

“FROM THIS DAY FORWARD”



**MARRIAGE PREPARATION
AND
WEDDING GUIDELINES**

Cathedral of St. John Berchmans
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INTRODUCTION

Congratulations on your engagement and prayerful best wishes to you as you prepare for marriage. Your decision to unite yourselves in Christian marriage is indeed a joyful occasion! By this time, you have no doubt shared your intentions with your family and friends and now have come to the Cathedral Parish of St. John Berchmans to request prayer and preparation for the sacrament into which you are about to enter.

This parish community is eager to assist you as you share your vows in the presence of the Church. What a wonderful gift it is for us to celebrate the love of a man and woman in the sacrament of matrimony! In witnessing your love, our community of faith is enriched as we are reminded of the love of Christ for His bride, the Church (Ephesians 5:22). We acknowledge the value of married life as an aid for spouses to attain holiness and as a blessing for society and the life of the Church. Because of the dignity of the vocation of Christian marriage, we will offer you guidance and support to help you prepare for married life and to introduce you to the exalted image of marriage as a sacrament.

This guide is designed to assist you as you prepare to celebrate your marriage in the midst of the Christian community. The various sections identify the theology and beliefs which ground our sacramental tradition of marriage and which form the basis of our guidelines, policies and sacramental requirements for weddings in this Cathedral Church.

Thank you for allowing us to assist you as you prepare for married life.

PRAYER FOR THE ENGAGED COUPLE

May almighty God bless you.
May He keep you close to Him
and to one another.
May He make you generous in giving
and humble in receiving.
May He enable you to communicate
your joys, sufferings, desires
and hopes.
May He give you a love
that will forget self
and live for each other.
May He grant you
love and happiness,
peace and joy,
and strength in trials,
all the days of your life together.
We ask through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

*All arrangements and correspondence must come
directly from you,
the Bride and Groom,
through in-person visits,
phone calls or emails .*

TO BEGIN MARRIAGE PREPARATION

The first step in your marriage preparations is to meet with your pastor at least six months prior to the proposed wedding date. This period of time provides you sufficient time to participate in the required pre-matrimonial preparations and to set solid foundations for a sacred, life-long commitment.

Do not set a definite marriage date, print invitations, order flowers or reserve reception facilities before meeting with your pastor.

During your initial meeting with your pastor, he will discuss with you the documents and details of preparing for marriage.

A. If you are a registered parishioner of the Cathedral of St. John Berchmans, contact one of the priests of the Cathedral Parish who will help you begin your Marriage Preparation.

B. If neither of you is a parishioner, you must contact both your (Catholic) pastor and the priest or deacon you wish for your wedding (if different than your pastor).

Inform your pastor of the proposed wedding date and your desire for it to take place in the Cathedral.

Begin Marriage Preparations in your home parish.

FYI: Your pastor will request in writing permission for you to marry in the Cathedral, indicating the person responsible for your Marriage Preparation.



HOW TO GET YOUR WEDDING DATE ON THE CATHEDRAL CALENDAR

After you have met with your pastor and have begun Marriage Preparation, ask your pastor to submit a completed/signed “Wedding Request Form.” If approved, a **tentative** wedding date and time of day is penciled into our wedding calendar. Receiving a tentative date may take several months. A **tentative** date will be given no more than 12 months prior to the wedding and no less than six months prior.

The date and time for your wedding can only be **confirmed** after the Cathedral receives the following:

- + Your pastor’s written permission for you to be married in the Cathedral together with his written agreement that he (or the presider he authorizes) will perform all your canonical and pre-nuptial preparations and will conduct your wedding rehearsal and officiate at your wedding on particular date and time (Wedding Request Form).
- + Your pastor’s written assurance that your official pre-nuptial file will be transferred to the Cathedral pastor at least one month prior to your wedding date.
- + The completed and signed forms for photographers / videographers, florists and bridal consultants.
- + All offerings and payments.

