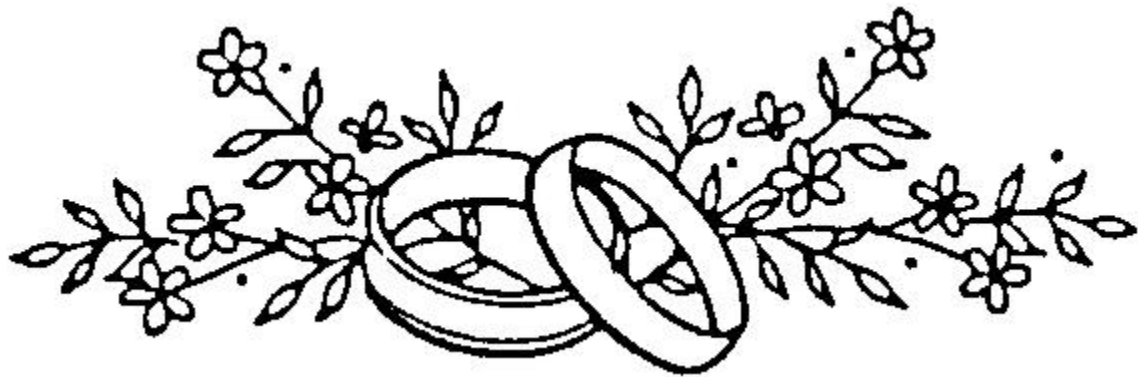


Celebrating Marriage

Policies and guidelines for wedding couples



Church of the Resurrection

3315 Greencastle Road

Burtonsville, MD 20866

301-236-5200

Updated: May 2024

Congratulations!

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The sacrament of marriage is a wonderful gift and vocation to holiness. The Church wants to assist you with this calling to a life of self-giving and commitment.

This pamphlet has been prepared to help in your preparation for this special day – special not only in your life, but in the life of the Church.

STEPS FOR MARRIAGE PREPARATION AT CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

Contact the parish **at least six months in advance** of the wedding to allow enough time to complete the required preparation. Contact: Rev. John Barry (301) 236-5200

1. Make an appointment for your first meeting with a priest or deacon of the parish. During this initial meeting, you will be invited to share your stories and your journey toward this holy sacrament. The priest or deacon will also share with you the parish's policies for weddings and suggest marriage preparation programs appropriate for you. You will also receive a copy of the book, *Together for Life*, which will answer frequently asked questions about the celebration of Catholic Weddings and which will also assist you in preparing for your wedding ceremony at Resurrection Parish.

2. Make an appointment for a second meeting with the same priest or deacon to complete the necessary paperwork for your marriage record. It is important to note that all required paperwork, especially any petition for an annulment of a previous marriage, must be completed and received by our parish before your wedding or convalidation ceremony can be scheduled.

3. Determine the date, time, and most suitable type of service. Schedule your rehearsal (usually held on Friday night before the ceremony). Reserve, if needed, the parish hall for your reception. Weddings must be scheduled NO LATER than 1:00pm (on Saturdays).

4. Make payment to Resurrection Parish for the use of the church, which will also include a deposit. Sign a contract if you choose to use the parish hall for reception.

5. Participate in a marriage preparation program that addresses your specific issues and needs – and your work schedules. A certificate of completion must be received by the parish. There are different types of programs you can choose from:

- **Washington Archdiocese's Marriage Preparation Program**
Contact: 301-853-4546
- **Three to Get Married Course.**
Bethesda Retreat Center
Contact: 301-365-0612

Living Your Marriage as a Sacrament Course, Resurrection Parish's course that is especially designed for couples who have lived more than two years in a civil marriage. (Couples who have lived less than two years in a civil marriage must participate in a marriage preparation course.)

6. Make an appointment for a final meeting to go over your marriage or convalidation ceremony. Contact the priest or deacon who will be celebrating the ceremony about one month before the wedding. Complete the Selection Form found in the back pages of the book, *Together For Life*.

7. Obtain your Marriage License and give it to the priest or deacon at least two weeks before the ceremony.

POLICIES FOR WEDDINGS

MUSIC

Contact: Annick Kanter-St. Hubert (301-236-5201)

The parish hopes that those who gather for your wedding or convalidation ceremony will be able to pray with you. Singing is one of the best ways to do this. This is why using only instrumental music or a soloist is discouraged. Instead, we recommend using a cantor/leader of song who is trained to encourage everyone to sing.

All music sung at your wedding should be appropriate in a religious context. When the date of your wedding is set, please contact the music director, Annick Kanter-St. Hubert, to set aside a meeting time. During that meeting, she and the organist will play/sing excerpts of music most often requested for wedding ceremonies, in order to help you choose your own musical selections. You will then receive a copy of your choices, in the correct liturgical order, including names of composers. If you wish to hire instrumentals, they will be happy to recommend several fine musicians. An additional fee will be charged if extra rehearsals with them or outside soloists are requested.

DECORATIONS

The parish is always decorated in accord with the current liturgical season (Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Ordinary time). When selecting decorations for your celebration, it is necessary to respect the current liturgical season. Decorations contrary to the current season, such as poinsettias during Advent, are not permitted. You are responsible for supplying your decorations: flower arrangements, etc.

Decorations may be placed anywhere in the church except the altar itself. Please be sure to take all of your decorations with you when you leave. Flower arrangements may be left for the parish to enjoy.

- Flower petals, rice, birdseed and confetti is never to be thrown or dropped inside or outside of the church. It is a potential hazard which can easily cause someone to slip and fall. Petals also leave stains on carpet and sidewalks.
- The use of an aisle runner is not permitted because “rolling out a white carpet” gives the appearance of separating the procession of ministers and attendants as an elite group apart from the assembly. There is also a safety hazard because the church is carpeted.
- Candelabra and elaborate altar structures are not permitted due to fire code.
- Pew bows are permitted, as long as they are clipped to the pews; tape is not permitted, as it removes the wood finish and can easily mar the pews. Pew cords are not allowed since they block the aisles and cause a potential safety issue.

CAMERAS AND VIDEO CAMERAS

If you hire someone to photograph or record your wedding, they should be sensitive to the fact that what is taking place is a religious ceremony. Video cameras must be set in one place and may not be moved around the church. Photographers should talk to the celebrant before the wedding – the day of the wedding is fine.

Relatives and friends who attend the wedding ceremony should also be aware of the same sensitivities.

PROFESSIONAL FEES

The minimum church fees are listed below:

Church fees	\$500 (includes cleaning)
Organist	\$200
Cantor	\$200
Priest/Deacon (Resurrection)	\$100 (suggested donation)
Visiting priest/deacon	Give directly to visiting priest or deacon

SCHEDULING

Weddings on Saturdays must start no later than 1:00 PM. Wedding party, all guests, and decorations must be cleared out of the church by 3:15PM at the latest.

No weddings will be scheduled during other sacramental or parish-related events in the church (baptisms, confessions, Adoration/Benediction)

AMADEO HALL

The Amadeo Hall is a social hall that wedding couples can reserve for their wedding reception.

The hall holds **250 people** maximum.

Please contact the office for more information: 301-236-5200