

**Guidelines for Celebration of
Christian Marriage
at
The Basilica of the Co-Cathedral
of the Sacred Heart
Charleston, West Virginia**



Photo by Jenny Reese; 2019; www.jennyreesephotography.com

*W*elcome to the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart! May the Lord Jesus Christ bless you, as a couple, and be with the hearts and minds of all the faithful people who are involved with your preparation for the Sacrament of Marriage.



GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. We begin with the assumption that this arrangement of marriage is understood to be a “matrimonial covenant, by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership of the whole life, [and] is by its nature ordered toward the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of offspring; this covenant between baptized persons has been raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a sacrament.” -The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC), n. 1601.

2. Arrangements for weddings should be made at least **six months in advance of the desired wedding date**. This allotted timeframe provides the Basilica with enough time to reserve spaces, complete paperwork, and to provide proper formation of the sacrament.
3. **Active members*** of the Cathedral Parish will be given priority of choice on desired dates and times of weddings.

**Active members are those who have been registered for, at least, the past year, and who participate in the life and worship of the parish community.*

Non-parishioners are also welcomed to contact the Basilica for all wedding needs. We kindly ask that non-parishioners and visiting priests and/or deacons observe the general law of the Church, diocesan guidelines, and the guidelines of the Basilica Parish while they are visiting.

4. Engaged couples should contact the rector to begin preparations, begin paperwork, and discuss formation. The rector and parish staff will work with each couple to help them make their Sacramental celebration a powerful expression of both their faith and love. **Only the expectant bride and groom should coordinate details with the priest – not mothers, fathers, family or friends.**

WEDDING DAY OBSERVANCES

5. **Florists and photographers** should be respectful of all areas of the Basilica campus. We ask that they be discreet, and not inhibit the celebration of worship. During the wedding ceremony, florists and photographers are not permitted in the sanctuary space (raised area which encompasses the Altar, Ambo, Tabernacle). Please no flash photography.

6. **Alcohol is not permitted** on campus of the Basilica. Anyone seen with alcohol will be asked to leave the property. The consumption of alcohol by the bride and/or groom before their wedding ceremony could inhibit the couple to “freely express their consent; ‘to be free’ means: (1) not being under constraint; (2) not impeded by any natural or ecclesiastical law...if consent is lacking there is no marriage.” -CCC, n.1625-26.

7. We respectfully ask that no rice, birdseed, confetti, balloons, bubbles, flower petals, etc. be used inside or outside of the Basilica. The Basilica floors become *very* slippery.

8. Since the Basilica is committed to being principally the Co-Cathedral of the Diocese and is primarily a functioning parish with its own regular schedule. **No weddings will be scheduled after 2:00 p.m. on Saturdays** to not interfere with the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and/or Eucharist Adoration. The ceremony and all post-wedding photography in the building must be completed by 3:45pm.

9. Couples should plan for various expenses for the use of the Basilica:

A. Active and contributing parishioners of the Basilica Parish are not required to provide a donation. Non-parishioners within the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston are asked to provide \$200.00 donation. Non-parishioners outside the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston are asked to provide a \$300 donation. This donation covers the costs of utilities and maintenance staff for both the rehearsal and the wedding itself. All donations should be made payable to the “Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart” one month prior to the celebration.

B. It is customary to provide a thank you gift directly to the wedding officiant (Bishop, Priest, or Deacon). Payable to the individual.

C. Use of the Basilica’s musicians (organist/pianist/cantor) is encouraged. Musician fees are settled privately with the selected musician(s). Visiting musicians are also welcome. Visiting musicians are to contact the Director of Music two months prior to the wedding. *Contact the Basilica’s Director of Music for all information regarding music: Mark Haas – mhaas@shccwv.us*

D. Couples are welcome to provide their own altar servers. If you would like the Basilica to supply Altar Servers, there is a suggested donation of \$25.00 per server. Weddings that take place within the celebration of Mass require at least one server. Weddings outside of the context of Mass do not (necessarily) require an altar server.

