

Wedding Plans and Music

Discussion topics

1. A Church wedding invites God into your new life together.
Plan it with God in mind.
2. Read from Rite Book. Discuss.
3. *What do you promise, to each other?
* What you promise to society:
* What you promise to God:
4. Why do you want a Catholic Wedding?
5. Witness: Our wedding plans and our wedding day.
6. P.M. Focus and visit with pastor
7. Plan early. Plan with your priest or deacon before you print invitations or rent a hall. You cannot make the most important part of your wedding subject to less important part.
8. Wedding during a Mass, or without a Mass. Usually if both parties are Catholics in the State of Grace it should be within a Holy Mass. If one is not Catholic, use good judgment.
9. Choosing appropriate music.
 - Music minister
 - Soloist
 - They need to know how to play liturgical parts of Holy Mass.
 - Gathering time music before Mass.
 - Many secular love songs better at reception if at all.

11. Readings, petitions, etc.

- Trained and able. Parish provides? Ask Pastor.
- Loud enough, clear, and not rushed.
- Reflect reverence for the Word of God.

12. Parish guidelines. Stick to parish and Church rules.

- Be registered in your home parish.
- Catholic weddings need to be in a holy place. Not in a park or hot air balloon.
- Normally the wedding is in the parish of the bride. If it is in another parish you will need the permission of the brides pastor.
- You will need your baptismal certificates.
- other

13. A wedding, especially a Catholic wedding is not a private affair. It is a public proclamation of your lifelong commitment of love for each other. It is a liturgical and public affair. You need a license from the state and you need to meet the requirements of the Church. While you are given broad leeway in planning your wedding, remember, it is a liturgy and a sacrament. The priest is in charge of this holy event. You and God are in charge of the honeymoon.

14. About Practice the night before. Be Sober. Make your wedding party aware that your wedding is a holy affair in a holy place. A Christian marriage is not a dirty joke. Foster respect for 2000 years of accumulated wisdom in the Catholic Church. Remind everyone to respect the real presence of Jesus in the tabernacle. All should kneel and pray silently while waiting for Father.

15. Attendants, Flower Girls, etc. should not upstage the proper center of attention. Nothing should detract attention from the Bride, the Groom and the Lord Jesus.
- - A wedding is not a competition. Celebrate your love and commitment and not your extravagance.
16. The Reception celebration is important too and God also belongs there.
- Have fun but keep it from being an occasion for sin.
 - Choose someone to lead a short prayer before the meal.
 - Do not be a scandal or give a bad impression of Catholics in general or your holy marriage in particular.
 - Start out by putting God's way of life first.
 - Remember, your future children will hear the stories.
17. Pictures. Most pastors allow pretty much freedom to take pictures. Some other pastors may not want the holy parts of the ceremony tarnished by in-your-face photographers and flash bulbs etc. They would rather pose and re-enact these pictures with you after mass.
18. Go to Confession before your wedding. You cannot activate the sacramental grace of Marriage if you are in deadly sin.
- If you are sexually active now, you must quit and save it for the honeymoon. You must quit as soon as you realize you want to live a Christian life together.
 - The forgiveness of sins, even in confession, depends on being sorry and not intending to do the sin again.
19. Pray together for your wedding and for your married life together.

20. Catholic Inquiry and RCIA,

- (A) Understanding your Catholic partners faith. (Inquiry)
- (B) If you want to be Catholic too. RCIA process overview
- (C) Returning Catholic: 6 sessions 3 times a year, or RCIA and confession. In some cases just the comfort of a holy Confession

21. Handouts folder. This day is supposed to be a weekend. You are on your honor to finish it. For the good of your life together and your eternal salvation finish this course. The handouts are designed to both review and provide new things to think about. Do not use them all at once. Use them one at a time at least a day apart. Read them over together and discuss them.

22. Any questions? Now or anytime, Just call any of us, or Father .or Howard or Ruth, 753-2599. This is true tomorrow, next week next year or anytime. We are there for you.