

The Sacrament of Matrimony

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Lumen Christi Catholic Community

2055 Bohland Avenue

Saint Paul, Minnesota 55116

(651) 698-5581

MARRIED CHRISTIANS, IN VIRTUE OF THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY, SIGNIFY AND SHARE IN THE MYSTERY OF THAT UNITY AND FRUITFUL LOVE WHICH EXISTS BETWEEN CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH; THEY HELP EACH OTHER TO ATTAIN TO HOLINESS IN THEIR MARRIED LIFE AND IN THE REARING AND EDUCATION OF THEIR CHILDREN; AND THEY HAVE THEIR OWN SPECIAL GIFT AMONG THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

(RITE OF CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE)

INTRODUCTION

The staff of Lumen Christi Catholic Community welcomes the opportunity to help you in the careful planning and celebration of your marriage liturgy. The following guidelines are meant to assist you in making this special day in your lives. Please do not hesitate to call us if you need any assistance. The office phone number is (651) 698-5581.

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PREPARATION PROCESS

Marriage is one of the most important commitments a person can make in life. The Catholic Church has designed the marriage preparation process to help a couple to understand the nature of the commitment they are making. The preparation process at Lumen Christi will help you to build a foundation for the life-long covenant of love.

Marriage preparation at Lumen Christi must begin **at least six months** before your planned wedding date. You or your parents must have a connection with Lumen Christi in order to be married in the parish. Normally this means being registered and active members of Lumen Christi. No wedding date will be set until all church and civil requirements are ascertained.

The marriage preparation process has two parts, both of which are required.

1. We require that you take a Pre-Marriage Inventory and review the results of this inventory with one of our marriage mentor couples. The inventory is designed to help the couple identify their initial strengths and challenges as they prepare for their life-long covenant of marriage. At these meetings you will discuss the results of the inventory and talk about the religious commitment and the meaning of a sacramental marriage.
2. We require that you attend an Archdiocesan Pre-Marriage Conference. This is normally a weekend or multiple day retreat that you attend with other engaged couples. The conference involves large and small group discussions as well as time to discuss issues as a couple. The conference will be very helpful in addressing different aspects of Christian marriage. You will be given a brochure with dates and times of several options for the engaged conferences. The fee for this conference is your responsibility and not part of the parish's wedding fee.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

1. You must provide a **recent copy of your baptismal certificate** from your parish of baptism. This cannot be the copy that you or your parents received when you were baptized. To get a copy of your baptismal certificate simply call the parish where you were baptized. Tell them you are getting married and they will send it to you.
2. **A marriage license valid in the State of Minnesota** is required and ***must be obtained by the couple themselves***. Once you have applied for the license it must be used within 6 months. It takes about 10 days to get a license. Please deliver the license to the parish office at least two weeks before your wedding date—to the attention of the priest who is witnessing your ceremony.
3. Other documents may be required depending on the status of the parties.

CHURCH FEE OPTIONS FOR MARRIAGE PREPARATION

A: IF YOU WILL BE DOING THE MARRIAGE PREPARATION PROCESS & CELEBRATING YOUR WEDDING AT LUMEN CHRISTI

Lumen Christi asks for a suggested minimum donation of \$700.00 to have your wedding witnessed here.

Included in this cost is:

- Scoring of the Pre-Marriage Inventory.
- Individual marriage preparation meeting, including one liturgical music planning consultation.
- Keyboard and Cantor fees (there will be additional fees if there are special requests or additional rehearsals are required for the Cantor).
- A Wedding Coordinator who will meet with you to discuss placement of flowers, pictures, help with the program, the facilities, and Church policies. The Coordinator will lead the rehearsal and be available on the day of your wedding. Please contact the Wedding Coordinator at least one month in advance of your wedding day and feel free to contact the Coordinator anytime with issues or concerns regarding your wedding.
- The use of a music preparation CD containing a wide variety of music selections.
- Wedding planning booklet, "When Christians Marry."
- The Rehearsal itself.
- Use of the church for 5 hours on your wedding day and for one hour for your rehearsal.

A \$300.00 deposit must be made in order to confirm the wedding date. This can be paid when you meet with the pastor. The balance is due prior to the wedding rehearsal.

Please note that the pre-marriage conference/retreat required by the Archdiocese is NOT covered in these costs.

