



*Celebrating the
Sacrament of Holy Matrimony
at St. Bernard and St. Henry
Catholic Churches*



The Wedding at Cana (John 2)

St. Bernard Catholic Church

114 S. Church Street

Watertown, WI 53094

(920) 261-5133

St. Henry Catholic Church

412 N. 4th Street

Watertown, WI 53094

(920) 261-7273



Congratulations on your engagement!

On behalf of our Catholic community - the people of St. Bernard and St. Henry parishes - we rejoice with both of you on your engagement! Congratulations!

We hope and pray that this time of immediate preparation for your wedding will be a time where you continue to grow closer to the Lord Jesus and to one another, and we pray that Almighty God will bless both of you with His peace and joy as you prepare to enter into this sacred bond of marriage!

This booklet has been prepared to assist you in preparing for this joyous occasion. We trust that these guidelines will help you as you plan and prepare for your wedding. The purpose of these guidelines is to anticipate any questions that you might have, explain the necessary steps involved, and cover several practical concerns. Our hope is that by following these guidelines your wedding day will be a prayerful and beautiful occasion which honors God, the author of married love, and that it will be an unforgettable day for both of you and for your many family members, friends, and guests!

Once again, congratulations on your engagement! Please be assured of our prayers for both of you in the days and weeks ahead! May God bless you!

Fr. Patrick Wendler, *Pastor*
patrick.wendler@straphael.org

Fr. Savio Yerasani, *Parochial Vicar*
syerasani@watertowncatholic.org



"Today [I want to] touch directly on the beauty of Christian marriage. It is not merely a ceremony in a church, with flowers, a dress, photographs... Christian marriage is a sacrament that takes place in the Church, and which also [builds up] the Church, by giving rise to a new family community. ...Indeed, Christian spouses participate as spouses in the mission of the Church. This takes courage! That is why when I meet newlyweds, I say: 'Here are the brave ones!', because it takes courage to love one another [selflessly] as Christ loves the Church. ...And thus the life of the Church is enriched every time by the beauty of this spousal covenant, and deteriorates every time it is disfigured. The Church, in order to offer to all the gifts of faith, hope and love, needs the courageous fidelity of spouses to the grace of their sacrament!"

- Pope Francis (General Audience on May 6, 2015)





The Catholic Vision of Marriage

“Marriage is the intimate union and equal partnership of a man and a woman. It comes to us from the hand of God, who created male and female in his image, so that they might become one body and might be fertile and multiply (See Genesis chapters 1 and 2). Though man and woman are equal as God’s children, they are created with important differences that allow them to give themselves and to receive the other as a gift.

Marriage is both a natural institution and a sacred union because it is rooted in the divine plan of creation. In addition, the Catholic Church teaches that the valid marriage between two baptized Christians is also a sacrament – a saving reality and a symbol of Christ’s love for his church (See Ephesians 5:25-33). In every marriage the spouses make a contract with each other. In a sacramental marriage the couple also enters into a covenant in which their love is sealed and strengthened by God’s love.

The free consent of the spouses makes a marriage. From this consent and from the sexual consummation of marriage a special bond arises between husband and wife. This bond is lifelong and exclusive. The marriage bond has been established by God and so it cannot be dissolved.

In the Latin Rite of the Catholic Church, the priest or deacon, the two official witnesses, and the congregation all witness the exchange of consent by the couple who themselves are considered to be the ministers of the sacrament.

Permanency, exclusivity, and faithfulness are essential to marriage because they foster and protect the two equal purposes of marriage, which are: 1) growth in mutual love between the spouses (unitive); and 2) the generation and education of children (procreative).

The mutual love of a married couple should always be open to new life. This openness is expressed powerfully in the sexual union of husband and wife. The power to create a child with God is at the heart of what spouses share with each other in sexual intercourse. Mutual love includes the mutual gift of fertility. Couples who are not able to conceive or who are beyond their child-bearing years can still express openness to life. They can share their generative love with grandchildren, other children and families, and the wider community.

As a result of their baptism, all Christians are called to a life of holiness. This divine calling, or vocation, can be lived in marriage, or in the single life, or in the priesthood or consecrated (religious) life. No one vocation is superior to or inferior to another. Each one involves a specific kind of commitment that flows from one’s gifts and is further strengthened by God’s grace. All vocations make a unique contribution to the life and mission of the Church.”

