

Saint Bernadette Catholic Parish of Fuquay-Varina

PROCESS FOR WEDDING CELEBRATION

Initiation Date:
MO. __ DAY __ YR. __

If the Bride or groom have been married before (civil or religious ceremony), please indicate.

GROOM: YES ____ **NO** ____ **BRIDE: YES** ____ **NO** ____

If the response to these questions is positive from either the bride or the groom, they should talk to the priest before making any arrangement, or planning any date.

GROOM:

First Name: _____ Middle Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone (House) _____ Work _____ Cell _____

E-mail _____ Religion _____

Church of Baptism _____ City of Baptism _____

State _____ Country _____ First Communion _____ Confirmation _____

Are you registered in the parish: Yes No # Are you registered in another parish: Yes No

BRIDE:

First Name: _____ Middle Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone (House) _____ Work _____ Cell _____

E-mail _____ Religion _____

Church of Baptism _____ City of Baptism _____

State _____ Country _____ First Communion _____ Confirmation _____

Are you registered in the parish: Yes No # Are you registered in another parish: Yes No

How long have you been living together? _____ How many children do you have? _____ (Please write their names and ages on the back of this page.)

Original Certificates:

	Baptism	Marriage License	Marriage Certificate	Birth Certificate
Groom				
Bride				

Interview with Priest: _____ Marriage Preparation Talk: _____

Pre-Marriage Investigation Papers Completed: _____

Summary Marriage Form Sent to Diocese _____

Wedding Date: _____ Time _____ Priest _____

Rehearsal Date and Confessions: _____



Saint Bernadette Catholic Parish of Fuquay-Varina

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Deacon Chuck - czlamal@stbnc.net – Deacon Pual - pcoughlin@stbnc.net – 919-443-2757 / Fax: 919-238-3363

Information for Weddings

Dear engaged couple:

Marriage in the Catholic Church is a sacrament, a vocation to be one in Christ forever. Therefore it requires that the couple be committed to live fully as Disciples of Christ in the Catholic Church. Before you decide to marry in the Catholic Church be sure you understand the difference between a sacramental marriage and civil marriage. You need to know the meaning of marriage in Christ. In Catholic marriage, the couple commits to a partnership. The wife and husband cease to live as single people. They receive from each other the gift of the total selves: spirits, emotions and bodies. Married couples confide in each other, trusting that honesty makes relationships strong, and they are companions and friends and support each other both materially and spiritually. That is why is important the preparation of the couple before the marriage, so they will be able to understand the seriousness and responsibility of the marriage in the Catholic Church.

REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE to read and follow these regulations. Please keep us informed of any changes in your phone, address or any other issue pertinent to your wedding. Please let us know how we can help.

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT WE ENTER INTO A RELATIONSHIP OF HONESTY AND TRUST.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE. The priest will explain each of these.

- a. Both parties must be free to marry.
- b. Both parties must be mature enough, capable and willing to make a lifelong commitment to marriage in Christ. Have an understanding of what marriage means in the Catholic Church.
- c. A mutual commitment to fidelity for life.
- d. Openness to having children.
- e. Participate in the Marriage preparation.
- f. All couples should participate in holy mass here every Sunday as part of their commitment to be Disciples of Christ.

WHAT IF:

a. We are living together before marriage: Living together before marriage is a serious sin and cannot be justified by the fact that so many are doing it. This behavior damages the preparation that God intends for marriage. The priest will be glad to help you with any questions.

b. One or both of you were previously married (even if outside of the Church): You CANNOT marry in the Catholic Church if one of the two parties has a previous valid marriage. Declaring the nullity of a marriage is the competence only of the **Tribunal of the Catholic Church**. Annulments are NOT automatic and it cannot be assumed that it will be granted. The tribunal only annuls a marriage if it finds grounds to do so. The priest will assist you if you believe that you have grounds for an annulment. But no marriage dates may be reserved and no process of marriage preparation may begin until all previous marriages are declared annulled by the Catholic tribunal. This applies also to any previous civil marriages.

c. You are now civilly married to each other: Then you are seeking a convalidation, that is, to bring your union into Christ through the sacrament of marriage. Remember that living together without the sacrament is objectively a state of mortal sin. But God, in His infinite Mercy, is calling you to a new life. Welcome.

d. If you are marrying a baptized person who is not Catholic, part of your marriage preparation should be to learn what you have in common and what you do not. The Catholic party must promise to raise the children in the Catholic faith. The non-Catholic party should be made aware of the above promise.

e. If you are marrying a non-baptized person. You must reaffirm your faith in Jesus Christ and with God's help intend to continue living that faith in the Catholic Church. You promise to do all in your power to share the faith with your children by having them baptized and raised Catholics.

f. You are pregnant. The life of each individual is sacred from the moment of conception. This is true whether the pregnancy was expected or not. The child has a right to life. But pregnancy in itself cannot be the reason for marriage. It is better to wait until after the baby's birth and then discern if you truly are committed to marriage forever. Please discuss this with the priest.

WHEN CAN WE GET MARRIED?

a. Usually it requires between 5 - 6 months preparation which may be started only when both are free to marry.

b. What times are available for weddings? Usually the weddings are scheduled on Saturdays at 12 noon or 2pm, but you can discuss that with the priest.

c. Where can we marry? The marriage takes place in the parish of the bride or the groom. If you do not live within the parish boundaries and are not registered in our parish, you need to get a letter of permission from either the groom or the bride's pastor. All marriages are to take place inside the church building.