Special Note

If either party has been previously married in any form of ceremony, religious or civil, an investigation of the freedom to marry again in the Catholic Church must first be conducted before any marriage plans can be made. You should contact the priest well in advance of any intention to remarry for the investigation may take over a year to complete.

B: IF YOU WILL BE DOING THE MARRIAGE PREPARATION PROCESS AT LUMEN CHRISTI BUT WILL BE CELEBRATING THE WEDDING IN ANOTHER CHURCH

The suggested minimum donation is \$250.00

Included in this cost is:

- Scoring of the Pre-Marriage Inventory.
- Individual marriage preparation meetings.
- Filing and processing all the necessary paperwork for the archdiocese.

This fee should be paid before the marriage preparation sessions have ended. Please note that the pre-marriage conference/retreat required by the Archdiocese is not covered in this cost.

C: IF YOU WILL BE CELEBRATING YOUR WEDDING AT LUMEN CHRISTI BUT DOING YOUR WEDDING PREPARATION PROCESS AT ANOTHER PARISH

The suggested minimum donation is \$500.00.

Included in this cost is:

- One liturgical music planning consultation.
- Keyboard and Cantor fees (there will be additional fees if additional rehearsals are required).
- A Wedding Coordinator who will meet with you to discuss placement of flowers, pictures, help with the program, the facilities, and Church policies. The Coordinator will lead the rehearsal and be available on the day of your wedding. Please contact the Wedding Coordinator at least one month in advance of your wedding day and feel free to contact the Coordinator anytime with issues or concerns regarding your wedding.
- Free loan of a music preparation CD containing a wide variety of music selections.
- Wedding planning booklet, "When Christians Marry,"
- The Rehearsal itself.
- Use of the church for 5 hours on your wedding day and for one hour for your rehearsal.

This fee should be paid before the wedding rehearsal

A \$300.00 deposit must be made in order to confirm the wedding date.

WEDDING CEREMONY

The Wedding Liturgy is the Church's prayer of blessing on your life together. It is, therefore, the Catholic marriage ritual that you will be celebrating. The priest will help you prepare for the actual ceremony before the wedding date. The priest will talk through the various aspects of the Catholic ceremony and give you some guidance to help you choose readings and other important aspects of the service.

A liturgy ritual form will be provided to assist you in planning the wedding liturgy. The Priest and the Music Director will help you complete the liturgy planning.

Readers:

You may have up to three readers participate at the liturgy—one for the Old Testament reading, one for the New Testament Letter and one person to read the General Intercessions. When choosing readers for the wedding liturgy, please make certain that they have some experience in public speaking; otherwise the readings from scripture may not be heard or understood by the community.

Other ceremony participants:

If your wedding involves a Mass, then you may also have family or friends bring up the gifts and trained Eucharistic ministers to help distribute communion.

Wedding Party:

Witnesses to marriage (best man and maid/matron of honor) must be at least 16 years old in Minnesota. Children who are in the wedding party should be old enough to take directions. They are usually seated with the parents of the couple during the ceremony.

MUSIC

All music for weddings at Lumen Christi is coordinated by the Director of Music. Please do not invite or hire guest singers or instrumentalists without first speaking to the Music Director. As your wedding date draws nearer, you should contact the Director of Music and set up an appointment for a consultation. If you have any questions related to music prior to your consultation meeting, please contact Mary Poepping, the Director of Music at (651) 698-5581, ext. 107.

We have wonderful Parish musicians. We urge you to use these musicians to sing and play for wedding liturgies. This ensures a desirable continuity with the church's regular worship life and protects Lumen Christi's mission to offer a consistent quality of liturgical music. It also assures that the service will go smoothly because the priest, cantor, organist and instrumentalists are all used to working with each other as well as within the unusual demands of our worship space.

The parish has professional musicians on call should you wish to augment the music for your wedding celebration. The following is a sample of available musicians together with their usual fees.

<u>Trumpet</u>	\$150
<u>Brass ensemble</u>	\$150 per player
<u>Violin/Flute</u>	\$150
<u>String Quartet</u>	\$600

Organist:

Lumen Christi's organist will play for your wedding. She is familiar with the unusual configuration of the parish's pipe organ. The organist also serves as coordinator for all the music for the ceremony.

Cantor:

You are welcome to request any of our cantors by name, or we will assign one for you.