Upon receipt of these items, the Cathedral pastor will send written notification to you, your pastor and the priest or deacon he authorizes to officiate at your wedding, that your wedding date in the Cathedral is confirmed.

NOTE:

- + Both tentative and confirmed wedding dates are subject to cancellation if you are not actively involved in Marriage Preparation or if you (bride and/or groom) are not adhering to the wedding policies of the Cathedral of St. John Berchmans.
- + In determining who receives a wedding date and time, registered Cathedral Parishioners have priority.
- + It is very important that you both are free to marry in the Catholic Church. No wedding date or time can be set, even tentatively, before completion of any Tribunal case.



MARRIAGE IS A SACRAMENT

Marriage is one of the seven sacraments of the Church; it is a serious and sacred commitment. As a Catholic, there are some important questions that you will need to ask yourself:

- + How seriously do I take my faith and religion?
- + Do I actively participate in the Catholic faith, attend Mass every Sunday, and seek marriage as an integral part of the sacramental life of the Church?
- + Have I, as a Catholic, nourished myself in faith by reception of the sacraments? Are there still some sacraments that I still need?
 - o Baptism
 - o Penance/Confession
 - o First Communion
 - o Confirmation

If you are a Catholic and have not yet received all of these sacraments, this is an appropriate time to speak with your pastor and work towards receiving them.

For those not Catholic who would like to learn more about the Catholic faith of your future spouse, you may consider attending the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (R.C.I.A.), which is attended by those wanting to learn about the Catholic faith as well as those interested in becoming Catholic.



WEDDING IS SACRED WORSHIP

Some couples choose to be married before civil authorities, judges or justices of the peace. In choosing to be married in the Cathedral, you are proclaiming publicly that you believe in God and that the values, which guide your life, are Gospel centered. Your choice also manifests your desire to celebrate your marriage commitment in the Catholic Church as a sacred sign of your faithful, permanent, life-giving love which mirrors God’s love.

Your marriage will be a sacred, religious ritual in the community of the Church within the Catholic tradition. Being a sacred ritual, your marriage will be celebrated according to Catholic tradition and rituals, which are public acts of sacred worship.

The wedding liturgy is first and foremost a public act of worship by the Christian community in which marriage is celebrated. By its very nature, marriage in the Catholic Church is not a private affair but public worship.

CATHEDRAL WEDDING TIMELINE

6 – 12 MONTHS PRIOR TO WEDDING

- contact your Pastor
- meet with officiating Priest/Deacon
- complete relationship inventory (FOCCUS)
- attend Engaged Couples Weekend
- meet with Wedding Coordinator to review Cathedral guidelines, fees/offerings, & rehearsal/wedding day details
- schedule follow-up meetings with priest
- obtain a recently re-issued baptismal certificate of both parties

4 MONTHS PRIOR TO WEDDING

- contact Cathedral Director of Music

2-3 MONTHS PRIOR TO WEDDING

- submit fees / offerings
- return florist, photographer agreements
- return Wedding Planning Form

1 MONTH PRIOR TO WEDDING

- apply for civil marriage license (up to 30 days prior and not less than 72 hours before the wedding)

WEEK OF WEDDING

- bring civil license to the Church at time of rehearsal

+

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Baptism Certificates: If you were baptized Catholic, you must call your place of baptism and ask to have your baptism certificate reissued. All other Christians, please provide a copy of your baptismal certificate or a letter from your church with the date of baptism. The certificates are to be given to the priest or deacon for your marriage file.

A Marriage License must be presented to the priest/deacon at the rehearsal. The State of Louisiana sanctions ministers to perform ceremonies only when this document is present. Failure to submit a valid license at the time of rehearsal risks the cancellation of the ceremony. The license must be issued in a Louisiana courthouse between 30 days and 72 hours of the wedding. There is no need to acquire the "Covenant License."

