



**THE SACRAMENT  
OF  
MATRIMONY**

**CATHEDRAL OF  
SAINT HELENA**

*By Linda McCray ©92*

Hello!

Congratulations on your recent engagement! What an exciting and grace-filled time in your lives. Thank you for saying “yes” to the Lord’s plan for you to be united in the holy sacrament of matrimony. Please know of our prayers and support for you at every step of this journey.

This initial packet will help you prepare not just for your wedding but for your marriage. You’ll see that there are quite a few steps to ensure that you are free and ready to be married in the eyes of the Catholic Church. To that end, the preparation prior to your wedding day is crucial in deepening your understanding of the richness of the sacrament you will give to each other, the unique gifts that God wishes to bestow upon your relationship, and how He will strengthen the love that you already have for each other. Your wedding liturgy will be the culmination of your preparation, so please invest in this formation with open and ready hearts. Your marriage in the Church is meant to be more than just a gift for you but also for your family, friends, the Church, and the culture at large. This is a wonderful time to dive into the deepest questions and desires of your hearts—questions and desires that ultimately find their fulfillment in the Person of Jesus Christ.

Above all, we want you to know how grateful we are for the love you have for each other and the way in which that love points beyond itself to God. May each day be a deeper experience of that love.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Fr. Marc Lenneman*

Rector  
Cathedral of St. Helena

## SELECTION OF A DATE AND TIME

Marriage Liturgies are scheduled for Friday between 4:30 P.M. and 6:30 P.M. or on Saturdays between 1:00 P.M. and 2:00 P.M. A different day may be chosen for a special need with pastoral permission. Selected dates may be scheduled one year prior to the Marriage if one of the couple is an active/practicing member of the Cathedral Parish. All others must wait six months before the desired date. Marriage Liturgies are not scheduled on Saturday evenings, Sundays, Solemnities, the Friday, or Saturday following Christmas, New Year's Eve, and New Year's Day, nor during the Season of Lent.

## MARRIAGE PREPARATION PROGRAM

By establishing a period of **six-months** for preparation for Marriages, as well as providing programs, interviews and guidance, the Church seeks to help couples as they begin this lifelong journey.

The Cathedral Parish offers two seven-week classes to assist you as you prepare. These sessions are offered January - March or October - November. The discussions are led by a team of married couples who share their knowledge of marriage.

If for some serious reason, you are unable to participate in the preparation for Marriage offered by the Cathedral, other options may be arranged in consultation with the Priest or Deacon preparing you for the Sacrament of Marriage.

If you do not currently reside in Helena, please consult your current parish about attending their marriage preparations courses. We will require a letter or certificate from your parish upon completion of their preparation course.

## THE LITURGY

The model for the Wedding Liturgy is the parish Sunday Celebration of the Eucharist. Please read and select Scripture Readings that are provided in the booklet, ***Together for Life***. You may obtain this booklet and the policy booklet from the Parish Office or Priest / Deacon who is assisting you in your preparations.

The Catholic Church offers two options when celebrating the Sacrament of Matrimony:

***The Order of Celebrating Matrimony within Mass*** – when both the bride and groom are active and participating Catholics and ***The Order of Celebrating Matrimony without Mass*** – when a Catholic marries a person who is not baptized. If an active and participating Catholic marries a Baptized Christian of a different denomination they may choose between Marriage during Mass or outside of Mass depending upon which best reflects the choices of both future spouses as well as their expectations.

More information about the Liturgy and The Order of Celebrating Matrimony will be provided with the booklet, ***Together for Life***.

## MUSIC FOR YOUR MARRIAGE

**Please contact the Cathedral Director of Music before planning any music.** As with all Liturgies at the Cathedral, music plays an integral role in the celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage. The Cathedral Director of Music is responsible for the music at the Marriage Liturgy and will assist you in choosing and approving the music for the celebration of the Sacrament. Because of the unique acoustics of the Cathedral qualified Cathedral Musicians are required.

The Cantor leads the people in song at various times during the celebration. The Cantor is necessary for leading the Responsorial Psalm the acclamations during the Liturgy of the Eucharist. **Please do not make arrangements with vocalists or instrumentalists prior to meeting the Director of Music. To schedule a meeting, please contact the Director of Music by phone at 406-442-5825, extension 1021 or via email at [jembry@sthelenas.org](mailto:jembry@sthelenas.org).**

## FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS

The interior of the Cathedral of Saint Helena is a beautiful setting—very little is needed to enhance the Cathedral for the celebration of Marriage.

