



*Love that leads to marriage is a gift from God and a great act of faith toward other human beings.
~St. John Paul II*

Planning to marry?

Planning to marry at Blessed Sacrament, West Fargo?

Read on to find out more about:

- Marriage preparation steps
- Planning your wedding ceremony
- Blessed Sacrament wedding fees

MARRIAGE PREPARATION STEPS

- 1) Visit Blessed Sacrament for a weekend liturgy.
- 2) Identify yourself/selves to Fr. Gary at the end of liturgy.
- 3) **Marriage Preparation with Fr. Gary:** Make an appointment with Fr. Gary (call 701-282-3321) for your first of at least 4 meetings. In preparation for your first meeting with Fr. Gary, you might begin assembling these items:
 - a. A history of sacraments for the Catholic individual/individuals. This document needs to be requested from the parish where you were baptized, dated within 6 months of the first meeting with Fr. Gary. The history of sacraments will show every sacrament you have received (Baptism, Confirmation and previous Marriages).
 - b. At the first meeting with Father Gary, you will be instructed where to take the required Natural Family Planning Classes, where to attend the required pre-marriage weekend, and a date will be set up to take the pre-marriage inventory with Father Gary. We will also discuss any other additional steps that may be needed.
 - c. *After the first meeting, Fr. Gary will expect to see you/ the couple here at weekend liturgies at least 2 times a month. You will need to check in with Fr. Gary following every weekend liturgy you attend. You also could volunteer for events in the parish. We want you to be part of the parish.*

WEDDING CEREMONY PLANNING

1) Set a wedding Liturgy date:

- In order to set the wedding date, you will need to sign the reservation form and write a check (\$100 for parishioners, \$200 for non-parishioners) to hold the reservation.
- A note on choosing a wedding date – for a Friday wedding Fr. Gary prefers late afternoon or evening. All Saturday weddings may begin no later than 2:30 pm (so the building can be cleaned and prepared for the celebration of regular Saturday sacraments.)

2) Plan the music for your wedding:

- **Contact and schedule a meeting with the music coordinator:** During the preparation process, you will also be instructed to meet with Ronda, our music coordinator, who will help you to plan music for the wedding. Within a month of setting the wedding date with Father Gary, you must contact Ronda with the date, meet with her, and answer any questions Ronda may have. The best way to reach her is by e-mail at Ronda@bscwf.org. Or you may leave a voice mail on her office phone at 701-282-3321.
- **Read book and prepare form:** During one of your meetings with Father Gary, you will be given the book “Together for Life” – along with a wedding form to fill out. Please fill out the worksheet as best as you are able to before meeting with Ronda.
- **Choose musicians:** Ronda will assist you with your final decision.
- **Choose music:** All music should be Christ-centered. Ronda can help you as needed in selecting music.

3) Miscellaneous wedding ceremony policies:

- **Photography:** Flash photography is not allowed during the wedding. Photographer must meet with Fr. Gary briefly before the wedding.
- **Flowers:** All flowers, including those held by the bride and bridesmaids must be real; fake flowers are not allowed.
- **Candlebras:** Any candleabras must have plastic underneath to catch the wax.
- **Aisle runner:** Any aisle runner must be in place before the entrance procession begins.
- **Pew bows:** If pew bows are used, they must be attached by plastic or rubber bands. Tape may not be placed on the pews.
- **Rice/Confetti:** No rice or confetti is allowed.
- **Alcohol:** No alcohol is permitted.

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- **Valuables:** Neither the Church nor its representatives are responsible for the loss of valuables.
- **Cleaning:** The church and social hall should be left as it was before the wedding.

BLESSED SACRAMENT WEDDING FEES

- 1) **Church and social hall rental (excludes kitchen):** \$200 for parishioners, \$400 for non-parishioners.¹ You will be given a rental policy to fill out.
- 2) **Accompanist Fee (due before wedding ceremony begins):** \$125
- 3) **Soloist/Cantor Fee (due before wedding ceremony begins):** \$100

¹To be a parishioner, you must be registered at Blessed Sacrament for at least 6 months before setting wedding date.