Choice of Music:

Music is an integral part of the wedding liturgy. All music chosen needs to reference the sacred character of the sacrament.

PICTURES

We ask that no flash photography occur during the actual wedding ceremony. Flash photography may be taken during the processional and the recessional. The photographer may take pictures without flash during the ceremony provided that pictures are taken from the back of the church behind the guests in order that the photography does not detract from the ritual. Video cameras may be used in the designated area. Please ask photographers to check in with the priest or deacon before the ceremony. No photographer is allowed in the sanctuary or near the altar during the ceremony.

Preferably, pictures should be taken prior to the ceremony, and must be finished 30 minutes before the starting time of the wedding. If pictures are taken after the ceremony, you will have a very short period of time in order to do so, because of other obligations for use of the worship space. Please instruct the photographer accordingly.

CHURCH USE GUIDELINES

Wedding Coordinator: A Wedding Coordinator will lead the rehearsal and be present on the day of the ceremony. The coordinator will keep the liturgy running smoothly and will be available to assist you as the need arises.

Personal Wedding Coordinators: Persons hired by the wedding couple to assure the smooth flow of the wedding day for the bride and groom are subject to parish policies with regard to what is permitted on parish property. The couple should make sure that their personal coordinator be in contact with the Parish's Wedding Coordinator to approve of any suggestions they might offer.

No Alcohol Policy: No alcoholic beverages or drugs are permitted on church premises before, during or after the wedding or rehearsal. This includes the parking area.

Church Environment: You may add your flowers to the church's seasonal environment. However, you may not move or remove what is already in place. If you wish to have fresh flowers for the wedding Mass or ceremony, provisions should be made with a florist of your choice. Please note the size of the sanctuary when considering flowers. Flowers are not permitted in the Church during the season of Lent. If pew-end decorations are used, they must not damage the pews and must be removed immediately after the ceremony.

If you have questions regarding what type of environment will be set up for the time of your wedding, please speak with the Director of Liturgy & Music.

Church Clean-Up: Most weddings occur on weekends. The maintenance staff works during the week to assure that the Church is cleaned for your wedding and for the weekend liturgies that follow. We do not have maintenance personnel available for the weekend. Your wedding party is responsible to assure that all areas used by the wedding party are left in the condition they were found. Please make sure that members of the wedding party or other family can attend to this responsibility.

Aisle Runner: For safety reasons, the use of an aisle runner is not permitted.

Flowers, Rice, etc.: Flower petals (real or artificial) may not be strewn in the aisle. They stain the floor. Rice, bird seed, etc., may not be used either inside or outside the church.

Unity Candle: The lighting of a unity candle during the ceremony is not a part of the Catholic ritual. If you desire to have this ritual, you will be required to provide the candles. The parish

has a stand. Please consult with the wedding coordinator to determine the proper size for the stand.

Ushers: To help the wedding begin on time, please instruct the ushers to begin seating the guests immediately on arrival. The number of ushers should correspond to the expected number of family and guests.

Bride's Room: A room for the use of the bride and her attendants is available off of the main corridor, next to the Women's Restroom. All trash must be removed from the Bride's Room prior to or immediately following the wedding ceremony.

Sacristy: The groom and his attendants may use the sacristy to prepare for the wedding. All trash must be removed immediately after the ceremony.

Security: Please do not leave any unsupervised valuables anywhere in the church. Lumen Christi is not responsible for the loss or theft of any personal belongings. The main doors to the Church are scheduled to be unlocked and re-locked according to your reservation. **Do not prop open any doors for any reason whatsoever.** Doing so places building security in jeopardy.

Rehearsal: The wedding rehearsal should be scheduled with the priest who is presiding at your wedding and will be run by the wedding coordinator. Normally the rehearsal occurs on the evening before the wedding. Please make sure that **ALL** members of the wedding party (including ushers and the readers) are present at the scheduled rehearsal **on-time**. Other parish events may be scheduled for the church shortly after your scheduled rehearsal. We cannot guarantee sufficient time for your rehearsal if the wedding party is running late.

Keeping to the Schedule: As indicated above, wedding parties have exclusive use of the Church space and related areas of the building only during their reservation time. They are not to use non-reserved areas or go beyond their reservation time. We always begin the wedding procession at the scheduled time. Saturday confessions begin at 3:30 p.m. and the church must be vacated by that time.