

SAINT CATHERINE LABOURE CATHOLIC PARISH

Shrine of the Miraculous Medal

PRAYING • BELIEVING • LIVING ...AS DISCIPLES

Congratulations on your engagement! We at St. Catherine Labouré Parish hope to be a support to both of you as you prepare for Marriage *and* as you live out your married life. We hope that these pages provide you with guidance as you begin your life together. A *wedding* lasts only a day but a *marriage* lasts a lifetime. Therefore, while we hope to provide you with a joyous wedding day, please be sure to focus on developing your relationship together in Christ and preparing for a long and happy life together.

Marriage Preparation Process

The Marriage Preparation Process gives you the opportunity to better understand yourself, your relationship with your spouse, and your relationship with God. This process will help you to share with each other, to learn even more about each other, to discern God's will regarding your life together.

The process begins with an instrument called **FOCCUS** (Facilitating Open Couple Communication, Understanding and Study). This instrument contains a number of questions that are answered individually by the couple. The results enable you to evaluate your relationship and engage in fruitful conversation about it.

The Marriage Preparation Process may be completed by one of three tracks:

(1) **Parish-Based Mentoring Process:** In this track, a mentoring couple, trained through the Family Ministries Office of the Diocese of Harrisburg, will meet with you a number of times prior to your marriage. They will use the results of the **FOCCUS** instrument as a basis for discussion with you.

In this track, the Diocese also requires an afternoon seminar on some aspects not covered with the mentoring couple. You will receive a call/email from the Mentoring Couple assigned to you. At that time you will make arrangements for your first session. Please remember to register for the **God's Plan for Love** seminar at <https://www.hbgdiocese.org/marriage-and-family/marriage-prep/#gods-plan-for-love>.

(2) **An Engaged Encounter Weekend:** Couples preparing in this way take a whole weekend to focus on their future, listening to talks from couples who have been trained to present on the different topics, and then sharing your thoughts first through writing to each other and then sharing privately. Please register on-line at <https://www.hbgdiocese.org/marriage-and-family/marriage-prep/#catholic-engaged-encounter>. If you select this track, you do not need to attend the *God's Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage Seminar*. Couples are to take the **FOCCUS** instrument prior to attending the seminar.

- (3) **Web Based Preparation** (approved by the Harrisburg Diocese) – especially handy for long-distance couples. Go to <http://www.catholicmarriageprep.com>. First, do the online pre-marital inventory. Then do the On-line Marriage prep. Please provide the Parish with a copy of the certificate of completion.

It is the hope and prayer of the entire Church, and especially Your Parish, that this Marriage Preparation Program will strengthen your love for each other and for the Lord.

Dates and Times for Weddings and Rehearsals

Diocesan policy requires a minimum nine (9) month preparation period before the wedding liturgy may take place, though at least twelve (12) months are recommended. This preparation period begins with the first meeting of the priest or deacon.

A wedding date cannot be set until the couple has met with the priest/deacon. The date and time of your wedding should be placed on the parish calendar before making any final arrangements with a caterer or a hall for the reception.

Weddings on Saturdays are normally scheduled at 11:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M. These times will allow you to have the Shrine Church for one and one-half hours from the start of your wedding. Weddings beginning at 11:00 A.M. should exit the Shrine Church by 12:30 P.M. Weddings beginning at 2 P.M. should vacate the church by 3:30 P.M.

Weekday weddings are permissible depending on the availability of the Church and parish facilities. Weddings on **Sundays** may be permitted by the Bishop, but they are generally not feasible due to the number of activities at the Parish on this day. Weddings are not permitted on Holy Days, nor during Holy Week. A Nuptial Mass lasts about 1 hour; a Marriage Outside of Mass lasts about 45 minutes.

