

Policies for the
Sacrament of Matrimony
Blessed Trinity Church, Frankenmuth

Catholic weddings are unique in three ways:

1. The minister of the Sacrament is not the minister but the couple.
2. Those attending are called to do actual worship of God.
3. The marriage liturgy must treat the bride and groom as co-equal.

These principles greatly affect how things happen during Catholic weddings.

NOTE: All Catholic weddings celebrated in English throughout the world have recently undergone a significant revision, and the major changes are listed at the end of these wedding policies.

A. THE WEDDING

When both bride and groom are Catholic, the wedding is a Mass. When only one is Catholic, the wedding is a ceremony, not a Mass.

For the use of Blessed Trinity Church there is a fee of \$500.

Catholic weddings are not normally celebrated during the season of Lent. Weddings during Advent may not have poinsettias or Christmas carols.

*Time: Saturday afternoons until 1:00. Only one wedding will be scheduled per Saturday. The wedding party on Saturday should be clear of the church by 3:30 pm to allow time to prepare for the 5 pm Saturday Mass. Evenings and weekday times for weddings are also available.

Members of the wedding party should plan on the wedding starting on time.

B. THE WEDDING PARTY

All members in the entrance procession should be old enough to understand what a wedding is. Thus, children in the entrance procession should ideally be at least 5 years old.

Wedding attire should not impede anyone from normal movement and posture during the wedding. Everyone will be expected to sit during parts of the liturgy. ***Glitter: Please do not use dresses or decorations which have glitter on them. It is almost impossible to clean up.**

C. THE ENTRANCE PROCESSION

The entrance procession will include all members of the wedding party, as well as the officiating minister. Both bride and groom should be walked down the aisle, by both parents if possible. **The congregation will stand as soon as the procession begins, just as on Sunday, and the melody will be the same throughout the entire procession.**

Flower girls may not drop anything in the aisle.

The Baptism font will be flowing throughout the entire marriage liturgy.

After the entire wedding party has entered, there is a sung hymn appropriate for the Sacrament of Matrimony.

D. MUSIC

Our parish Music Director is Alissa Hetzner. She must be the *first* person contacted regarding music for your wedding. Except for serious reasons, parish musicians must be used for the wedding. **Be sure to contact Alissa at least 4 months before your wedding, and before you make any musical arrangements.** Alissa will prepare a printed worship aid for the wedding.

Keep in mind that...

...music for Catholic weddings needs to be liturgical music designed for worship.

...the same melody will be used for the entrance of both the bride and groom.

...pre-recorded music may not be used.

...the parish musicians will specify their own fees.

Alissa Hetzner's email is ahetzne74@gmail.com

E. READINGS: Non-scriptural readings cannot be used.

F. DECORATIONS

*Seasonal: Keep in mind that the church may already be considerably decorated (Advent, Christmas, winter, Easter, autumn, etc.) **No decorations or furniture in church may be rearranged or removed at any time. Be sure to inform your florist and photographer of this.**

*Floral: Artificial flowers/plants/trees/floral arches are not permitted.

*Tape may not be used on church pews or chairs.

*Candles: The candles already in the sanctuary are the only candles permitted.

*Unity Candles and colored sand are no longer an option in Catholic weddings.

*Runner: Aisle cloths or runners may not be used.

*Rice: Throwing of rice, confetti, or birdseed is not permitted.

G. BRIDE'S ROOM

The bride and bridesmaids may use the bride's room. The groom and groomsmen should arrive at church already dressed.

Please appoint someone to check the church and bride's room to clean up afterwards and to remove any materials you brought with you.

H. PHOTOGRAPHY

Photographers should be instructed to respect the sacredness of the church building and to be inconspicuous during the liturgy. There should be no flash pictures taken once the liturgy has begun.

The taking of pictures after Saturday weddings must end by 3:30 pm.

In taking pictures after the wedding, all must conduct themselves in a reverent manner as befits a house of prayer. **Do not move church furniture, candles, or church decorations.**

I. VIDEO

Videographers should follow the guidelines for photographers above.

J. THE REHEARSAL

The rehearsal must be conducted by the minister officiating at the wedding.

Anyone reading at the wedding should be present at the rehearsal.

Ushers should be present at the rehearsal.

The marriage license must be brought to the church at the rehearsal. It will be kept overnight at the parish.

K. ALCOHOL & DRUGS

There may not be any use of alcoholic beverages or other controlled substances on Blessed Trinity property. Inform all members of the wedding party that anyone under the influence will be asked to leave.

Catholic weddings celebrated in English have been recently revised by the Church. Not everything is as it was. Here are the major changes:

1. When two Catholics are married, it is now expected that the wedding will be a Mass, unless a serious reason prevents it.
2. When only one member of the couple is Catholic, the wedding is not a Mass.
3. Both the bride and groom are expected to be part of the entrance procession. (The groom and groomsmen may not enter separately on the side.)
4. Whenever possible, brides and grooms are to be walked down the aisle by both parents. This provides a visual presentation of the Biblical view of the bride and groom “leaving father and mother and clinging to one another.”
5. Catholic weddings should include a sung entrance hymn after the entrance procession, whether the wedding is a Mass or not.
6. The Gloria is now sung at all Wedding Masses.
7. There is no longer an option for couples to write their own vows.
8. Unity candles or colored sand are no longer included in the wedding.
9. Recorded music may not be used.
10. At least one Scripture reading must refer to marriage.
11. Those who proclaim Scripture readings at a Wedding Mass must be Catholic. Non-Catholics may be a reader if the wedding is not a Mass.