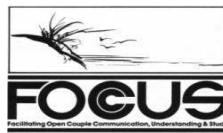
Forms due in Cathedral Office 2-3 months prior:

- Wedding Planning Form
- Florist, Photographer/Videographer agreements
- Wedding Consultant agreement (*only if one is being used*)

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MARRIAGE PREPARATION

PROGRAMS differ from parish to parish, but they all typically include the following:



FOCCUS (Facilitating Open Couple Communication, Understanding and Study) is a self-diagnostic inventory designed to help you learn more about yourselves as a couple as you discuss issues related to your future marriage: communication skills, problem-solving, finances, extended family, sexuality, religion, children, etc.

ENGAGED COUPLES WEEKEND is designed to offer couples the opportunity to dialogue honestly and intensively about their future life together. Self-identity, role expectations of each other, money, sex, religion, problem solving, spirituality, intimacy and Christian parenting, are just some of the topics of face-to-face dialogue with one's partner. During the course of the weekend there is time provided for questions, discussions, and prayer, all geared to help you understand yourself and your future spouse, as well as to help you to prepare to meet the challenges and wonders of your future marriage. Call the wedding coordinator for dates – reservations required!

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

NFP offers couples the opportunity to understand the nature of fertility and how to work with it, either to plan a pregnancy or to avoid a pregnancy. Husbands are encouraged to "tune into" their wives' cycles and both spouses are encouraged to speak openly and frankly about their sexual desires and their ideas on family size. NFP is taught by area couples. For more info on NFP, visit www.ccli.org.

"The Church's role as well as the primary task of clergy and others in marriage preparation... is to assist the couple in making a judgment about their relational readiness and personal faith."

(USCC Manual, page 63)

Your Marriage Preparation Team encourages you to take adequate time in preparing for your marriage. Remember: "The wedding is just a day; the marriage is a life time."

If the bride enlists the assistance of a bridal consultant, the consultant must be informed that the Cathedral Wedding Coordinator will conduct the wedding rehearsal and the presider will direct all aspects of wedding liturgy. The consultant must sign the Bridal Consultant form.



GOSPEL VALUES

You have chosen to be married in the Christian setting of a Catholic Church. This choice means that you are being guided by the values embodied in the life of Jesus Christ. These values speak about simplicity of life, an honest and humble presentation of ourselves, and a genuine love of neighbor and a constant awareness of the less fortunate. These concerns and the values underlying them cannot simply be set aside for a Christian celebration of marriage.

The values embodied in the life of Jesus Christ are ones which all Christians are called to embrace. To allow the commercialism of the wedding industry or family expectations to set standards for your celebration could erase the concern which we are called to express.



THE WEDDING LITURGY

There are a few fundamental values, which the Church wishes to express in the wedding rite. Marriage is an act of worship in which you bring what is intensely personal (your own commitment) to a larger community of faith. This community, along with your family and friends, wishes to witness your exchange of vows and to support you in your commitment. So a wedding liturgy is two things: an act of the community's worship and your exchange of vows.

Because it is both of these things, the marriage liturgy must take place in continuity with the community's prayer and your own experience of sharing vows. Being aware of the communal aspect of your marriage celebration will help you choose elements which create a prayerful, meaningful celebration with family and friends who have gathered to share this important time with you.

Church weddings are liturgical celebrations, which do not allow additions and adaptations to the sacred ritual. All appearances of a "show" are to be avoided. If a couple chooses, their wedding can be a simple one and does not have to be elaborate or expensive.



MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

The word "ministry" may be unfamiliar to you, yet if you look to a Sunday Mass you will notice that many people are involved, greeting, leading the assembly in prayer and song, readings and distributing Communion. The same ministries are needed for the wedding celebration.

The Assembly

You should begin thinking about the people who will be at your wedding. From the perspective of worship, those present are not seen merely as guests, but as a community of witnesses who join you in prayer on this occasion. These people represent the local faith community, family and friends.

Together they become the voice of the Church, which speaks its word of faith and points you to a future life together.

