



**STS. PETER AND PAUL CHURCH**

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# MARRIAGE PREPARATION

**STS. PETER AND PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH**



## THE RITE OF MARRIAGE

*“I promise to be true to you in good times  
and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love  
you and honor you all the days of my life.”*



## PHONE NUMBERS

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**Parish Office** ..... 407-657-6114

Marriage Preparation Coordinator

Denise Locetta-Farrington ..... Ext. 260

Business Manager

David Lawton ..... Ext. 234

**Annulments**

Fr. Derk Schudde ..... 407-657-6114

**FOCCUS Assignments**

Cindy Levesque ..... 407-657-8198

**Director of Liturgy/Rehearsal Coordinator**

Aaron Kohl ..... Ext. 232

**Catholic Charities**

Main Number ..... 407-658-1818



## CHECKLIST

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- Meet with priest or deacon for an interview
- Submit Baptismal Certificates
- Submit Witness Forms
- Complete FOCCUS
- Complete Pre-Cana
- Meet with Musician (4-6 weeks before ceremony)
- Meet with Presider (4-6 weeks before ceremony)
- Pay wedding fee one month before the ceremony



## CONGRATULATIONS!

Your decision to enter into the Sacrament of Marriage is indeed a reason to celebrate. In the Sacrament of Baptism you were called to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. In the Sacrament of Confirmation you were reminded to bear witness to your discipleship. In the Sacrament of Marriage you are called to witness to love. However, the love you are to witness is not just human love, but the love of God reflected in your lives. Your lifelong commitment to love mirrors God's unending love for us.

Marriage is a beautiful life! But it does require commitment. It is too easy to take love for granted. It is too easy to allow the routine and stress of daily life to weaken your relationship. This time of marriage preparation is so important to the future of your marriage. Hopefully, you will be given the necessary tools to face the challenges of life so that you will always be there for each other, so that you will always reflect God's love.

I pray that you will have a long and happy life together, that God will bless you, and that you, in turn, will bless God's people with your witness to love.



Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Fr. Derk*

Rev. Derk Schudde, Pastor

# MARRIAGE PREPARATION

## FOCCUS

Facilitating Open Couple Communication, Understanding and Study is a self-discovery inventory to help target and work through issues important to marriage, such as: dual careers, lifestyle expectations, parenting, finances, extended family, and values. You will be paired with a FOCCUS couple who will guide you through this process.

## PRE-CANA

Our marriage preparation program is called the G.I.F.T. (Growing Intimacy Together Forever) It is designed to help couples develop the necessary skills for a healthy and holy marriage. Twice a year, in either the spring or the fall, couples meet for eight evenings, once a week, for two hours, with other engaged couples and other marriage couples of the parish.

## DOCUMENTATION

- ◆ **Pre-Nuptial Questionnaire:** This form will be completed with you by a clergyman during your initial interview.
- ◆ **Freedom of Marriage Witness Forms:** Four forms, two per person, must be completed by well-known persons who can testify to your freedom to marry each other. These forms must be notarized or signed in the presence of a priest.
- ◆ **Baptismal Certificates:** Catholics must provide a new certificate, issued not more than six months before the wedding. This can be done by calling or writing to your church of baptism and is usually free. Baptized non-Catholics will need to provide proof of baptism.
- ◆ **Dispensation:** A Catholic needs permission from the Bishop to marry a non-Catholic. This is handled by the parish office.

## DRESSING ROOMS

The bride may use the choir room to prepare herself for the ceremony. However, all members of the bridal party, including the bride, must arrive at the church already dressed for the ceremony. The other bridal parties and parishioners will be grateful if you leave the chapel, bathrooms, choir room, and gathering space in a better condition than you found them.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

- ◆ Photographs and videos are great reminders of your wedding, but please remember that the ceremony is first and foremost a prayer service.
- ◆ Photographers and videographers should locate an unobtrusive spot and remain there.
- ◆ Please, no flash photography during the ceremony.
- ◆ Out of respect for others using the chapel and church, photographs after the wedding must be completed by 11:20 a.m., 1:20 p.m., and 3:20 p.m., respectively.

## FOOD AND DRINK

No food or drink is allowed anywhere in the church building. Please, no chewing gum in church.

## MUSIC

The wedding ceremony is first and foremost a prayer service. Secular music is not permitted. Our music director will help you to make your appropriate selections.

## GENERAL GUIDELINES

### ARRIVAL TIME

Plan on arriving about one hour before the wedding. In fairness to others, we will make every effort to start your wedding ceremony on schedule.

