

## Wedding Rehearsal and Liturgy Logistics

The following information should be helpful as you prepare for your marriage with the presiding priest or deacon. Usually this is done several months before the wedding so that you have ample time to prepare a program and ask family members to participate.

### Bridal Room

The bridal room is available for the bride and bridal party prior to the wedding in the Campus Ministry hallway. This hallway is up the ramp from the bookstore.

### Groomsmen Room

There is usually another room available for the groom and groomsmen. Should you need additional space please request it.

### Prelude

Music is normally played as guests take their seats for fifteen minutes prior to the start of your wedding.

### Seating of the Mothers

Should you choose to have a ceremonial seating of the mothers or parents, the mothers or parents will be seated approximately three minutes prior to the start of the wedding. The prelude music will accompany this action.

### Processional

The process many take one of two forms:

- A) The bridal party with groomsmen and bridesmaids process together as couples.
- B) The bridesmaids process and the groomsmen meet them either halfway up the aisle or at the foot of the altar.

With either form, the bride and groom may process together or the groom may meet the bride at the altar. The bride may also choose to be escorted by parent(s) or other influential persons.

The presiding priest or deacon may choose to be a part of the procession, or the presider may enter from the sacristy.

### Seating

The bride and groom, after consultation with presiding priest or deacon, may choose one of two options for their seating during the ceremony:

- A) Bride and groom (with or without the Best Man and Maid of Honor) may be seated in the sanctuary to the right of the altar
- B) Bride and groom may have chairs on the floor between altar and first row (not directly in front of the altar)

### Liturgy of the Word

We will send you the book, "Together for Life" which contains suggested readings and prayers for your wedding. Review this book before you meet with your presiding priest or deacon.

The bride and groom should choose their readings in consultation with their presiding priest or deacon. The bride and groom may also choose family members or friends to proclaim the readings. Copies of the readings taken from the Rite of Marriage will be available at the rehearsal.

#### Lighting of the Unity Candle

This is optional. Normally the mothers will light the side candles. The couple approach the candle; each using a side candle, together they light the unity candle. Then, being careful not to blow out the newly lit candle, they extinguish the side candles.

#### Prayers of the Faithful

The bride and groom may choose to add appropriate prayers in consultation with their presiding priest or deacon. A friend or family member may read these prayers.

#### Presentation of the Bread and Wine

The bride and groom may choose family or friends to present the gifts. The gifts will be brought from the back of the chapel. The bread and wine are presented. Other items are not permitted in the presentation.

#### Nuptial Blessing (Follows the Lord's Prayer)

If the bride and groom are seated in the front rows, they will move to the foot of the altar.

#### Sign of Peace

The bride and groom may choose to exchange peace with the bridal party and immediate family.

#### Communion

Communion is normally distributed under both bread and wine. The bride and groom may choose two family members or friends to assist with the distribution of communion. However, anyone who assists with communion must already be an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist.

The wedding coordinator will assist with communion if no family members are able to assist.

#### [Dedication to the Virgin Mary]

This is an optional rite. The bride and groom may walk to the icon of Mary in the back of the chapel together. The bride may also choose to walk alone or with another family member, and may choose to leave a flower on the small table in front of the icon of Mary. An appropriate song is typically sung at this point (e.g., Ave Maria).

## WEDDING CEREMONY PROGRAM OUTLINES

### Liturgy Outline - Program for full mass (with communion)

Prelude  
[Seating of Mothers]

Introductory Rite  
Processional  
Greeting  
Opening Prayer

Liturgy of the Word  
First Reading  
Psalm Response  
Second Reading  
Gospel Acclamation  
Gospel  
Homily

Rite of Marriage  
Exchange of Vows  
Blessing and Exchange of Rings  
[Lighting of Unity Candle]  
General Intercessions

Liturgy of the Eucharist  
Preparation of the Eucharistic Gifts  
Eucharistic Prayer  
Acclamations  
Lord's Prayer  
Nuptial Blessing  
Sign of Peace  
Lamb of God  
Communion  
Prayer after Communion  
[Dedication to the Virgin Mary]

Concluding Rite  
Final Blessing and Dismissal  
Recessional

## **Liturgy Outline - Program for Liturgy of the Word (without communion)**

Prelude

[Seating of the Mothers]

Introductory Rite

Processional

Greeting

Opening Prayer

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Psalm Response

Second Reading

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel

Homily

Rite of Marriage

Exchange of Vows

Blessing and Exchange of Vows

[Lighting of the Unity Candle]

General Intercessions

Lord's Prayer

Nuptial Blessing

[Dedication to the Virgin Mary]

Concluding Rite

Final Blessing and Dismissal

Recessional