(Taken from www.foryourmarriage.org/catholic-marriage/catholic-beliefs/meaning-and-purpose/)



Table of Contents

1. PRELIMINARY PLANNING

A. Parish Registration_____	Page 4
B. Setting the Date of the Wedding_____	Page 4
C. Wedding Days and Times_____	Page 4
D. Alcohol, Drugs, and Smoking Policy_____	Page 5
E. Fees and Offerings_____	Page 5
F. Cancellation Policy_____	Page 5
G. Starting the Wedding Preparation Process_____	Page 5
H. The Wedding Preparation Process Timeline_____	Page 6
I. Requirements of the Diocese of Madison_____	Page 6
J. FOCCUS Couple Contact Information_____	Page 6
K. Obtaining a WI Marriage License_____	Page 7
L. Obtaining Official Baptismal Certificates & Confirmation_____	Page 7
M. Previously Married? and Annulments_____	Page 7
N. The Wedding Planner/Coordinator_____	Page 8
O. The Wedding Rehearsal_____	Page 8
P. Official Witnesses_____	Page 8

2. PLANNING THE WEDDING LITURGY

A. Nuptial Mass or a Wedding Liturgy without Mass?_____	Page 9
B. Musicians_____	Page 9
C. Music Guidelines_____	Page 10
D. Song Suggestions_____	Pages 11-12
E. The Readings_____	Page 13
F. Prayers of the Faithful/General Intercessions_____	Page 13
G. The Readers_____	Page 13
H. Servers_____	Page 13
I. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion_____	Page 13
J. Ushers_____	Page 13
K. Gift Bearers_____	Page 14
L. Guest Catholic Priest/Deacon Celebrants_____	Page 14
M. Guest non-Catholic Clergy_____	Page 14
N. Programs_____	Page 14
O. Photography/Video Guidelines_____	Page 15
P. The Unity Candle_____	Page 16
Q. Flowers and Decorations_____	Page 17
R. Facilities/Dressing Rooms_____	Page 17
S. Wedding Attire_____	Page 17
T. Outline of Nuptial Mass and Wedding Liturgy without Mass_____	Pages 18-19



St. Bernard and St. Henry Parish Guidelines and Policies

1. PRELIMINARY PLANNING

A. Parish Registration:

The free exchange of wedding vows in the Catholic Church (Holy Matrimony) is a sacrament when it occurs between two baptized Christians. All sacraments, including marriage, are to be celebrated in the presence of a faith community. As such, in order to be married at St. Bernard or St. Henry Catholic Church we require that at least one member of the engaged couple (or one of their parents) be a registered parishioner for at least 1 year prior to the intended wedding date. By being a registered member (or child of a registered member) of our Watertown Catholic community you are signifying your commitment to practicing the Catholic faith, which includes regular attendance at Sunday Mass, regular participation in the sacrament of reconciliation, and living a Christian moral and spiritual life. If you would like more information on becoming a registered member of either parish please call the respective parish office (contact information can be found on the cover of this booklet).

B. Setting the Date of the Wedding:

Couples are expected to contact the parish office at least 6-12 months prior to the date on which they hope to celebrate their wedding. A confirmed date will be set by the priest only after he has had sufficient opportunity to meet with the engaged couple to complete the necessary paperwork and to ensure that the couple is free to marry in the Catholic Church. It is the responsibility of the engaged couple to secure the confirmed date with the priest/church before making any commitments with caterers, reception halls, etc. Weddings are scheduled with respect to the couple's wishes but are subject to the availability of the church and/or priest.

C. Wedding Days and Times:

Weddings are usually scheduled for Saturdays. At St. Bernard, weddings are usually scheduled on Saturday for either 1 p.m. or 2 p.m. At St. Henry, weddings are typically scheduled on Saturday for 1 p.m.. If you would like a time or day other than these you will need to obtain the expressed consent of the pastor or parochial vicar. Weddings are not celebrated on Sundays or on Solemnities of the Church Calendar. Weddings may take place during Advent and Lent but the couple is advised to take into consideration the somber nature of these liturgical seasons when planning, decorating, and celebrating.