E. Optional live-streaming and/or recorded video of the ceremony is available through the Basilica. Videography stipend may be required. Contact Mark Haas for more information: *mhaas@shccwv.us*

CEREMONY CHOICES AND OBSERVANCES

10. **Scripture readings** are encouraged to be selected by the couple. Typical readings would be the (1) First reading* from the Old Testament, (2) Response Psalm from the book of Psalms, (3) Second reading* from the Epistles of the New Testament, and a (4) Gospel reading from Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John. For reading choices, consult with your priest or deacon during marriage preparation.

**The first and/or second reading may be read by guests/friends/family*

11. **Music** should be chosen by the couple in consultation with the musicians chosen to execute music for the service. Printed worship aids* are available to be designed and printed by the office of the Basilica (free of charge). Consider the following two pages for music selections.

**All worship aids should be reviewed and approved by the Director of Music 2-weeks prior to the wedding date.*

ATTN: PLEASE CONTACT MUSIC DIRECTOR MARK HAAS REGARDLESS OF HIS DIRECT INVOLVMENT WITH THE DAY OF THE WEDDING. THIS WILL ENSURE THAT ALL SOUND SYSTEM AND TECHNICAL NEEDS ARE MET.

WEDDING MUSIC CHECKLIST

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

Prelude music (optional): _____

Wedding Party (optional): _____

SERVICE MUSIC

Entrance Procession: *(Instrumental)* _____

Responsorial Psalm: _____

Presentation of Gifts*: *(Sung Hymn or Instrumental)* _____

Communion Procession*: *(Sung Hymn)* _____

Flowers to the Blessed Mother *(Optional)*: _____

Recessional: *(Instrumental)* _____

** Selections necessary when celebrating Matrimony within the context of Mass.*

We encourage couples to select as much music as needed. Please refer to the **Music Suggestions** (next page) for music options. We ask that you restrict your options to our Music Suggestion sheet if possible.

The Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart strives to adhere to the liturgical rite of the Sacrament of Matrimony. We encourage couples to choose liturgically appropriate music for the ceremony. Secular/popular selections may be reserved for the Wedding Reception. Requests outside of the Music Suggestions page may be made with the Director of Music.

WEDDING MUSIC SUGGESTIONS

These suggestions are to guide you. You are not bound to this list, and you may choose other music in consultation with your musicians.

INSTRUMENTAL / PRELUDE / FLOWERS TO MARY / RECESSIONAL	
Air from Water Music (Handel)	Bist Du Bei Mir (Bach)
Air on a G String (Bach)	Canon in D (Johann Pachelbel)
Arioso (Bach)	Panis Angelicus (Franck)
Ave Maria (Bach/Gonoud)	Spring (Vivaldi)
Ave Maria (Schubert)	Trumpet Tune (Purcell)
Ave Verum Corpus (Mozart)	Trumpet Voluntary (Clark)

PREPARATION OF GIFTS / COMMUNION	
Be Thou My Vision (SLANE)	Love Has Brought Us Here Together (HYFRODOL)
Come, Lord, to My Song's Wedding Feast (ELIZABETH JOY)	May the Grace of Christ (STUTTGART)
God in the Planning (SLANE)	Panis Angelicus (SACRIS SOLEMNIIS)
God of Love, Embrace Your People (HYMN TO JOY)	Salve Regina (Chant Mode V)
Here I Am, Lord (Schutte)	Sent Forth by God's Blessing (ASH GROVE)
I Have Loved You (Michael Joncas)	Taste and See (James Moore)
Love Divine All Loves Excelling (Wesley)	The Servant Song (Gilliard)
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring (Bach)	The Summons (KELVINGROVE)
Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee (HYMN TO JOY)	Ubi Caritas (Hurd)
Let's Praise the Creator (KREMSER)	When Love Is Found (O WALY WALY)
Love Divine All Loves Excelling (HYFRODOL)	

RESPONSE PSALM SETTINGS	
Psalm 1: Blessed are they who hope in the Lord	Psalm 118: Give thanks to the Lord
Psalm 4: Lord, let your face shine on us	Psalm 119: Blessed are they
Psalm 33: Blessed the people the Lord has chosen	Psalm 128: May the Lord bless us
Psalm 67: May God bless us in His mercy	Psalm 138: Lord, your love is eternal
Psalm 90: Fill us with your love, O Lord	Psalm 139: I am wonderfully made
Psalm 105: The Lord remembers His covenant	Psalm 145: I will praise your name forever
Psalm 107: Give thanks to the Lord	



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