Wedding rehearsals are generally held the evening before the ceremony for the convenience of the participants; however, a wedding rehearsal can be held earlier. If there is only one wedding on a Saturday, the couple may schedule the rehearsal by mutual agreement with the priest/deacon. If there are two weddings on a Saturday, rehearsal for the Saturday 11:00 a.m. wedding will be the Friday evening before at 5:00 p.m. Rehearsal for the Saturday 2:00 p.m. wedding will be the Friday evening before at 6:00 p.m. We request that you be on time, so that the rehearsal will begin promptly at the appointed hour. Only those persons immediately connected with the wedding need be in attendance at the rehearsal.

If weddings are celebrated during the penitential seasons of **Lent** or **Advent**, the décor and ceremony should reflect the spirit of these seasons.

Documentation

The following items are to be brought to the priest/deacon who is preparing the couple:

- For the catholic spouse(s): Baptismal certificate “with all notations” & issued within the last 6 months. Please have the parish of Baptism mail a copy to St. Catherine Labouré Parish, 4000 Derry St., Harrisburg, PA 17111.
- For a non-Catholic spouse: a copy of the Baptismal certificate, if baptized. Please bring the original to the St. Catherine Labouré Parish office; it will be copied and returned to you.
- If one or both parties were in a previous marriage, a death Certificate *or* Decree of Nullity must be provided for each prior marriage, as appropriate.

The following items need to be presented as soon as they are available:

- Certificate of Attendance for the Mentoring Process & God’s Plan for Love seminar *or*
- Certificate of Attendance for Engaged Encounter Weekend *or*
- Certificate of completion of online or other marriage preparation, if applicable.

The following items need to be presented to the Parish Office by at least Monday before the rehearsal:

- The Marriage license: This is obtained at any Pennsylvania courthouse at least 5 days prior to the marriage. The license is valid for 60 days.
- Payment for the preparation and ceremony (see *Gifts and Fees*, below).

Witnesses for Freedom to Marry are to contact the priest/deacon who is preparing you. These are two (2) people each of the bride and groom (for a total of 4 witnesses) who can answer some questions about you. A parent and a sibling/good friend is an ideal combination. The witnesses should call or email the priest/deacon who is preparing you in order to schedule an in-person visit or phone interview. This is to be completed at least one month before the wedding.

Ecumenical/Interfaith Couples

If you and your partner are of different churches or religious traditions, it is advisable that you visit the clergy of both churches/traditions. Be sure to discuss any questions you may have about your own and your partner’s religious practices.

Visiting Clergy

If you intend to request a priest other than one from your parish, or if you request the presence of a minister, rabbi, or other religious official, the pastor’s approval is required. If clergy of other faith traditions are to attend, please consult the pastor about their role in the ceremony.

The Marriage Ceremony

Procession: The wedding party with the clergy and ministers all line up at the main entrance of the church and go to the altar together in this order:

1. Altar servers (for a Nuptial Mass)
2. Extraordinary minister of Holy Communion (for a Nuptial Mass)
3. Lectors
4. Priest(s) and/or Deacon(s)
5. Groom (who may be accompanied by parents/family members)
6. Groomsmen and bridesmaids (in pairs or singly)
7. Bride (who may be accompanied by family members, e.g., her father)

The Bride and Groom may also process together, if they so desire. This is the preferred form in the *Instruction of the Rite of Marriage* promulgated in 1969, though it is not commonly practiced in this country. All members of the bridal party procession are to walk down the center aisle, with the medical exception of those needing walkers or wheelchairs. Our Shrine Church is a sacred place of worship therefore the use of bicycles, wagons, carts, etc. is not permitted.

Seating: The Bride and Groom will be seated in the front of the church. The best man and maid/matron of honor sit in the first pews; other members of the wedding party sit alongside of them or the pew behind them, depending on the size of the wedding party. For the exchange of vows, the best man and maid/matron of honor or the entire wedding party may come forward to stand by the Bride and Groom. If a Nuptial Mass is celebrated (with Holy Communion) the couple will be provided with kneelers or with kneeling pads (at their discretion). It is not permitted to rope off the pews where people will be seated – this greatly impedes the flow for Holy Communion.