St. Bernard and St. Henry Parish Guidelines and Policies

1. PRELIMINARY PLANNING

D. Alcohol, Drugs, and Smoking Policy:

The sacred nature and location of your wedding excludes the use of alcohol and/or drugs both before and during the wedding rehearsal and the wedding ceremony. At no time are alcohol and/or drugs allowed on church property. The use of alcohol and/or drugs by the bride, by the groom, or by any member of the wedding party before or during either the wedding rehearsal or the wedding ceremony will not be tolerated. If the presiding priest suspects the use of alcohol and/or drugs by any of these people he has the full right to refuse to allow the ceremony to occur and can postpone the wedding indefinitely. The bride and groom assume full responsibility for their own actions and those of their guests.

The sacred nature of a church also demands that there be no smoking within church buildings. Please step outside and away from the building if you would like to smoke.

E. Fees and Offerings:

If you are a registered parishioner (or child of one): \$200 donation

(To St. Bernard Catholic Church or St. Henry Catholic Church)

If you are not a registered parishioner: \$300 donation

(To St. Bernard Catholic Church or St. Henry Catholic Church)

Offering to the presiding Priest or Deacon: \$75

(This is in addition to church donation of \$200 or \$300)

Musician fees (for pianist/organist, cantors, choir, etc.) are arranged individually between the bride and groom and the respective musicians.

Please note: these fees and offerings should be given to the respective recipients at the wedding rehearsal, if not sooner.

F. Cancellation Policy:

If, for various reasons, you must cancel the wedding, please let us know as soon as possible.

G. Starting the Wedding Preparation Process:

Please contact either priest via phone at (920) 261-7273 or by his personal email:

Fr. Patrick Wendler, *Pastor* ❖ patrick.wendler@straphael.org

Fr. Savio Yerasani, *Parochial Vicar* ❖ syerasani@watertowncatholic.org



St. Bernard and St. Henry Parish Guidelines and Policies

1. PRELIMINARY PLANNING

H. The Wedding Preparation Process Timeline:

Please see the last page(s) for more information. But, once again, this process must begin at least 6-12 months prior to your intended wedding date by scheduling an appointment with one of the priests.

I. Requirements of the Diocese of Madison:

In addition to whatever the preparing priest requires of you the Diocese of Madison also requires couples to take the following marriage preparation seminars/classes. Because spaces are limited you are advised to sign up for these seminars as soon as possible once you have received permission from the preparing priest.

1. God's Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage Seminar
2. Real Life, Real Love Seminar
3. Natural Family Planning Seminar

More information can be found here:

<http://www.madisondiocese.org/ministry/marriageandfamily/marriagepreparation.aspx>

J. FOCCUS Couple Contact Information:

FOCCUS is a pre-marriage inventory administered by a FOCCUS-trained couple that helps those preparing for marriage by assessing their agreement, disagreement, or indecision about many important marriage-related issues. All engaged couples are required to meet with a FOCCUS-trained couple. Please contact the Parish secretary to arrange for a meeting.

St. Bernard

Julie Gates (920) 261-5133 StBernard@WatertownCatholic.org

St. Henry

Jackie Rosinski (920) 261-7273 StHenry@WatertownCatholic.org



St. Bernard and St. Henry Parish Guidelines and Policies

1. PRELIMINARY PLANNING

K. Obtaining a WI Marriage License:

A valid Wisconsin marriage license must be obtained from the County Clerk and given to the priest the night of the wedding rehearsal. Because it is against the law for a priest to witness a marriage without an official marriage license he will be prevented from allowing the marriage to take place without this document.

Wisconsin State Law requires a couple to apply no more than 30 days prior to the wedding date but no later than 6 days prior to the wedding. The 6-day waiting period can be waived upon consent of the County Clerk for an additional amount not to exceed \$25.00. Wisconsin State Statutes require a certified birth certificate, and other official documents. In Wisconsin, the marriage license is valid for 30 days from the issuance of the marriage license.

When you apply for your license, you'll not only need proof of identification and age, but you'll need to apply for the certificate of marriage together.

(Taken from www.usmarriagelaws.com/search/united_states/wisconsin/ - please check for current information.)

