

*A Guide to Planning a Wedding*  
*at*  
*The Cathedral of Our Lady of Lourdes*



***WELCOME!***

Thank you for inquiring about the possibility of being married at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Lourdes. We want to support and assist you in the best way possible as you embark on this very important commitment in your lives. This brochure is intended to answer a few of the questions which are most likely on your mind at this time. It may also help you to raise some questions which haven't yet occurred to you but which will be important for you to consider as you make plans for your wedding.

*The Cathedral of Our Lady of Lourdes*  
*1115 West Riverside*  
*Spokane, Washington 99201*  
*(509) 358-4290*  
*[www.SpokaneCathedral.com](http://www.SpokaneCathedral.com)*

## **Q. WHO MAY BE MARRIED AT THE CATHEDRAL OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES?**

**A.** The Cathedral Church is the Mother Church for the Diocese of Spokane and any Catholic is welcome to celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage here. However, there is a fee for non-parishioners or people who do not regularly attend Sunday Mass at the Cathedral. This fee is used to help maintain our historic buildings.

## **Q. WHO MAY OFFICIATE AT WEDDINGS IN THE CATHEDRAL?**

**A.** The priests or deacons assigned to the Cathedral Parish normally officiate at Cathedral weddings. In addition, permission may be given for a priest or a deacon who is a relative or friend to officiate. And, as mentioned above, if you belong to another parish in the Diocese, your pastor will be the appropriate person to approach in this matter.

## **Q. MAY PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH BE MARRIED AT THE CATHEDRAL OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES?**

**A.** Yes, if he or she is marrying a Catholic.

## **Q. WHAT MUST BE DONE IF PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN MARRIED BEFORE ARE TO BE MARRIED IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH?**

**A.** The Catholic Church regards marriage as a permanent commitment. If someone has been through a divorce, please discuss the matter with a priest or deacon who will be happy to help you resolve the situation. This should be done at the very beginning of the marriage preparation process.

## **Q. IS SOME SORT OF PREPARATION NEEDED FOR COUPLES WISHING TO BE MARRIED AT THE CATHEDRAL?**

**A.** Yes. Since marriage between the baptized in the Catholic Church is a Sacrament and a commitment for life, one of the ways we value and honor it is by taking time to help couples prepare. This preparation, scheduled and conducted by the officiating clergyman, will include:

- 1] a document called the *Prenuptial Investigation*;
- 2] a *Premarital Inventory* (PMI);
- 3] discussions and interviews as deemed necessary by the priest or deacon who will preside at your wedding, and
- 4] a *Marriage Preparation Weekend* or an *Engaged Encounter*.

## **Q. WHEN MAY WEDDINGS TAKE PLACE AT THE CATHEDRAL?**

**A.** Weddings are scheduled on Saturdays at 10:00 am and 2:00 pm. Weddings can be scheduled after 5:30 pm by way of an exception but involve an additional fee for security.

## **Q. DO CATHOLIC WEDDINGS ALWAYS TAKE PLACE DURING MASS?**

**A.** No. Weddings may be celebrated either during the celebration of Mass or during a Liturgy of the Word. Normally, weddings are celebrated during Mass only when both parties are of the Catholic faith.

## **Q. DOES THE CATHEDRAL HAVE POLICIES REGARDING THE CONTENT OF THE WEDDING SERVICE, THE WORSHIP ENVIRONMENT, MUSIC, ETC.?**

**A.** Yes. The marriage ritual is first and foremost prayer which is celebrated within a sacred building in the midst of a community of faith. The form of the celebration is set forth in the Church's official ritual books, which offer a number of options for Scripture readings, prayers, blessings and vows. The priest or deacon who will preside at your wedding can assist you in choosing wedding texts and Scripture readings that best reflect your personal relationship with Jesus. The Cathedral Director of Music is also available to assist in choosing appropriate music and the Wedding Coordinator can assist with explaining other policies and answering further questions. Please keep in mind the following:

- ✠ **Flowers and candles:** The architecture of the Cathedral is beautiful and helps to lift minds and hearts to God. The use of flowers should serve as an accent and one should look to how flowers are placed for Sunday Mass as a model for weddings. The altar is a symbol of Christ and should not be obstructed nor used as a stand for flowers, wedding books, etc. The Cathedral candles surrounding the altar are to be used for wedding celebrations.
- ✠ **Photography:** We invite you to maintain a spirit of reverence in the Cathedral at all times. Photographs may be taken before or after the ceremony while taking into account other scheduled liturgical celebrations. The Wedding Coordinator will be happy to suggest appropriate places from which to take photos that will not interfere with the wedding ceremony or cause distraction.
- ✠ **Dress:** Couples are asked to be sensitive to modesty when choosing clothing to wear for the wedding. This applies especially to the choice of gowns for the bride and other women in the bridal party. Modest dress for men and women reflect the sacred nature of the wedding celebration.
- ✠ **Rice, birdseed, live flower petals, and confetti:** These items present a considerable burden for our maintenance staff and, in some cases, present a hazard for walking. Please refrain from using them.
- ✠ **The worship environment:** The Cathedral Church is appropriately furnished such that other liturgical items and furniture are not necessary. Moreover, please help us to maintain the sacred nature of the building by consuming all food and drink before entering the Cathedral. Finally, if alcohol is to be consumed by the wedding party and guests, it should be consumed after the wedding ceremony. The priest or deacon cannot witness the marriage of a couple that has consumed alcohol prior to the ceremony.
- ✠ **Musical enrichment:** The Cathedral has a wonderful music program which supports and enhances our worship of God. Since God is the author of marriage, the music chosen for weddings should be sacred in nature. Favorite secular or romantic pieces are certainly appropriate at the wedding reception. The Cathedral Music Director is happy to assist in choosing beautiful music for your ceremony.

## **Q. MAY I HAVE THE WEDDING RECEPTION AT THE CATHEDRAL?**

**A.** Yes. Use of the Parish Hall on the lower level of the Cathedral may be arranged through the Parish Office. The area is attractively lighted, carpeted and nicely appointed with round tables and chairs, and will accommodate up to 200 guests for a catered reception. Also, in consideration to our Liturgy Schedule, we are unable to accommodate loud music for dancing. However, light background music is certainly welcome. Couples are encouraged to make these arrangements well in advance with the Wedding Coordinator.

## Q. IS THERE A FEE INVOLVED IN A CATHEDRAL WEDDING?

A. Yes. The fee assigned to your wedding helps defray the costs of the services of the Wedding Coordinator, the musicians, the sacristan and altar attendants, the business office and the maintenance staff, as well as the cost of utilities, such as heat and electricity. At the present time, the fee for a wedding at the Cathedral is \$1,125.00.

Included are the services of:

|                         |             |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| The Cathedral organist* | \$150.00    |
| A Cathedral vocalist    | \$150.00    |
| Trumpet                 | \$150.00    |
| Wedding Coordinator     | \$100.00    |
| Security / Maintenance  | \$ 75.00    |
| Cathedral Stipend       | \$500.00 ** |

\*This includes one 1-hour consultation with the music director prior to the rehearsal. If the organist and/or other musicians are to be present for the rehearsal, there is an additional fee of \$50 each.

\*\*This fee is for non-parishioners and helps us to maintain our historic buildings. Parishioners do not have a set fee but are nonetheless welcome to make an offering of their choice in thanksgiving to God.

A deposit of \$300 is required when you file the initial forms for a wedding. The balance of the fee is to be paid no less than 30 days prior to the wedding date. If the wedding plans change, the initial deposit will be refunded upon notification of the change. There will be no refund made days prior to the wedding date.