Liturgical Ministers:

For Marriage within Mass: The couple should choose 1-3 Altar Servers (from their family members and friends or from the parish), 1-2 Lectors (readers) who are Catholic, attend Mass regularly and are accustomed to public speaking, and persons to bring the gifts of bread and wine (the Bride and Groom may do this themselves). If the chalice is offered at a Nuptial Mass, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion may be used, either from the Bride and Groom's family and friends or from the parish, unless there are sufficient clergy present to fill this role. These ministers must be properly mandated.

For Marriage outside of Mass: The couple should choose 1-2 Lectors (readers) who are preferably Catholic (but may be baptized, practicing Christians), attend Church regularly, and are accustomed to public speaking.

Liturgical Music

The Director for Liturgical Music, Mr. Justin Pechulis, is responsible for communicating diocesan policies regarding wedding music. Mr. Pechulis should be contacted as soon as the date of the wedding is set. He may be contacted at (717-564-1321) or jpechulis@sclhbg.org. He is also, by contract, the organist for all Liturgies. He will work with cantors and other musicians. If you have a cantor, soloist or other musicians, they should be paid directly by the couple.

Photographers & Videographers

It is the responsibility of the couple to communicate these policies to the photographer/videographer:

- The sanctuary (raised altar area) is off limits during the marriage ceremony.
- Care should be taken not to block the view of the guests in attendance.
- Pictures may be taken after the ceremony. However, no furniture may be moved or used as a prop in any way.
- On Saturdays, the Wedding party must complete their pictures and vacate the church by 12:30 P.M. (for an 11 A.M. wedding) and by 3:30pm (for a 2 P.M. wedding). The schedule for other days of the week will be determined by the other activities scheduled in the Church.
- All poses should be in good taste and reflect that the Church is a sacred space.

Florists

Because Saint Catherine Labouré Parish has a weekly standing order for flowers, **you are asked to contact the parish office at 717-564-1321 or ksperry@sclhbg.org to coordinate the floral arrangements for the church.** It is the responsibility of the couple to communicate these policies to the florist:

- Nothing may ever be placed on the Altar or candle holders.
- Pews may be decorated with bows or flowers and must be applied with rubber bands. No tape or adhesive is to be used it may damage the pews.
- **Candles, including Unity Candles, other than those already in the sanctuary are not permitted.**
- Aisle runners are not permitted (they are a fall hazard and a liability).
- Flower petals may not be strewn; balloons and artificial flowers may not be used as decorations because they are difficult to clean up.
- Seasonal decorations, placed by the parish, may not be moved or altered in any way.
- It is expected that the flowers placed in the sanctuary remain in the church as a gift from the bride and groom to the Lord.

Dressing for the Wedding

It is recommended that the wedding party dress at home. Room 109 is available as a gathering place for the bride and her attendants prior to the wedding. The groom and best man may greet guests at the door or may wait in the Sacristy (which has restroom facilities). Valuables should not be left in the rooms during the ceremony.

The Wedding Booklet

The couple may wish to provide a wedding program for guests. *A template is available for your use;* it is the responsibility of the wedding couples to insert the appropriate names, biblical citations, etc. The officiating clergy and the parish organist will be happy to assist you. Please email the program to the music director before you print the program – this final proofreading is very helpful. You may have your program printed at a printing house of your choosing.

Respect for the Church and the Sacrament

Because the Church is a sacred space and due to the sacred nature of Marriage, the following are stressed:

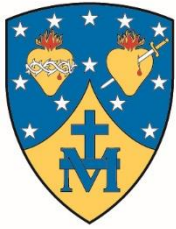
- The Shrine Church is a house of prayer and a sacred place; proper conduct and attire must be observed at all times. The bride and groom are responsible for the appropriate behavior of the wedding party and guests.
- At the rehearsal and the Wedding Liturgy there is to be absolutely no smoking, drinking of alcohol, or gum chewing in any of the facilities or properties of St. Catherine Labouré Parish. The Sacrament of Holy Matrimony binds a man and woman together in a union before God and His Church; the ceremony also binds the couple legally to one another. The couple is required to present their free consent before the minister of the church. The use of alcohol or any other intoxicating substance inhibits free consent rendering the consent invalid. Its use is strictly prohibited and cause for immediate postponement of the wedding liturgy at the discretion of the celebrant.
- The receiving line, if the couple chooses to have one, must be in the Narthex of the Church (vestibule) or outside. It may not be held in the Nave (body) of the Church.
- The use of rice, bird seed, confetti, flower petals, balloons etc. is not allowed, since they are fall hazards and a liability, and when used outside, they can harm wildlife and the environment.