If you think of the community in this way, you will want to invite their participation and hear their words of wisdom and support. In turn, you will enrich the community by your exchange of vows in which you freely accept one another in an intimate union and promise to nourish and develop your marriage with undivided affection. This promise of fidelity encourages the members of the community who are married in their own lives.

The Couple

In the Roman Catholic wedding liturgy, the bride and groom are the ministers of marriage. The presiding priest or deacon serves as the Church's official witness. It is the couple who gives themselves in God, one to another, in marriage.

Since the principal focus will be on you during the wedding liturgy, your behavior and attitudes help to set the sacred tone for the entire assembly. Your participation in the prayers and sacred music will greatly assist all gathered to feel comfortable and at ease in taking an active role in the Church's wedding liturgy.

The Witnesses

While the entire assembly is a witness to your marriage, three individuals have a special witness role in the Catholic Church's liturgy and official records. The presider is the Church's official witness. In addition, the two individuals who stand with you (traditionally, the best man and maid or matron of honor) fulfill all requirements as witnesses who formally attest to the fact that the wedding took place.

Hospitality Ministers, Ushers, Wedding Party

As people enter the Cathedral it is important that they be welcomed. Ushers who are warm and pleasant will also make your guests feel welcome. The groomsmen, ushers and bridesmaids can fulfill a vital ministry in the wedding liturgy by serving as ministers of hospitality who greet, distribute printed programs, and escort people to their seats in the Cathedral. You might give careful thought to how people are seated since there is no liturgical norm which necessitates separating the bride's family and friends from the groom's. Through their active involvement in the prayers and singing of the liturgy, these members of the wedding party can model full participation, which encourages all those gathered to fully engage in the prayers and sacred music of the celebration. If you include children in the wedding party, we recommend that they be more than four years old.

Readers and Ministers of Holy Communion

People who fulfill these two liturgical ministries, proclaiming the Word of God and distributing the Eucharist, are not invited to these roles by the bride and groom based simply on friendship. The invitation for these liturgical ministries should be offered to people who are trained and experienced in these areas, to ensure that the roles will be fulfilled comfortably and competently.



THE ORDER OF SERVICE

THE ENTRANCE RITE

The purpose of the entrance rite is to gather people for worship. There are many ways for the ministers, couple and bridal party to enter. Will you enter as a couple? Will parents escort the bride and the groom? From a liturgical standpoint the entrance processional is the first act of worship by the community. How you enter is a matter of discussion between yourselves and those working with you in preparation for the sacrament.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

After the people have been called to prayer, a selection of Scripture readings is proclaimed. These readings represent the community's human story of marriage, but the story is not told simply for you as the bride and groom; it is addressed to all. In selecting the readings, therefore, you should try to be aware of the broader community who will be listening.

The normal pattern is:

- 1 a first reading from the Old Testament
- 2 a Responsorial Psalm (sung)
- 3 a second reading from the New Testament
- 4 the sung Gospel Acclamation (Alleluia)
- 5 a selection from one of the Gospels

A homily by the presider follows the readings. Readings from sources other than scripture are not appropriate during the Liturgy of the Word. Suggestions for Scripture readings appropriate to the celebration of marriage can be found in the Together for Life booklet (provided by the presider).

THE RITE OF MARRIAGE

The focus of the Rite of Marriage is the exchange of vows between the bride and groom. The variety of prayers used for this exchange represents the Church's traditional belief about marriage. The texts speak about mutual and lasting fidelity, exclusive love and honor. These vows are placed within a series of events. There is an introduction, a statement about your freedom to enter this marriage and willingness to raise children.

The Exchange of Vows may be done in several ways. You may want to discuss the importance of the assembly as receivers and witnesses to your exchange, and then discuss how to exchange the vows. The Blessing and Exchange of Rings follows. The Rite of Marriage may end with the General Intercessions,

which are prayers for the Church, the world, for all married couples, and for the two of you. You may want to discuss the role of the wedding party in this part of the service, and how the entire Wedding Rite can be done simply in order that the focus be the union of the two of you with God's grace and the support of the community gathered.