L. Obtaining Official Baptismal Certificates and Confirmation:

For Catholics: A newly issued certificate of baptism must be presented to the presiding priest celebrant before the marriage. This official certificate is obtained from the parish in which the Catholic was baptized. It must be dated within six (6) months of the wedding date (originals are not allowed). Notation should be made on back of the Baptismal Certificate regarding Confirmation.

For Non-Catholic Christians: There is no date restriction for gathering a baptismal certification. Proof of baptism should be obtained by either contacting the church in which the non-Catholic was baptized or by bringing in the original certificate, which can be photocopied and placed in the marriage file.

Regarding Confirmation: While it is not an absolute requirement that Catholics be confirmed before they are married in the Church confirmation before marriage is something that the Church strongly urges. If you cannot receive the sacrament of confirmation before your wedding we ask that you promise to seek it soon thereafter. After all, why wouldn't you want to have as much of God's help as possible as you embark upon this great journey of married life together?

M. Previously Married? and Annulments:

If either party (or both) has been previously married (even if now civilly divorced), you must let the preparing priest know ASAP. You must also present proof of your freedom to marry or pursue this proof (an annulment) before a wedding date will be set. Please be aware that if you need to pursue an annulment this process can take up to 18 months depending on the circumstances - so please plan accordingly!



St. Bernard and St. Henry Parish Guidelines and Policies

1. PRELIMINARY PLANNING

N. The Wedding Planner/Coordinator:

Please note that while you may be working with a wedding planner with respect to everything from invitations to the reception details, all decisions regarding anything that takes place within the wedding liturgy and/or the church is at the discretion of the presiding priest and is not determined by the wedding planner.

O. The Wedding Rehearsal:

The wedding rehearsal will be scheduled and conducted by the priest witnessing the marriage. It will take approximately one hour. Given the importance of marriage the rehearsal is meant to be a time of prayer, reflection, and final preparation for all those involved in the wedding liturgy. In particular, the rehearsal allows members of the wedding party to become familiar with the environment and the roles that they will assume as part of the wedding liturgy. Therefore it is extremely important that all participating members of the wedding party be present for the rehearsal, including the bride and groom, the maid of honor, the bridesmaids, the flower girls, the best man, the groomsmen, the ring bearers, the lectors, the musicians, the ushers and the parents. Also, we ask that as a sign of courtesy all people should please show up promptly on time.

P. Official Witnesses:

The marriage license and the Church require two official witnesses who are physically present in observing the consent given by the bride and groom.

Some additional requirements for the two witnesses include the fact that they must have the use of reason and possess a sufficient discretion to know, understand and be capable of testifying about what they observe at the time of the consent they have been asked to witness. In most wedding Masses or liturgies outside Mass currently celebrated in Catholic parishes, the task of witnessing is entrusted to the persons designated as “best man” and “maid or matron of honor,” however, any member of the bridal party or in attendance at the service can be designated as a “witness” to the consent.

One question often asked during the course of marriage preparation is whether the witnesses chosen are to be Roman Catholic. The answer is no - they do not need to be Catholic. Also, the witnesses need not be married themselves, nor married to one another. Both witnesses may be male or female and should be 18 years of age or older.

Immediately after the wedding the two official witnesses should meet the presiding priest in the sacristy to sign the marriage license.



St. Bernard and St. Henry Parish Guidelines and Policies

2. PLANNING THE WEDDING LITURGY

A. Nuptial Mass or a Wedding Liturgy without Mass?

When two practicing Catholics seek to be married the norm is for them to have a Nuptial Mass. When a Catholic and a baptized non-Catholic (Protestant Christian) are to be married a Nuptial Mass is permitted although it is not recommended since the non-Catholic party would be unable to receive Holy Communion. This decision, though, is left up to the couple. A Nuptial Mass is not permitted for a marriage between a Catholic and a non-baptized person. Whatever your case may be, however, please know that both the Nuptial Mass and the wedding liturgy without Mass are both beautiful and dignified liturgies. Both include prayers, readings, and all of the other things that one typically associates with a wedding. You can be sure that whatever type of wedding you have it will be both beautiful and memorable. Please also note that whatever you choose we will do our best to make any non-Catholic guests feel welcome.

B. Musicians:

Currently, St. Bernard and St. Henry Churches do not have a full-time musician/ liturgy director. As such, it is the responsibility of the couple to find musicians to play at their wedding. All musicians must be approved by the presiding priest prior to the wedding, however, and they must also have some basic knowledge of Catholic liturgical worship.