### FLOWERS

- ◆ Pew ribbons and flowers may be used provided that they are attached with protected wiring. No tape please.
- ◆ Contact our Director of Liturgy, Aaron Kohl, for placement of flowers. Care must be used not to block movement, sight lines, aisles, or the altar
- ◆ The dropping of flower pedals and birdseed is not allowed, either inside or outside of the church
- ◆ Florists may make deliveries one hour before the wedding. Please be respectful of any other service being conducted in the church.

### CANDLES

The parish will provide all necessary candles for the ceremony. Candles and candelabras attached to the pew ends are not allowed. The use of Unity Candles is no longer permitted.

### AISLE RUNNERS

No aisle runners or aisle cloths are allowed.

### RINGS

The Best Man holds both rings. The rings should be removed from any box before the ceremony. The Ring Bearer should be provided with ceremonial rings only.

### SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

- ◆ **Prior Marriage:** A couple cannot be married in the Catholic Church if one or both parties has been in a previous marriage. This applies to both Catholics and non-Catholics. In order to be married in the Catholic Church, annulments must be granted for all prior marriages. Please discuss these details thoroughly with the clergyman at the initial interview. If necessary, he will refer you to our diocese's annulment coordinator, Gigi Santiago.

*Please Note: Marriage preparation may not begin, nor my a date for marriage be set, until all annulments are granted.*

- ◆ **Convalidation:** If you have been marriage outside of the Catholic Church and now wish to have your marriage blessed and recognized by the Catholic Church, you will need to begin a modified marriage preparation program. Any previous marriages must have been granted an annulment before your current marriage can be convalidated.
- ◆ **Youthful Marriage:** If either party is under the age of 19 permission must be given by the parents. In addition, the couple will be referred to Catholic Charities for a pre-marital evaluation.
- ◆ **Death Certificate:** If a former spouse of either party is deceased, please provide a copy of the death certificate.
- ◆ **Pregnancy:** The Church always wants the best for the couple and for the expected child. Pregnancy of itself is not reason enough to be married or to omit the usual six month preparation process. Every effort will be made to ensure that you are truly ready for marriage. The couple will be referred to Catholic Charities for a pre-marital evaluation.

# PLANNING YOUR WEDDING

## SETTING THE DATE

The wedding date may be set after the initial interview with the clergyman. Any available date may be selected at least six months after the initial interview.

## SETTING THE TIME

All weddings take place on Saturdays at either 10 a.m., 12 noon, or 2 p.m.

## SELECTING THE LOCATION

All marriages are usually celebrated in the chapel. The chapel seats 160 people. Permission from the pastor is required for a wedding ceremony in the main church. If you wish to hold your ceremony in another Catholic church, please provide the pertinent information and the parish office will contact that church with the proper documentation.

## SELECTING THE CEREMONY

If both parties are Catholic, a Catholic Mass is an option, but not required. The Nuptial Mass is about one hour. When one party is not Catholic, a wedding ceremony outside of Mass is usual. This ceremony is about one half hour.

## DECORATIONS

Please contact our Director of Liturgy, Aaron Kohl, with all questions concerning decorations, flowers, pew bows, candles, rings, and dressings rooms.

## WEDDING PROGRAMS

Wedding programs are not required, but can aid in the fuller participation of those present.

## REHEARSAL

Rehearsals are usually on Fridays at either 5, 6, or 7 pm. Please contact our Director of Liturgy, Aaron Kohl, for any questions prior to the rehearsal. Please remind the wedding party to arrive early.

*Please Note: Bring your marriage license to the rehearsal and give it to the rehearsal coordinator.*

## LITURGY PREPARATION

Please contact the clergyman performing your ceremony at least 4-6 weeks beforehand to finalize the details of the ceremony. Please have the pull-out card from the *Together for Life* book completed and ready for the clergyman.

## MUSIC PREPARATION

Please contact the parish music director, at least 4-6 weeks before your ceremony in order to finalize your music selections. At the music director's discretion, other musicians and singers may be considered depending on their proficiency and preparation.

## FEES

The offering for a marriage is \$500. If you will be married at another church and are only completing your marriage preparation in this parish, the offering is \$100. With the pastor's permission, the offering for a marriage in the main body of the church is \$1,000. This fee includes all marriage preparation materials; documentation; the use of the facilities; and the services of the marriage coordinator, rehearsal coordinator, sacristan, priest, and musician.