



St. Mary Catholic Church

1612 East Walker

League City, Texas 77573

(281) 332-3031 (Office)

(281) 332-8328 (Fax)

Dear Engaged Couple,

Thank you for your inquiry regarding the Sacrament of Matrimony at St. Mary Parish. Marriage is one of the most important commitments you will make during the course of your life. Because of its importance, the following points are important in regard to your plans.

Marriage is the one Sacrament that is administered by the couple to each other. The Catholic Church beginning in the 1960's, required that couples undergo a marriage preparation process of 4 to 6 months in duration.

A particular area of concern in marriage preparation is the issue of co-habitation of couples. In our society it has become more and more acceptable for couples to live together prior to their marriage. Although this may seem like a socially acceptable action, clergy, as well as psychologists have found that it is the one single factor that can have the most damaging effects for a lifelong commitment. The changing spiritual and personal dynamics of a couple moving from a cohabitating to a marital commitment has in some instances caused up to a 60% greater chance of divorce. We ask that you seriously consider the implications of this before beginning the marriage preparation process.

The first step is for the couple to complete the Wedding Information/Request Form included attached. The completed form should be turned into the parish office at least 6 months prior to the desired wedding date. Once received a parish representative will contact the couple in a timely manner to discuss your request form. They will present a timeline for your wedding and for you to be contacted by the clergy (priest or deacon). Dates, times and ceremony details will only be discussed by the clergy with the couple. The parish staff cannot verify the availability of the church for a given date. Weddings are not scheduled during Lent.

Thank you again for considering the importance of the marriage, not so much as a social act, but an act of two people of faith.

In Christ,

Fr. Howard E. Drabek

Pastor

Marriage Guidelines

These guidelines are extensive. Please read carefully and sign this document on page 2. Both pages must be turned into the parish office with your marriage information/request form.

- Either the bride and/or groom must be an active, registered parishioner for at least 6 months prior to turning in marriage information/request form.
- Marriages are scheduled throughout the calendar year, except during Lent.
- Weddings are scheduled for couples who do not have a prior marriage bond. If either party, regardless of religion, has been married previously, the prior marriage must be resolved. Please contact the Parish Office for more information.
- Details regarding fees can be found on a separate page within this packet.
- The Church will seat 1300 people, the Day Chapel seats 60-70 people & Old St. Mary Church seats 100.
- The Church has 21 center aisle rows, the Day Chapel has 5 center aisle rows and Old St. Mary has 10 center aisle rows.
- The only candles allowed will be church candles on the altar.
- Plastic pew clips, ribbons, or soft material must be used to attach bows or flowers to the pews. NO TAPE, NO METAL/WIRE, NO CLAMPS.
- No rice, flower petals, confetti, bird seed, or any other type of material may be thrown in the church or anywhere on church property.
- Please be mindful of dresses and/or decorations that use glitter. Many times additional effort must be used to clean up glitter residue. An additional cost may be charged for the clean up.
- All ring bearers and flower girls under the age of 6 must be accompanied by an adult for the procession.
- Choose any photographer you like. Those who take photographs or videos must not enter the sanctuary area (raised area with altar).
- Photos may be taken as wedding parties enter and leave, but the photographer may not stop processions.
- No flash photography during ceremony. You must use available light only.
- Video cameras may be placed on one of the side aisles.
- Details regarding music and musician information can be found on a separate page in this packet.
- All scripture selections to be read can be chosen with the guidance of the priest or deacon and with the help of the "Together for Life" book available at the parish office.
- The Bridal Parlor, on the right side of the vestibule, can be used by the bride on the day of the wedding. There is a long mirror in the room.
- Hair and makeup should be done prior to arrival.
- Attendants must come to church already dressed and ready.
- Groom and groomsmen should dress prior to their arrival.
- There is no official gathering area for groomsmen. They may gather in the vestibule or in the Church chapel.