St. Bernard and St. Henry Parish Guidelines and Policies

2. PLANNING THE WEDDING LITURGY

C. Music Guidelines:

As with any other sacred celebration the music you choose should express and reflect the dignity of the what is taking place. Accordingly, the texts of songs to be sung ought to reflect the Christian understanding of love and marriage, the mystery of Christ and the Church. Music from the entertainment industry, pop-culture or similar genres is not appropriate at any time during the celebration of Christian marriage, no matter how beautiful or catchy the lyrics, or how meaningful they may be to your relationship. You may enjoy them at your wedding reception but they are not appropriate at church. Only music that has been composed for the liturgy can be used during the sacred celebration. Some pieces of festive classical music are acceptable during the procession/recession. In addition, all music to be performed at your wedding ceremony (before, during, and after) must be performed by trained and capable musicians or soloists. We do not at allow at any time pre-recorded accompaniments for solo or ensemble singing. We also do not allow devices to play recordings. Only live music of appropriate sacred, Christian or classical wedding repertoire is allowed. The presiding priest may refuse to allow any song or musical piece that is not liturgically appropriate and his decision is final.

Also, in order to promote the full participation of your guests you are strongly encouraged to select songs from the *Breaking Bread* hymnal, which can be found at both St. Bernard and St. Henry.



St. Bernard and St. Henry Parish Guidelines and Policies

2. PLANNING THE WEDDING LITURGY

D. Song Suggestions:

Prelude

(instrumental - typically begins 15-30 minutes before the wedding liturgy starts):

1. Ave Maria - Schubert
2. Sheep May Safely Graze - Bach
3. Air - Bach
4. For the Beauty of the Earth - Kocher
5. Panis Angelicus (BB #370)

Processional/Recessional

(instrumental—you may pick one for the bridal party and another for bride for the procession, and a separate song for the recession):

1. Canon in D - Pachelbel
2. Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring - Bach
3. Trumpet Voluntary in D - Jeremiah Clarke (Purcell)
4. Ode to Joy - Beethoven
5. Trumpet Tune in C - Jeremiah Clarke (Purcell)
6. Allegro Maestoso from "Water Music" - G.F. Handel
7. Prince of Denmark March - Clarke
8. Wedding March - Mendelssohn

Gathering Song (optional):

* If you choose to have an opening song, please choose a song from the *Breaking Bread* hymnal.

Preparation of the Altar (should usually be from the *Breaking Bread* hymnal):

1. Now Thank We All Our God (BB #200)
2. Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee (BB #555)
3. Hear Us Now, Our God and Father (BB #678)
4. The Gift of Love - Hal Hopson (Not in BB)
5. Bridal Prayer (duet) - Roger Copeland (Not in BB)
6. How Beautiful - Twila Paris (Not in BB)
7. When Love is Found - Brian Wren (Not in BB)



St. Bernard and St. Henry Parish Guidelines and Policies

2. PLANNING THE WEDDING LITURGY

D. Song Suggestions - continued:

Communion Song

(should usually be from the Breaking Bread hymnal; depending on the number of guests you might want to choose 2):

1. O Sacrament Most Holy (BB #326)
2. Gift of Finest Wheat (BB #328)
3. Ubi Caritas (BB #341)
4. Taste and See (BB #347)
5. Panis Angelicus (BB #370)
6. Adoro Te Devote/Godhead Here in Hiding (BB #413)
7. Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (BB #478)

Mass Settings

(for the Gloria, the Sanctus, the Mystery of Faith, the Lamb of God, etc.):

1. Chant Mass (BB #853-859)
2. Mass of the Resurrection (BB #860-869)
3. Mass of Renewal (BB #870-879)
4. Mass of Creation (BB #880-892)
5. Mass of Christ the Savior (BB #919-928)
6. Mass of Spirit and Grace (BB #929-938)



St. Bernard and St. Henry Parish Guidelines and Policies

2. PLANNING THE WEDDING LITURGY

E. The Readings:

The priest will provide you with a series of readings from Sacred Scripture to choose from. Outside extra-biblical readings are not appropriate for the wedding liturgy and are therefore not permitted.