SHARING IN THE EUCHARIST

When both the bride and the groom are Roman Catholic, the liturgy will normally continue with the celebration of the Eucharist. If one of you is not Roman Catholic, the wedding rite continues with the Lord's Prayer.

In the Diocese of Shreveport, couples wishing to have a Nuptial Mass may have their wedding at 10 a.m., 1 p.m., or 7 p.m. on Saturday or most anytime Mon.-Fri., dependant upon the parish calendar schedule.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

This prayer is one of the prayers in which the entire assembly participates. While it is common in other Christian traditions to have a soloist sing the Lord's Prayer, Catholic tradition and practice holds that the Lord's Prayer should be spoken or sung by the assembly.

THE NUPTIAL BLESSING

The Nuptial Blessing has many forms; it may also be prayed at various places within the wedding liturgy. The texts are prayers of intercession as well as prayers of hope for the future of both of you.

DISMISSAL

At the conclusion of the wedding liturgy, the bridal couple and the assembly are blessed. This conclusion creates a bridge between the celebration of the marriage liturgy and any celebration which follows. You might ask yourselves what this transition should be. It can easily be a time for a hymn of praise or simply a recessional in which the wedding party and ministers depart.

OTHER MINISTERS

Other priests or ministers are welcome to be present for your wedding. Catholic priests can concelebrate the Mass; non-Catholic ministers are welcome to assist during the wedding rite, as agreed upon by the presider.



MUSIC SELECTION

The Cathedral Director of Music, a professional church musician, will assist you with choosing music and will collaborate with any other musicians you wish to have as a part of your wedding.

The Church has set forth guidelines regarding music in any liturgy. Music choices should be evaluated in three areas: liturgical, pastoral, musical.

- + *Liturgical:* Is the music appropriate to the liturgy and celebration? Songs which are appropriate to the reception or dance, or songs which have their origin in movie soundtracks, the Broadway stage, or in the top-40 radio are never appropriate for the liturgy.

Today there is such a wide variety of appropriate liturgical music in various styles (chant, traditional, modern and contemporary) that the use of secular music for a wedding is not even necessary.

- + *Pastoral:* Does the music allow for congregational participation where called for and is it appropriate for those who are present?
- + *Musical:* Is the music of special quality and will it be competently performed with appropriate instruments and voices?

In accord with the primary focus of the celebration, all instrumentalists and vocal musicians should fulfill their roles as ministers of the liturgy, and their location in the church should reflect this.

It is important that those who are serving as musicians at your wedding be truly competent and that they have a thorough understanding of the structure of the Catholic wedding liturgy. Too often friends or relatives of the couple are asked to serve as musicians out of friendship rather than competency.

Contact our Cathedral Director of Music at least four months prior to the wedding day to discuss your options for the music.

The Cathedral Director of Music will help you develop an appropriate program and will approve the final draft before it is printed by an outside source.

Our Director reviews and approves all aspects of the music, and assists the bride and groom by scheduling the instrumentalists, cantors and singers.



PARTICIPATION PROGRAMS

The wedding couple and their attendants are a model of participation for the assembly gathered and are asked to participate in the sung and spoken prayers in the liturgy. Wedding programs and our hymnals are excellent tools to encourage full, conscious and active participation from the assembly, and their use is encouraged. The program should be simple, user-friendly, and complementary to worship.



LITURGICAL ENVIRONMENT AND DECORATIONS

You have chosen to be married in the setting of a beautiful Cathedral, which does not require anything to beautify the sacred space. The Cathedral may already be decorated in a specific liturgical color that corresponds to the liturgical season being celebrated. When considering additional decoration, it is required that great care be taken not to obscure, obstruct or hinder the primary purpose of our gathering, which is to worship. Candles and floral decorations can only be placed in appropriate areas, so as not to obscure the altar, pulpit or chairs for the presider and couple. While there may be places in the sanctuary which would offer a good space for a dramatic decoration, the primary concern must be for the liturgical appropriateness of the space. Cathedral furnishings are not to be moved and no other furnishings (runners, arches, etc.) are allowed in the church.