CHECK LIST

DOCUMENTS YOU NEED TO PRESENT

a. THE BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATES of groom and bride, dated within (6) months of the wedding date. A photocopy of the document is OK. Please give them directly to the priest when you meet with him.

b. Copy of the birth certificate of groom and bride.

c. If you are already married by civil law, we need a copy of the Marriage license.

d. The couple must secure a MARRIAGE LICENSE and take it to the parish office 45 days before the wedding. License is valid for 60 days. Don't wait until the last day to get it! DO NOT sign the license. Marriage at Church is valid for civil law once the priest and witnesses sign the license AFTER the Church wedding. ATTENTION!!!!: A priest CANNOT perform the marriage without the civil marriage license at hand. NO EXCEPTIONS.

e. If there was a previous marriage of any kind, other documents are needed. The priest is going to request these documents depending on the case.

THE PROCESS

You are going to have an appointment with the priest in order to complete the forms.

a. PRE NUPTIAL QUESTIONNAIRE: must be filled individually by bride and groom under oath and in the presence of a priest. False testimony may lead to cancellation of the wedding or its validity.

b. QUESTIONNAIRE FOR WITNESSES OF EACH PARTY: Two witnesses for him, two for her. Witnesses are normally the parents. They should make an appointment with the parish office to talk with priest. If they don't live in the area, please ask for the form so that you may mail it to them. They go to their parish to complete it in the presence of a priest or delegate or go to a notary public. They sign individually and privately, under oath. If parents are not living, then have them filled by someone who knows you since you were a child.

c. **PREPARATION PROGRAMS:** Do not expect someone to call you to have it done. It is your responsibility to arrange and complete these as soon as possible. No weddings are celebrated without completing ALL. Don't leave for the last minute! Be aware that these are given by volunteers who also have a busy life and are doing you a favor out of love!

* **One-Day Marriage Preparation Workshop:** It is a Saturday workshop presenting topics that deal with important issues regarding marriage. There is minimal time for couple dialogue. Most workshops begin at 9:00a.m. and conclude at 4:30p.m. Continental breakfast and lunch are provided. Workshop registration and credit card payments can be made online at:

<https://event-wizard.com/events/2012remarriageworskhop/>.

* **Fully Engage:** Fully Engaged is a pre-marital inventory tool with 185 questions, which is taken on-line by each person preparing for marriage (couples take the inventory separately). It is designed to assist couples in learning more about one another and helps to facilitate discussion about issues encountered in marriage. The cost for Fully Engaged is included in Marriage Preparation workshop fees. Instructions for taking the inventory will be sent after workshop payment is received.

* **Mentor couple:** After the workshop each couple is assigned with a mentor couple that is going to work with them and discuss some important topics about marriage. You have to contact your mentor couple as soon as you can.

DONATION. Sacraments have no monetary price, but all who participate in the parish are responsible for its upkeep. The parish has no other support than the faithful

MUSIC You need to arrange with the Parish Director of Music: Matt Molesworth 919-795-7223. If you want another group or choir, you have to contact him to use the church equipment. No recorded music allowed.

REHEARSAL. To arrange the wedding rehearsal in the church, please ask the priest and fill out a space reserve form. It is only one rehearsal and it is important that you call to reserve the rehearsal day since the church is busy and it is hard to find free nights on short notice.

THE HOLY MASS AND WEDDING CEREMONY

a. **HOLY MASS.** Two Catholics ideally marry within a Nuptial Mass. Mass is permitted (but not required) for a mixed marriage (between a Catholic and baptized non-Catholic).

b. **Be On Time.** ALL WEDDINGS MUST BEGIN ON TIME. Since the priest, the musicians and the Church have other events scheduled. Failure to be on time may require that the ceremony and/or picture taking time is shortened.

c. **Holy Communion.** Since the sacrament of marriage depends on Jesus who comes to us as Eucharist, it is very desirable that those marrying receive the Eucharist if they are Catholic.

d. **The Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession)** is necessary. No one should be married or receive the Eucharist in a state of mortal sin. If you have any doubts, consult with the priest. Do this ahead of time, do not wait for the day of the wedding.

e. **Readings of the Word of God.** You may select the readings. A special booklet is provided for that upon request.

g. **ATTIRE:** PLEASE INFORM EVERYONE WHO WILL COME TO THE MASS TO DRESS MODESTLY . IMMODEST ATTIRE IS NOT ALLOWED IN CHURCH.

CHURCH DECORATION:

a. **Flowers:** Flowers are the responsibility of the wedding party. After the ceremony, the flowers which are placed near the altar stay in the Church as an offering to God.

* All arrangements should be Natural. No artificial flowers are permitted in the church.

- * There may be time restrictions depending on activities and seasonal times in the Church. Prior to the wedding. Check with the church about this matter.
- * Any kind of tape, glue, or anything that punctures is on pews, floor or any other surface.
- * Nothing may block the people's FULL view of the altar. Therefore, flowers should not be higher than the altar.
- * Runner. May be used if desired but we do not provide it. This is usually arranged by the couple with the florist. Tape should not damage our carpet.
- * No signs, balloons, noise makers, bubble in church. Nothing can be attached to walls.
- * Throwing petals, rice, confetti or any other material is forbidden inside and outside the church. Nothing in the church may be moved from its regular place.

b. Photograph / Video:

- * Photographer/videographer should consult with priest before ceremony begins.
- * No eating or gum in church. No loud talking. No sitting on the floor.
- * Photographers may not stop or interfere with the procession or the ceremony.
- * Picture taking should be in step with the ceremonial action so as not to distract.
- * During the reading of Holy Scriptures and during the mass photographs are not allowed. That would distract people. Please understand that the priest may ask you to leave if you do not cooperate.
- * You have 20 minutes for pictures after the wedding.
- * Observe due respect to the Lord. No sensuous posing inside the church.
- * If you have questions, ask the priest before the mass.

MAY THE LORD BLESS YOU AS YOU PREPARE FOR MARRIAGE IN CHRIST!