

Musicians for Your Wedding

- **Piano/Vocals**
Brian Fogarty (920) 818-0311
- **Vocalists/Music Source**
Nancy Felhofer (920) 743-7123
Marcia Osborne (920) 743-5996
- **Solo Guitar**
George Sawyn (920) 743-6479
www.musicbygeorge.com

*And now these
three remain:
Faith, hope and love.
But the greatest of these
is love.*

1 Corinthians 13:13

CELEBRATING YOUR MARRIAGE At CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC CHURCH

MARRIAGE PREPARATION HANDBOOK

Corpus Christi Catholic Church

25 N. Elgin Avenue

Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin 54235

Phone: (920)743-4716

Website: www.ccp parish.net



And the two of them become one body

Gen. 2:24

Sample Wedding Program

CEREMONY

Prelude
Processional
Opening Prayer
Old Testament Reading
Responsorial Psalm
New Testament Reading
Gospel Reading
Homily
Exchange of Vows
Exchange of Rings
Lighting of the Unity Candle
Prayers of Petition
Presentation of Gifts*
Eucharist Prayer*
Lord's Prayer
Nuptial Blessing
Sign of Peace
Communion*
Prayer after Communion*
Final Blessing
Introduction of Couple to the congregation
Recessional
*Omitted if no Mass

Dear Bride and Groom,

Congratulations to you on your upcoming marriage. In the sacrament of marriage a man and a woman promise to go forth and make present the living love of Christ for each other. In the course of living out the mystery of your love, you become a source of God's presence for each other and the community in which you live. Although marriage is very personal, it is not private, because it has a profound impact upon us, a community of faithful that will pray and support your life together.

A Roman Catholic wedding ceremony is a celebration of faith as well as a blending of families and civil regulations. It is celebrated in and by the community of believers. We are happy to be a part of your preparation for both the Sacrament and the Ceremony.

To help you prepare for a life long marriage commitment before God, we have assembled in this booklet, the steps we will be taking with you. As always, feel free to call or e-mail us for further information or questions.

God Bless!

Rev. Carl Schmitt

Dc. Ray Ambrosius

Pastor

Deacon

Contact Information

Tina Lauder-Boucher - Parish Secretary

office@ccparish.net

Fr. Carl Schmitt - Pastor

frcarl@ccparish.net

Dc. Ray Ambrosius - Deacon

dcnray@ccparish.net

WEDDING GUIDELINES

Membership

The bride and groom should be registered, active and participating members either at Corpus Christi or another Catholic community. Please contact the parish office for information on parish membership.

If one person is not Catholic you are still welcome to celebrate your wedding at Corpus Christi. The non-Catholic party is welcomed to join the Catholic faith if he/she desires. (See next page for more information.)

When those to be married are registered as full members of another parish, please request your pastor to delegate the wedding to Corpus Christi Church.

The Marriage Preparation Program is also available to members living in the area, but marrying out of town.

Conduct & Alcohol

Appropriate behavior and conduct is expected to be observed within the church building and on parish property. Keep in mind the sacredness of the holy ground on which you have come.

- The use of alcoholic beverages and non-prescription drugs are not allowed on parish property. Observance of this prohibition is the responsibility of the wedding couple, friends, your bridal party, ushers, and your family. Anyone with alcohol on their breath or showing affects of drug or alcohol use will not be allowed to participate in the ceremony. Full awareness and participation in the celebration of this sacrament is required of the bride and groom as well as their wedding party.
- Failure to observe this regulation may result in the immediate termination of the ceremony.

Miscellaneous Information

- While Corpus Christi does not have a dress code, please keep in mind the sacredness of a church celebration when choosing your wedding attire.
- For insurance purposes, we ask that you do not bring any wedding attire, (gowns, tuxedos, etc) to your rehearsal to be left overnight at the church.
- Children in wedding party must be at least 4 years old.

Photography

We understand the importance of recording your special day with the art of photography. With this in mind, if your photographer has not previously worked at Corpus Christi, please have them speak with the priest before the ceremony.

- Pictures may be taken before or after the ceremony when the church is open.
- A special room for pictures may be reserved if needed. Please call the parish office for availability.

Wedding Programs

Most wedding couples provide printed programs to their guests.

- If music is included, be sure to add the proper copyright documentation.
- Listing title and composer is often sufficient. (Ave Maria: Schubert)
- Please plan to have someone remove all wedding brochures from the Church after the ceremony is completed.
- Do not print your program until you have completed your final meeting with the priest.

Cancellations

Please call the parish office at (920)743-4716 as soon as possible if your wedding is cancelled or postponed, so that the date may be available for another couple.

Interested in becoming Roman Catholic?

If your fiancé is contemplating becoming Catholic, invite him/her to ask Father any questions about the Catholic faith and to our RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) program. RCIA is the process that begins the Catholic journey of faith.

Faith is caught...not taught!

Reserving a Date & Wedding/Rehearsal Times



The date for the ceremony should be reserved with the parish secretary as soon as possible, but no less than six months prior to the intended wedding date.

Weddings are held at Corpus Christi on:

Saturday: 1:00 or 1:30 pm

Rehearsal: Friday evening

All bookings are subject to the presider's schedule and established parish schedules.

Normally, weddings are not scheduled during Lent.

More on the Rehearsal

Please call the parish office to schedule your rehearsal date and time.

- Rehearsals are generally the evening before the ceremony, between 4:00 & 7:00 pm.
- Bring your marriage license and a copy of your program with you to the rehearsal.
- Anyone having a special role in the wedding should be at the wedding rehearsal. The completed liturgy sheet from

"Together for Life" booklet should be brought to the parish office a few weeks before the wedding rehearsal.