- The Vesting Sacristy (near the ladies restroom) is off limits to all. This is the clergy preparation area.
- NO FOOD OR DRINKS especially ALCHOLIC BEVERAGES are allowed in the church building including sacristy, bridal parlor and vestibule. **Any alcohol found on the premises either during the rehearsal or on the wedding day will lead to immediate cancellation of your wedding.**
- St. Mary Parish is not responsible for items lost or left behind after the wedding.
- Professional wedding coordinators are not allowed to participate in the rehearsal or ceremony. St. Mary will provide a wedding coordinator for the services.
- The rehearsal and wedding times and dates are arranged with your priest or deacon. Only the priest or deacon can request to have the date added to the Church calendar
- Due to Mass and confession times, Saturday weddings are allowed from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. or later, as agreed upon with the clergy.
- Saturday afternoon weddings must vacate the church completely before 3 p.m. because Confessions start at this time.
- For Marriage Preparation, St. Mary parish utilizes a sponsor couple system. You should hear from a sponsor couple directly once they are assigned.
- If you are four months from the wedding & have not been assigned a couple, please contact the office.
- A MARRIAGE LICENSE must be delivered to the parish office within one week of your wedding. Failure to provide a valid marriage license will lead to a cancellation of your wedding.
- Our wedding coordinators will open the Church one hour prior to the start time of the service. All deliveries and set up must be arranged/handled during this time.

I have read, understand and agree to the marriage guidelines set forth by St. Mary Catholic Church.

Groom

Bride

Date

Date

Please retain a copy of all signed documents for your records.

Music Guidelines

Each couple is responsible for arranging and compensating their own music/musicians for the wedding. The following are parish guidelines for music.

- All music chosen for the ceremony and preamble must be Liturgical (approved Catholic Church music).
- A complete list of music selections must be sent to our Director of Music Minister within three months of the wedding for approval.
- Failure to have music approved may lead to having no music at your wedding.
- A parish approved sound engineer will oversee all sound for weddings at St. Mary.
- No outside parties are allowed to operate sound equipment.
- We provide microphones and a piano or organ. All other equipment and musical instruments must be provided and operated by your musicians/singers.
- For questions regarding music/singers, please contact the Director of Music Ministry in the parish office.

This section to be completed and returned to the parish office within 3 months of wedding date.

Approved

Wedding Date: _____ Priest/Deacon: _____

Groom: _____ Bride: _____

Musician(s)/Group Name: _____

Musician Contact # & e-mail address : _____

Additional music information/requests (i.e. soloists, instruments to be played, etc.):

The following is/are the music/songs we have chosen for our wedding day, and are submitting for approval.

I have read, understand and agree to the marriage guidelines set forth by St. Mary Catholic Church.

Groom

Bride

Date

Date

Please retain a copy of all signed documents for your records.

Wedding Fee Information

Church Fee: St. Mary \$250

Note: The Church fee includes, set up, wedding coordinator, & sound engineer fees, & regular church clean up.

Old St. Mary: Registered Couple \$500
Non-registered Couple \$750

Day Chapel Fee: St. Mary \$100

Convalidation St. Mary \$100
Convalidation Old St. Mary \$250

Musician/Singer Fee: Negotiated directly with the musician/singer and paid directly to them.

Priest/Deacon: A customary offering is usually made to the Priest or Deacon for the time spent in marriage preparation, as well as the ceremony.
(This IS NOT included in the Church fee).

Fee Payment Schedule

Deposit (non-refundable) at the time this form is returned \$ 50.00

Balance of Church fees due 60 days prior to wedding date

I have read, understand and agree to the marriage guidelines set forth by St. Mary Catholic Church.

Groom

Bride

Date

Date

Please retain a copy of all signed documents for your records.

Wedding Information/Request Form

PLEASE PRINT

GROOM

Name: _____
Last First Middle

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (home) _____ (work) _____

(cell) _____

E-mail _____

DOB: _____ Birth Place _____

Religion _____ Baptized Yes No

Baptism Date: _____ Church _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Confirmation Yes No Date _____

Church _____

City State Zip

Married Previously Yes No

If yes, where _____

When _____

By Whom _____

Parish/Church _____

(currently attending)

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Father's Name _____

Last First Middle

Father's Religion _____

Mother's Name _____

Maiden First Middle

Mother's Religion _____

PLEASE PRINT

BRIDE

Name: _____
Maiden First Middle

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (home) _____ (work) _____

(cell) _____

E-mail _____

DOB: _____ Birth Place _____

Religion _____ Baptized Yes No

Baptism Date: _____ Church _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Confirmation Yes No Date _____

Church _____

City State Zip

Married Previously Yes No

If yes, where _____

When _____

By Whom _____

Parish/Church _____

(currently attending)

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Father's Name _____

Last First Middle

Father's Religion _____

Mother's Name _____

Maiden First Middle

Mother's Religion _____

For Office Use Only

Received by: _____ Date Received: _____

Registered Parishioner? Yes No If so date of registration: _____

Contacted by: _____ Date contacted: _____ Clergy Assigned: _____

Notes: _____