

# Frequently Asked Questions?

## **When can we schedule our wedding date?**

Your wedding date and time may be scheduled after Step 2 of the Marriage Process-after you have initially met with the parish priest. Please book with the parish office at 480-614-8090.

## **What if one of us has been previously married?**

If either of you have been married before, whether in the Catholic Church or by any other civil or religious authority, even if you are not Catholic, you will need to obtain an annulment before being married in the Catholic Church. For more information, please contact us at 480-614-8090.

## **Can we bless our civil marriage?**

You may validate your civil marriage. In most cases, preparation for con-validation is very similar to the marriage preparation process. On a case-by-case basis, it can be customized to best serve the needs of each couple.

## **What is the cost to be married at St. Bernard of Clairvaux Catholic Church?**

*All final fees are due and payable no less than 30-45 days in advance of the wedding date.*

*Please drop off or mail final payments at the front office: 10755 N 124th St., Scottsdale, AZ 85259*

- Church Fee: \$500 (registered parishioners), \$1000 (non-registered parishioners)
  - Please make payment payable to: St. Bernard of Clairvaux Church
- Music Fee: \$250
  - Please make check payable to: Kent Campbell
- Sound Technician Fee: \$50
  - Please make check payable to:
- Wedding Liturgy Coordinator Fee: \$250
  - Please make check payable to Mary Stevens
- Celebrant Suggested amount: \$100
  - Please make check payable to the celebrant

**\*\*If preparing at St. Bernard Parish, but wedding celebration is to be out of state**

**Marriage Preparation Documentation Fee: \$250**

- Make check payable to: St. Bernard of Clairvaux Church

## Marriage Prep Classes:

- Loved For Life Engagement Weekend Fee: \$135
  - Pay Diocese through their website
  
- God's Plan for a Joy Filled Marriage class fee: \$85
  - Pay Diocese through their website
  
- Natural Family Planning Class Fee: \$130
  - Pay Diocese through their website

### **What days of the week and times are weddings celebrated?**

Weddings are typically celebrated on Friday evenings anytime between 2-5pm, and Saturdays at 2pm. Other days of the week are permitted, providing that both the church and the priest are available.

### **Are there any days that weddings are not permitted?**

The Catholic Church does not permit nuptial masses and other ritual masses on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Feast of All Souls Day or on any other solemn feasts, such as Solemnity of Mary (Octave of Christmas), January 1<sup>st</sup>, Christmas Day, and during Holy Week. Marriages during the season of Lent are not encouraged.

### **When and where will the rehearsal be held?**

The rehearsal is typically held in the church the night before the wedding between 2-5pm. If for some special reason the day before the wedding does not work, an alternate date can be arranged.

### **Who will preside at our wedding?**

It is required that you meet with one of our parish priests prior to setting your wedding date of you are to be married at St. Bernard of Clairvaux Church. Guest priests are welcome to celebrate your wedding as long as visiting priest/deacon paperwork is complete and approved.

### **What time are we able to arrive at the church?**

The church is available one hour before your scheduled wedding time on the day of the wedding and 30 minutes after the wedding ends. You are welcome to take pictures before, during and after the wedding. Although, flash photography is not allowed during the ceremony.

### **Will the marriage be celebrated within the celebration of Mass?**

If both the bride and groom are Catholic, celebrating a marriage within a Mass is recommended since the Eucharist is our main sign of unity and the first meal together as husband and wife. The entire liturgy will be approximately one hour in length. If either the bride or the groom is not Catholic, the marriage will be celebrated without the Mass. Since at present, Catholics and Christians do not have shared communion, it would be inhospitable to have only the bride or the groom receive Eucharist. This communicates a strong symbol of disunity. This entire liturgy will be approximately forty-five minutes in length.

### **Can we have flowers, pew bows, and runners?**

You are welcome to bring flowers to decorate the church **EXCEPT during the season of Lent, Easter and Christmas**. You may use pew bows but no tape or anything sticky to attach them. (rubber bands, floral wire, and pipe cleaners work just as well). Aisle runners are not allowed at St. Bernard's because of the risk of tripping or slipping as the smooth travertine marble floor. **Floral arrangements near the altar are NOT to be taller than the altar.**

### **Are we allowed to shoot confetti cannons or toss petals outside of the church upon exit?**

Unfortunately, that is not allowed.

### **How many witnesses or people in the bridal party should we have?**

We ask that you keep the bridal party to a maximum of 6 on either side. But, the size of the bridal party is up to you. The Catholic Church does require that you have two witnesses present. These witnesses must be at least 16 years of age and they do not have to be Catholic. However, the State of Arizona requires that the witnesses signing the marriage license are at least 18 years of age.

### **What type of music is allowed?**

The music you select for your wedding must be liturgical in nature. Please contact Kent Campbell, our parish music director for more information. [stbernardmusic@gmail.com](mailto:stbernardmusic@gmail.com)

### **Who will help plan the marriage liturgy?**

Our parish wedding liturgy coordinator, Mary Stevens, will assist you in planning the details of the liturgy. No outside wedding planner may assist in the planning or the wedding day liturgy. She will schedule and conduct the rehearsal, finish preparing the marriage license, as well as be present on your wedding day from the time you arrive to the time you depart the church making sure all details are complete. Plan to meet the wedding liturgy coordinator 3 months before the wedding. Feel free to reach out to her with questions regarding flowers, photography, etc., anytime leading up to the meeting. [mstevens@stboc.org](mailto:mstevens@stboc.org)

### **What Scripture readings will be used, how do we select them and who should read them?**

The recommended readings are in the book "Together for Life" and are the readings most appropriate for this liturgy. You will receive a copy of this book when you meet with the parish priest.

You need to select THREE readings for your wedding: one from the Old Testament/Hebrew Scriptures, one from the New Testament/Christian Scriptures, and one from the Gospels in the New Testament readings. The priest will read the Gospel from the New Testament.

If you are having a Mass, the readers **MUST** be Catholic and practicing the Catholic faith. Select one person to read the Intentions/Prayers of the Faithful. The person reading the Intentions/Prayers of the Faithful does not have to be Catholic. Please remember in your choice of readers to select people who read clearly and distinctly, who can project their voice, and who are not afraid to speak in front of people in a microphone. Give all readers their readings well in advance so they can practice. Please consider also selecting readers who can attend the rehearsal so they can practice in the actual space and with a sound system. If you are having a wedding mass, you will also need two people to bring up the communion gifts of bread and wine. The gift bearers do not have to be Catholic. Let your wedding coordinator know if you are having a tough time finding readers or gift bearers.

### **What role does Hospitality play?**

To be welcoming, hospitality always plays an important role, but not necessary.

Ushers/Greeters: Ushers and greeters could be inside or outside welcoming people and distributing worship aids (if worship aids are provided).

Worship Aids: are not necessary to have. Please discuss with your wedding coordinator if you are possibly looking to provide worship aids.

### **What about wedding customs?**

Flowers to the Blessed Mother: This practice is a personal religious devotion. It consists of taking flowers to the statue of Our Lady. The couple silently pray and ask Mary to remain close to them throughout their marriage. It is not intended for a photo moment. This custom is optional, so if it is not important to you personally, we do not suggest you add it to your ceremony.

Lazo & Arras: This Hispanic custom is optional. Again, if it is not important to you personally, we do not suggest you add this to your ceremony.

*(Please see the Policy and Procedures packet and the Wedding Guide for all detailed information.)*