CANDLES IN THE CATHEDRAL

The Cathedral will supply the candles used on the main altar. If the couple wishes to use extra candles and candelabras, candles may be purchased from the Cathedral for your use.

- + Candles are allowed in designated places only.
- + Only Cathedral candles/candelabras may be used: two (2) or four (4) pair of candelabra with seven (7) candles each, and High Mass candles. Use the Wedding Planning Form to request the use of these candles or candelabras.
- + The unity candle is not used in Cathedral wedding liturgies.
- + Arrangement and payment for the use of candles must be made several months prior to the wedding.



FLOWERS IN THE CATHEDRAL

The Cathedral is both sacred and beautiful in design. Flowers may complement, but never substitute for the Cathedral's liturgical art and environment. It is recommended that you use florists familiar with the Cathedral's sacred space. If you use a florist who has not provided flowers in the Cathedral, inform them of the requirement to sign the Cathedral Florist Agreement, without which flowers are not permitted. If you decide not to use a florist, the Cathedral Flower Committee will determine the floral arrangement, if any.

- + Flower colors and selections must be respectful of the Church's liturgical seasons. During the festive seasons and solemn feast days, especially the Christmas and Easter Seasons, the art and environment for Catholic worship cannot be moved or altered in any way, shape or form.
- + Flowers and greenery must be real, not artificial.
- + Flowers will remain in church for the weekend Masses.
- + Flowers are allowed on the reredos shelves (marble structure behind Bishop's chair).
- + Maximum size for floral arrangements on reredos shelves: Height: 30 inches; Length: 84", Depth: 14". Note that arrangements too small in size will "get lost" in the large sanctuary space.
- + Flowers are not allowed in front of the Altar, ambo, tabernacle, or any other area in the sanctuary.
- + Pew markers must be attached to the ends of the pews with ribbons or rubber bands; glue, tape or tacking to pews or other furnishings is prohibited.
- + Number of pews in the main body of the Church: front section has 11 pews on each side to break; back section, 16 on each side.
- + Delivery of flowers to the Cathedral must respect other Cathedral weekend activities. The Wedding Coordinator will assist your florist with delivery details.

VIDEO & PHOTOGRAPHY

Today many couples want photographers and/or videographers to record their marriage. Wedding pictures can capture the beauty and wonder of the ceremony uniting you forever as husband and wife. If you use a photographer who has never worked in the Cathedral, inform them of the requirement to sign the Cathedral Photographer Agreement. Mindful of the sacredness of the liturgy, the following guidelines must be followed:

- + The Wedding Coordinator will explain to your photographer and videographer all photography / videography policies and the locations they are allowed to stand for pictures.
- + There will be no flash photography or use of artificial lighting.
- + Videographers must set the camera on a tripod in the designated camera area, and the camera is to be kept stationary during the entire liturgy.
- + Pre-wedding photos in the church must be completed 30 minutes prior to the ceremony.
- + Processional photographs may be taken discreetly at the break in the pews.
- + Recessional photographs may be taken from the vestibule/foyer of the church.
- + Photographs following the liturgy may be taken on the steps leading into the sanctuary and must be completed within thirty minutes following the liturgy.
- + If you wish to take photographs prior to your wedding day at the Cathedral, contact the Wedding Coordinator who will schedule an open time on the Parish Calendar.



MARRIAGE PREPARATION TEAM:

- + Your Pastor
- + Priest/Deacon presiding at your wedding
- + Cathedral Pastor
- + Cathedral Director of Music
- + Cathedral Wedding Coordinator (assists at the rehearsal and on the wedding day, and also makes arrangements for flower delivery, candle preparations, scheduling of Altar Servers and Ministers, and general cleaning and lock up of the buildings.) All weddings at the Cathedral and Chapel require the use of our Coordinator.
- + Engaged Couples Weekend Director

See Contact sheet for names and information.



