Let the peace of Christ control your hearts.*

Hebrews 13: 1-4a, 5-6b

*Let mutual love continue; do not neglect hospitality;  
Let marriage be honored among all*

1 Peter 3: 1-9

*You wives should be subordinate to your husbands.  
Be of one mind, sympathetic, loving toward one another*

1 John 3: 18-24

*Children, let us love not in word or speech, but in deed and truth*

1 John 4: 7-12

*Let us love one another because God is love*

Revelation 19: 1, 5-9a

*I, John, heard what sounded like the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven...Blessed are those who have been called to the wedding feast of the Lamb.*

## Gospel

Matthew 5: 1-12a

*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven...Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven*

Matthew 5: 13-16

*You are the salt of the earth, light of the world*

Matthew 7: 21, 24-29 (or 7: 21, 24-25)

*A wise man built his house on rock*

Matthew 19: 3-6

*Is it lawful to divorce? What God has joined together, man must not separate.*

Matthew 22: 35-40

*Which commandment in the law is the greatest?  
Love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and*

*neighbor as yourself*

Mark 10: 6-9

*From the beginning of creation, God made them male and female. What God has joined together, no human being must separate.*

John 2: 1-11

*Wedding feast at Cana*

John 15: 9-12

*As the Father loves me, so I love you. Remain in my love.*

John 15: 12-16

*There is no greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends*

John 17: 20-26 (or 17: 20-23)

*I pray not only for my disciples, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one*