F. Prayers of the Faithful/General Intercessions:

You may choose to write your own “prayers of the faithful” based off of examples the priest can provide for you. If you choose to do so they must be pre-approved by the priest before the wedding rehearsal. If you would rather not write your own petitions a series of petitions specifically designed for weddings will be provided.

G. The Readers:

Proclaiming God’s Word from Sacred Scripture and reading the intercessions are important aspects of the wedding liturgy. Therefore, only those people who have either done this previously or who are comfortable speaking in public should be considered for these roles. You are welcome to choose between 1 and 3 people to fulfill the following reading roles: 1) 1st Reading; 2) 2nd Reading; 3) Intercessions. Please let the priest know who these people will be prior to the wedding rehearsal.

H. Servers:

If you have friends or relatives who are currently Catholic altar servers at their home parish and would like to have them serve at the wedding liturgy, please ask the presiding priest prior to the rehearsal if he is okay with their assistance.

I. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

At a Nuptial Mass Holy Communion is only distributed under one species - the Precious Body. If you have a friend or family member who is a trained extraordinary minister of Holy Communion at his/her home parish (and who is in good standing with the Catholic Church) and who would like to assist the priest in the distribution of Holy Communion please ask the presiding priest about this prior to the wedding rehearsal.

J. Ushers:

The bride/groom should choose 2-4 ushers to help escort family/friends into church, as well as dismissing guests after the liturgy. Ushers should be able to give direction and be outgoing to inform guests that it is time to be seated. Ushers must make sure that programs and other items are not left in the pews after the wedding. They may also be asked by the priest to help move kneelers/chairs for the bride and groom during the liturgy, if there is a need. They should also attend the rehearsal.



St. Bernard and St. Henry Parish Guidelines and Policies

2. PLANNING THE WEDDING LITURGY

K. Gift Bearers:

If you will be having a Nuptial Mass there is an opportunity to include 2-4 people or a family to bring up the gifts (bread and wine) at the Preparation of the Altar. Many couples choose their Godparents.

L. Guest Catholic Priest/Deacon Celebrants:

A guest priest/deacon is welcome to officiate at your wedding. However, If your marriage is scheduled at St. Bernard or St. Henry with the understanding that you will obtain the services of a guest celebrant priest/deacon the parish will not be responsible for substituting for your guest celebrant priest/deacon if he is unable to officiate at your wedding. It will be your responsibility to obtain the services of a substitute priest/deacon. Therefore, be sure you have a firm commitment from the guest priest/deacon before arranging your wedding to be officiated by a guest celebrant.

The guest priest/deacon must also have current credentials from his diocesan bishop or his religious superior. A letter of suitability must be sent to the Diocese of Madison (Office of the Vicar General) if the priest is not from our diocese and to Fr. Patrick Wendler, the pastor, (at least one week) before the wedding. Guest priests should also contact the pastor a few weeks prior to the wedding.

M. Guest non-Catholic Clergy:

Please speak with the preparing priest about this if you have a legitimate reason to want a non-Catholic clergy member to assist at the wedding.

N. Programs:

We encourage you to create and print (we do not print for you) your own wedding programs. Given that some of your guests may not be familiar with a Catholic Nuptial Mass or wedding liturgy a program will enable them to follow along and participate more fully. The program should contain the music (with either the words or song # from the hymnal plus any relevant copyright information if the song is to be printed in the program) and readings, as well as a basic outline of the wedding liturgy.

Please also inform guests in the program that no flash photography is allowed, that they should silence their cell phones (turn to vibrate), and that no food or drink is allowed in church.

Before printing the program please consult with the presiding priest for clarification and final approval.



St. Bernard and St. Henry Parish Guidelines and Policies

2. PLANNING THE WEDDING LITURGY

O. Photography/Video Guidelines:

Selecting a photographer or videographer is an important concern for every couple planning a wedding. It is important that the person(s) you choose be familiar with some simple regulations. Above all, a prayerful atmosphere must be maintained at all times. Anything that intrudes upon this or interrupts the wedding liturgy is inappropriate. Also, the photographer should be positioned in a way that does not call attention to himself/herself. Below are a few other important guidelines:

- 1) The use of flash equipment during the wedding liturgy is not permitted.
- 2) Absolutely no photography is allowed during the Nuptial Mass from the end of the vows to the end of the "Our Father" prayer.
- 3) Photographers are not allowed into the sanctuary during the wedding liturgy (the sanctuary is the raised part of the church where the altar is located).
- 4) Photographers should be careful not to impede the procession.
- 5) When pictures/video is being taken after the liturgy the photographer must remember (along with all of the wedding guests!) that all of you are still inside church and therefore he/she should act in a reverent and respectful manner.
- 6) No umbrellas, other extraordinary lighting equipment, or backdrops may be set up. Also, no taping of wires is permitted.
- 7) Photographers should keep their equipment in an area of the church where it will not be in the way of guests and/or the priest.
- 8) Equipment can only be brought into church and set up after all previous liturgies are finished unless you obtain expressed permission from the pastor or parochial vicar. Equipment must be removed immediately after the wedding.
- 9) There is a 30 minute time limit for photography/video after the wedding liturgy has ended (because people will be coming into church for confessions/Mass).



St. Bernard and St. Henry Parish Guidelines and Policies

2. PLANNING THE WEDDING LITURGY

P. The Unity Candle:

Even though the “Unity Candle” is somewhat common these days at weddings it is not officially apart of the Catholic wedding liturgy. In fact, many people trace its origins back to only the 1970s and its widespread popularity to 1981 when it was featured in a television wedding on the soap opera, *General Hospital*.

And while its symbolic value is not without some merit, the reality is that for us Catholics we have a far greater symbol of unity in the Eucharist - an “efficacious sign” that Jesus himself has given to us (as opposed to some people in Hollywood who were simply trying to get more viewers for a television show!). In fact, as a reminder, this is what we as Catholics believe about the “unity value” of the Eucharist:

“The principal fruit of receiving the Eucharist in Holy Communion is an intimate union with Christ Jesus. Indeed, the Lord said: ‘He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him.’ ...Those who receive the Eucharist are united more closely to Christ. Through it Christ unites them to all the faithful in one body - the Church. ...Before the greatness of this mystery St. Augustine exclaims, ‘O sacrament of devotion! O sign of unity! O bond of charity!’
(Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraphs 1391, 1396, 1398).

Permission to use a unity candle, therefore, is at the discretion of the priest celebrant. If you obtain permission to use one you will need to provide it. “Unity Sand” is strictly prohibited.



St. Bernard and St. Henry Parish Guidelines and Policies

2. PLANNING THE WEDDING LITURGY

Q. Flowers and Decorations:

The church is God's house - it is a sacred place of worship. As such, we ask that you respect the sense of the sacred and foster an attitude of prayerfulness and reverence when inside. The sanctuary area of the Church is usually decorated according to the liturgical season or for a special feast/solemnity. If you move or change any decorations in the sanctuary you are responsible for returning them to their original location before leaving for pictures or the reception.

Please use tastefully done and appropriate floral arrangements for your wedding celebration. Artificial flowers are acceptable, although natural flowers are preferred. You are welcome to leave floral arrangements in the church after the wedding, but there is no requirement to do so. Flowers are not to be placed on the altar or directly in front of the tabernacle.

For safety reasons we do not allow the use of rice, birdseed, flower petals, etc. in the aisle. We also do not allow aisle runners.

All necessary candles are provided - please do not bring any extra candles for decoration.

Please do not use any sort of adhesive that will damage the pews, floors, or walls when decorating. If you cause any damage you will be held responsible for its repair.

You are also responsible for cleaning up all decorations before the Saturday evening Vigil Mass or next liturgical function begins.

R. Facilities/Dressing Rooms:

At St. Bernard, the church has heat but NO air-conditioning (fans are available). The bride and bridesmaids may use the balcony or school gym (if available) to dress. The groom and groomsmen may use the side chapel if they would like.

At St. Henry, the church has both heat and air-conditioning, and we have the parish basement where the bride and bridesmaids may dress. We also have our office conference room for the groom and groomsmen to use if they would like.

S. Wedding Attire:

When choosing wedding attire, your choice must reflect the dignity of Christian marriage. Some styles are more appropriate for evening wear than they are for a sacred event held in a holy place. All wedding attire worn must be modest. Low necklines and high slits are not in keeping with appropriate guidelines for a religious service. Suits or tuxedos worn by groomsmen must be appropriate for a religious service as well, and not detract from it.