REHEARSAL & WEDDING DAY

For the rehearsal, you should invite only those persons directly involved in the wedding ceremony. The Rehearsal is the time to review and rehearse the ritual about to take place while focusing on the sacredness of the wedding day. Rehearsals, normally scheduled on Fridays between 4:00 and 8:00 pm, last approximately one hour, and begin promptly at the appointed time. Weddings are scheduled on Saturdays at 10:00 am, 1:00 pm, 7:00 pm. Weddings can also take place on weekdays. The Cathedral has limited space and privacy for the wedding party to dress and prepare; therefore, all members of your wedding party are to arrive no earlier than two hours before the beginning of the ceremony. It is recommended that the groom's party arrive dressed and ready, depending on their need to be present for pre-wedding photos.

- + Snack food and beverages are allowed in the Bride's and Groom's rooms only, never in the church (remember the one-hour fast before Communion).
- + Alcohol is not allowed on church property. A wedding may be cancelled or postponed because of the presence of alcohol.
- + The throwing of rice, bird seed, flower petals, candied almonds, confetti, the blowing of bubbles or any other substance, and the release of balloons, butterflies, birds or any other creature inside the Cathedral or anywhere on the Cathedral property is not allowed.
- + Given the many Masses, Baptisms and activities of the Cathedral Parish, every wedding and rehearsal must begin at the published time.

AFTER THE WEDDING

A receiving line after the wedding liturgy is not appropriately held at the Cathedral since it is a function of the wedding reception. To insure that nothing is left at the Cathedral, please assign someone to collect all personal belongings after the wedding liturgy, especially in the Bride's Room and Groom's Room. It is expected that the Cathedral and all Cathedral property will be left in good order after the rehearsal and wedding. Note: Personal articles left behind may be picked up in the Church Office on Monday, between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm.



PARKING AT THE CATHEDRAL

Parking is available in the following locations:

- + Handicap parking available in the driveway next to the school and behind Cathedral
- + Cathedral parking lot across the street from the church (64 spaces)
- + Parking lots behind the Cathedral and school
- + State Building parking lot north of (and adjacent to) the Cathedral parking lot
- + Spaces along both sides of the street



FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

It is never the intention of the Church to place financial consideration in the pathway of marriage or any sacrament. If you are asked what your wedding costs, the answer is: "Nothing, the rituals of the Catholic Church are free."

To the Cathedral The church is in operation approximately five hours per wedding and rehearsal, at a cost of approximately \$250 per hour; for St. Michael Chapel, \$50 per hour. Non-parishioners and parishioners alike are encouraged to help defray the Cathedral's operational costs and personnel expenses by way of offerings. Your offerings are genuinely appreciated. Additional candles may be purchased; see fee sheet for options.

To the Cathedral Wedding Coordinator

A set offering of \$175 is expected.

To the Presider For the priest or deacon who presides at a wedding, no honorarium is expected. If the presider is from out of town, it is customary to provide for travel, lodging and meals.

To the Organist, Musicians, and Vocalists

Amount is based upon individual musician's fee.

To Altar Servers Altar Servers provided by the Cathedral may be thanked for their time and service (suggestion: \$10-20 each).

Engaged Couples Weekend \$100; registration required.

**Offerings and deposits for the Church and candles (separate checks) are made payable to "Cathedral of St. John Berchmans" and are due at least two months prior to the wedding. All other fees and offerings should be made payable to the individual and delivered to the Church Office at least two months prior to the wedding. All fees and offerings will be returned to you if you choose to postpone or cancel the wedding.

FINAL THOUGHTS

We hope that this booklet has assisted you in the creation of a liturgy that presents the prayer of the Church as well as the festivity and commitment you want for your wedding. We extend best wishes to you both as you honor the tradition of the Church and develop a wedding celebration uniquely your own.