In the sanctuary there are six historic “Brondel” candlesticks that may be decorated. These are the only candlesticks used in the sanctuary for the Liturgy. (Please note that the Unity Candle is not a prescribed element of the Marriage Rite and is not permitted during the Marriage Liturgy.) Floral arrangements are never placed on or in front of the Altar of Sacrifice. Please note that the use of rice, confetti, birdseed, flower petals, or bubbles within the Cathedral or outside, is considered a safety hazard by our insurance provider and are prohibited.

If bows or small flower decorations are to be used on the ends of the pews, please notify the florist that tape may not be used. Brass eyes are located on the inside of each pew for attaching decorations. Aisle runners, balloons, or other informal party decorations may not be used.

Floral arrangements are frequently left as a gift to the Cathedral parish for the weekend Masses. Please inform the Pastoral Associate for Liturgy if this is your wish and an acknowledgement will be printed in the Sunday bulletin.

Please note that decorations during the seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Easter may not be changed. If you have any questions regarding the decorations particular to each Liturgical Season, please call the Liturgy Office. Church furnishings and fixtures may not be re-arranged without consultation and approval by the Pastor or Pastoral Associate for Liturgy. As it is presently arranged, the sanctuary provides for the flow of the Liturgy and for the greatest visibility.

## CARE OF THE CATHEDRAL

The Cathedral of Saint Helena is a sacred place of worship and prayer. A prayerful atmosphere is expected during rehearsal, prior to the Marriage Liturgy and after the Liturgy.

Please assign members of the wedding party to “pick-up” the dressing area, vestibule and pews following the Marriage.

## REHEARSALS

Rehearsals are scheduled on Thursday or Friday between 4:00 and 5:00 P.M. and last between 30 and 45 minutes. The Pastoral Associate for Liturgy, or his delegate, conducts the rehearsal. Please limit the number of people attending the rehearsal only to those who will be Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Greeters and the members of the Wedding Party.

## HOSPITALITY AND DRESSING ROOMS

The Cathedral provides a dressing room for the bride and prior to the celebration. We are unable to provide changing rooms for the groom and groomsmen.

The wedding party is welcome to bring light snacks and water to the lower level of the Cathedral. **We respectfully request that no food or drink be brought into the Cathedral proper.**

## ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Consumption of alcoholic beverages prior to the wedding is strictly forbidden. It is the responsibility of the couple to inform the entire wedding party of this rule and to comply with it. Noncompliance of this policy will result in the automatic forfeiture of the deposit and the exclusion of anyone who is intoxicated.

## WEDDING FEES

The fee specified for your Marriage Liturgy helps cover the cost of the services of the Parish Staff (musicians, preparers, celebrants, administration) as well as the expense of maintaining the facilities, lighting, utilities, etc. The fees are not to be understood as either paying for the Sacrament or the renting of the Cathedral building for the celebration of the Sacrament

There are two fee schedules at the Cathedral of Saint Helena: one for parishioners and another for non-parishioners. Normally, a parishioner shall be defined as someone who has been registered, active and a contributing member of the Cathedral Parish for at least two (2) years prior to the proposed Marriage date. A parish staff member will help you determine your status should there be any questions.

**All fees are paid at the time of your meeting with the Pastoral Associate for Liturgy.**

A refundable \$200 deposit is required for all Marriage celebrations whether you are a parishioner or not.

**The deposit will be returned within 30 days assuming you have complied with all policies and procedures.**

**No parishioner of the Cathedral of Saint Helena is ever turned away from having his or her Marriage Celebration in the Cathedral because of an inability to pay the fees.** If you have financial difficulties in meeting the fee plan, please discuss the matter with the Priest, Deacon or the Business Manager. This need will be held in confidence.

*Couples often ask whether it is appropriate to make a monetary gift to the Priest or Deacon who celebrated their Marriage. Though not required, it is customary and is often a kind way to express thanks.*

## **FEES SCHEDULE**

**Fees for parishioners:** \$800 Contribution for the Cathedral  
\$200 refundable deposit.

**Fees for non-parishioners:** \$1200 Contribution for the Cathedral  
\$200 refundable deposit.

Please make two separate checks for each fee.