St. Bernard and St. Henry Parish Guidelines and Policies

2. PLANNING THE WEDDING LITURGY

O. The Nuptial Mass in Outline Form:

Prelude

Procession

Introductory Rite

- Opening Song (optional)
- Greeting
- Gloria
- Collect (Opening Prayer)

Liturgy of the Word

- 1st Reading
- Responsorial Psalm
- 2nd Reading
- Gospel Acclamation (Alleluia verse)
- Gospel
- Homily

Rite of Marriage

- Statement of Intentions
- Consent and Exchange of Vows
- Blessing and Exchange of Rings

Prayers of the Faithful/General Intercessions

Liturgy of the Eucharist

- Presentation of the Gifts and Preparation of the Altar
- Prayer over the Offerings, Preface, and Sanctus (“Holy, Holy, Holy”)
- Eucharistic Prayer (Memorial Acclamation/Great Amen)
- The Lord’s Prayer (Our Father)
- Nuptial Blessing
- Sign of Peace
- “Lamb of God”
- Communion

Concluding Rite

- Prayer after Communion
- Presentation of the Couple
- Solemn Blessing at the End of Mass
- Dismissal
- Recessional



St. Bernard and St. Henry Parish Guidelines and Policies

2. PLANNING THE WEDDING LITURGY

P. The Wedding Liturgy without Mass in Outline Form:

Prelude

Procession

Introductory Rite

- Opening Song (optional)
- Greeting
- Gloria
- Collect (Opening Prayer)

Liturgy of the Word

- 1st Reading
- Responsorial Psalm
- 2nd Reading
- Gospel Acclamation (Alleluia verse)
- Gospel
- Homily

Rite of Marriage

- Statement of Intentions
- Consent and Exchange of Vows
- Blessing and Exchange of Rings
- Prayers of the Faithful/General Intercessions
- Nuptial Blessing

Concluding Rite

- The Lord's Prayer (Our Father)
- Presentation of the Couple
- Final Blessing
- Dismissal
- Recessional



St. Bernard and St. Henry Parish Wedding Plan Worksheet

Wedding Plan and Information for the Priest/Deacon Celebrant - PAGE 1
(After completing this form please give to priest and make a copy for your own records)

Bride's Name: _____ Phone: _____

Groom's Name: _____ Phone: _____

Bride's Email: _____ Groom's Email: _____

Wedding Date: ___/___/___ Wedding Time: _____ Church: _____

Rehearsal Date: ___/___/___ Rehearsal Time: _____

Maid of Honor's Name: _____ Number of Bridesmaids: _____

Best Man's Name: _____ Number of Groomsmen: _____

Ring Bearer? Yes No Age: _____ Flower Girl? Yes No Age: _____

Will you provide Altar Servers? Yes No Names of Altar Servers: _____

Cantor/Musicians' Names: _____

Accompanists' Names: _____

Special Music Plans/Requests? _____

Song Selections	Performed When?	Song Selections	Performed When?
1. _____	_____	2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____	4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____	6. _____	_____

1st Reading Selection: _____ 1st Reader: _____

Responsorial Psalm Selection: _____ Psalm Reader/Cantor: _____

2nd Reading Selection: _____ 2nd Reader: _____

Alleluia Verse Selection: _____ Gospel Selection: _____





St. Bernard and St. Henry Parish Wedding Plan Worksheet

Wedding Plan and Information for the Priest/Deacon Celebrant - PAGE 2

Will you compose your own intercessions? Yes No Reader of Intercessions: _____

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion's Name: _____

Ushers' Names: _____

Gift Bearer's Names: _____

Guest Clergy Name(s): _____

Who Will Be Receiving Holy Communion:

Bride: Yes No Groom: Yes No

Maid of Honor: Yes No Best Man: Yes No

Estimated Number of Guests: _____ Estimated Number of Guests Receiving Communion: _____





St. Bernard and St. Henry Parish Guidelines and Policies

We have read and reviewed these guidelines and policies,
and we understand them and agree to abide by them.

Bride's Name (Please print)

Groom's Name (Please print)

Bride's Signature

Groom's Signature

Date



**Once again, congratulations!
May God bless your time of preparation
and may He also bless you
with a long, happy, and holy marriage!**



