

The Rite of Christian Marriage

The following is an outline of the Christian Marriage Celebration as it is observed in the Catholic Church.

- 1. PROCESSION:** altar boys, clergy, attendants, witnesses, bride with parents, groom with parents or traditional procession.
- 2. MUSIC:** organ, folk — approval of the pastor should be obtained. Singing: congregational singing at procession, offertory,

A Bridal Check List

Visit the priest who will perform the marriage at least six weeks before your intended wedding date. Don't make any other arrangements (reception, honeymoon, etc.) until you have confirmed the date with him and with the church in which you will be married.

Sharing floral expenses with other couples being married on the same day will save costs and avoid confusion.

Inquire about the manner in which the organist or other musicians are contacted and the customary offering.

Instruct your photographer to consult the priest in the sacristy before the wedding to determine times and places where pictures are appropriate during the ceremony.

Tell the wedding party the importance of being prompt for both the rehearsal and the wedding.

Full participation in the sacrament of Matrimony involves the sharing of Holy Communion. It is fitting for the bride and groom to prepare for their marriage by receiving the sacrament of Penance.

Remember the Eucharistic Regulation: No solid food or liquids for one hour before Communion; water and medicine may be taken at any time. The bride, groom and members of the wedding party may receive Holy Communion under both species. Parents, relatives and friends are encouraged to receive Holy Communion.

Each parish has regulations for

Wedding costs: who pays what, where and when

So many details go into your wedding — and each one is important. Deciding who pays for each of them can be confusing. The following list of expenses should help. In general, unless the groom's family offers to help with the reception costs, the whole wedding ceremony is the responsibility of the bride's family.

Optional expenses include:

Bachelor dinner — may be given by the groom himself or his attendants or friends.

Rehearsal dinner — either the groom's family or the bride's family and friends give it.

Bridesmaids' luncheon — given either by the bride or by her family or friends.

Attendants' dresses — usually bought by the attendants themselves, but the bride may buy them.

Bride's bouquet — usually a gift from the groom, but the bride's family may buy it.

Corasges for mothers and grandmothers — usually provided by the groom, but the bride may want to buy them herself.

communion, recession or choral singing at same times.

3. PRAYER OF THE DAY: choice of one out of four.

4. SCRIPTURAL READINGS: Old Testament Reading (one out of eight choices); New Testament Reading (one out of ten choices); Gospel Reading (one out of ten choices); The groom or bride, best man or maid of honor, or another

layman or laywoman may read the Old and New Testament Readings.

5. HOMILY

6. RITE OF MARRIAGE:

a) Questioning of Groom and Bride by the Priest;

b) Vows exchanged by the Groom and Bride (preferably the Groom and Bride recite their vows, rather than repeat them after the Priest; the Groom and Bride may turn to face the Congregation for the declaration of vows, if they wish.) Groom and Bride may formulate their own vows — with approval of priests;

c) Blessing of Rings by the Priest (one out of three choices);

d) Exchange of Rings by Groom and Bride (Again it is preferred that the Groom and Bride recite the prayer, rather than repeat it after the Priest.)

7. GENERAL INTENTIONS: intentions may be submitted beforehand by the Groom and Bride (intentions may be read by layman/laywoman).

8. OFFERTORY PROCESSION: The bread, the wine and water may be brought to the altar by the Groom and Bride. Others might be involved in Offertory Procession.

9. PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS: one out of three choices.

10. PREFACE TO THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER: one out of three choices.

11. EUCHARISTIC PRAYER: one out of four choices.

12. NUPTIAL BLESSING: This follows the Lord's Prayer. Again there is a choice of one out of three.

13. GREETING OF PEACE: This may involve all attending or just the wedding party or just the Groom and Bride.

14. HOLY COMMUNION: Both the Host and Chalice are given to the Groom and Bride, and perhaps to all in the Wedding Party as well as the members of the immediate family.

15. PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION: one out of three choices.

16. FINAL BLESSING: one out of three choices.

17. RECESSIONAL: Groom and Bride, witnesses, attendants.

the conducting of weddings (e.g. throwing of rice and confetti is not permitted at many churches.) You will be expected to follow these rules. If you're not sure of the customs, ask the pastor.

Plan your own wedding ceremony with the help of the priest. Booklets to assist you are available in many parishes and at the Pre-Cana Conference. Members of your family and friends may read the first and second readings, and the Prayer of the Faithful. They may also take part in the Offertory Procession.

A Protestant clergyman or a Rabbi may participate in the wedding ceremony. Arrangements for this should be made in advance with the priest marrying you.

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