- Review the Conduct Policy. (on page #13) This policy applies to the rehearsal as well.



Stipends

The minimum wedding stipend for our parish is **\$75**. This stipend should be paid on or prior to the second meeting with the priest.

- This stipend does not include music fees, which must be arranged separately. A gratuity to the priest or deacon is your option.

UNITED IN MARRIAGE

Flowers & Decorations

Additional decorative items and bouquets are at the discretion and cost of the bridal couple. However, flowers should be tastefully arranged and add to the seasonal décor of the liturgical season. No flowers are to be placed on top of the altar or in such a way to obscure it. Wedding decorations are not to interfere with the church decorations already in place. (You may want to check with the parish office regarding the Liturgical colors that are already in place in the church.)

- Bows/Ribbons may not be taped or wired to pews. (check with your florist regarding pew clips)
- If aisle or window candles are used they must be inside globe or glass holders.
- We do not allow confetti, balloons or rice in or outside of the church property. Bubbles are permitted outside the church.
- Aisle runners are not allowed as they are dangerous for the people with handicaps and for the elderly.
- You are responsible for removing all flowers, bows, plants, candles, etc. This must be done immediately following the wedding.
- The bride's room must be completely emptied and left as found. Please arrange for this to be done before the wedding starts.

Music

The couple to be married is responsible for contracting the services of a musician and/or vocalist with all fees determined and paid in advance.

The music you choose for your wedding and the musicians who provide it must receive approval from the priest before printing your wedding program. Musicians from Corpus Christi are pre-approved and are able to assist you with your wedding music selection.

- The music must be tasteful and enhance the sacredness and dignity of the liturgy.
- For wedding Masses the congregation should sing the: Responsorial Psalm, Alleluia, Holy, Holy, Holy, the Memorial Acclamation and the Great Amen.
- Consider your guests when planning music as well as the length and number of songs, as this effects the natural flow of the ceremony.
- Favorite or sentimental love songs, while nice and meaningful, may be more appropriate for the reception and wedding dance after the ceremony.
- Employ vocalists and instrumentalists who are professionals and experienced in working in Catholic liturgical settings. This will enhance all of the aspects of your wedding.
- Book your musicians and/vocalist early. A list of parish musicians are on the back page.

Initial Meeting with Parish Leadership

All engaged couples are to meet with the priest or deacon to begin the marriage preparation process. At this meeting, initial paperwork will be filled out, parish wedding guidelines are reviewed, ceremony options are given and your FOCCUS survey will be discussed. A list of parish musicians will also be provided at this time. We recommend booking your musician(s) and singers as soon as you know your planned wedding date.

Baptism Certificates

Catholic and non-Catholic Christians are to request a certificate of Baptism from their church of Baptism. Please contact that church for a **new** copy of your Baptismal Certificate. This certificate needs to contain notations of sacraments you have received. If you were baptized at Corpus Christi, we will do this for you.

FOCCUS

FOCCUS (Facilitating Open Communication Couples Understanding Study), is a pre-marriage inventory required by the Diocese of Green Bay for all couples being married. This program requires several sessions with an assigned FoCcus couple. In the first session the couple will complete the inventory and discuss the basis for their relationship. The following sessions are set to review the answers on the inventory and assess the couples readiness for the Sacrament of Marriage.

Marriage Preparation Course

You will receive a diocesan "Marriage Preparation" brochure at your first preparation session with registration dates and times. At the second meeting with the priest or deacon you will discuss the results of the FoCcus assessment and they will advise you which seminar to take. If you live outside the diocese area, an equivalent class offered through the diocese you reside in may be substituted. A certificate of completion from a Diocesan Marriage Preparation program must be added to your file at least two weeks prior to the date of your ceremony.

Marriage Forms

- Diocesan forms will need to be completed regarding the bride and groom's background information and the freedom to marry. This will be done while meeting with parish leadership.
- Any forms regarding an annulment, dispensation or civil divorce must be presented at the first engaged couple meeting. Copies of the marriage license of the previous marriage, annulment and civil divorce decree must be provided for your file. (*Only if applicable)
- Both parties must be present when applying for a marriage license. Apply to the county clerk in either of the counties in which either party resides. If neither party resides in Wisconsin, then apply in the county in which the marriage is to take place. Five days must lapse between the application and the issuance of the license. The license is good for thirty days. Give the license to the priest or deacon at the time of rehearsal.

*If either the bride or groom have been married previously, either in a church (any religion) or civilly, and have not gone through an Annulment or Lack of Canonical process, it is **extremely important that they notify the parish office immediately.**

Scripture

Readings from the Bible

Your wedding provides you a unique opportunity to be intimately involved in the choice of scripture passages you wish to use for your wedding. The book "Together for Life" by Joseph Chaplin will be provided for you at the first engaged couple meeting. This is a wonderful time for you and your future spouse to read scriptures together and see how the Bible holds the institution of marriage to such a sacred state and union of two people, but one heart.

Mixed Faith Marriages

Canon/Church Law

- Baptized Catholics marry before a priest or deacon, two adult witnesses, and in the Catholic Church.
- An understanding of the Catholic Sacrament of Marriage and a commitment to the Church by displaying a life of stewardship including the gifts of prayer, service and sharing.
- If either the bride or groom is not Catholic, a wedding without the Eucharist is suggested.
- A commitment to raise any children of the marriage in the ways and tradition of the Roman Catholic Faith will be made by the Catholic party.