Gifts and Fees: to be delivered to the parish office at least five days prior to the day of the wedding.

Priest	\$150.00	Sacristan/Coordinator	\$ 50.00
Organist	\$125.00	<i>Not charged if the priest/deacon serves as the coordinator due to COVID-19 restrictions, the size of the wedding party, or other worthy reasons.</i>	
Cantor	\$ 75.00		
Altar Servers	\$ 10.00 each		
FOCCUS	\$ 35.00		
Parish (suggested)	\$200.00	Mentor Materials	\$100.00
		<i>Not charged if the couple uses the Engaged Encounter or web-based marriage preparation. Use of alternate services through the parish will be charged accordingly.</i>	

Please make one check to “St. Catherine Labouré Parish” for all fees, with the breakdown noted in the Memo line of the check. The Parish will then compensate the Priest/deacon, organist, cantor, etc.

We wish you a long and happy life together!



Music for the Wedding Ceremony

Music for a Catholic wedding, whether a Scripture ceremony or a Nuptial Mass, is an intricate part of the Rite itself. Therefore, careful consideration of what is appropriate in this setting must be made. Planning for the liturgy should be done with the celebrant and the organist to guide you so that your wedding day is perfect.

Please email me at least three months ahead of your wedding date so that I can be available for you. If you plan to have a soloist or any other musician please let me know then.

Approximately 4-6 weeks before the ceremony, we will meet together to discuss the ceremony and the music. After we meet, I will email you a copy of the ceremony complete with the music selections. You can then use it as a guide to create your program.

If you wish to have a cantor, soloist, or instrumentalist that I will be accompanying, I ask that you give them my information and I will work with them directly about the selections and make arrangements for rehearsal. A \$25 fee for each rehearsal outside the ceremony is required. If the rehearsal can take place the day of the wedding before the ceremony I do not need a separate rehearsal fee.

If you plan to have another organist play for your wedding please note that any arrangement for additional musicians or soloists are to be made directly by the bride and groom who are responsible for the payment of any fees directly to the additional party.

Since I am responsible for the liturgies of the parish I will ask to see and approve the music selections. Please don't hesitate to call me with any questions you might have about the ceremony.

Justin Pechulis, Director of Music
jpechulis@sclhbg.org 732-841-3796

The Order of Celebrating Matrimony

MATRIMONY WITHIN MASS	MATRIMONY OUTSIDE OF MASS	MATRIMONY BETWEEN A CATHOLIC & A CATECHUMEN OR NON-CHRISTIAN
<p>Prelude The Introductory Rites Entrance: Ministers & Wedding Party Sign of the Cross & Greeting Gloria Collect (Opening Prayer)</p> <p>The Liturgy of the Word Old Testament Reading <i>(NT during the Easter Season)</i> Responsorial Psalm New Testament Reading <i>[At the discretion of the couple and priest/deacon, 1 reading may be read before the Gospel]</i> Acclamation before the Gospel Gospel & Homily</p> <p>The Celebration of Matrimony Introduction Questions before the Consent The Consent The Reception of the Consent Blessing and Giving of Rings The Universal Prayer</p> <p>The Liturgy of the Eucharist Preparation of the Gifts and Altar Eucharistic Prayer The Lord's Prayer Nuptial Blessing Sign of Peace Holy Communion Prayer After Communion</p> <p>The Concluding Rites Congratulatory Remarks / Introduction of the Couple Blessing & Dismissal Recessional Postlude</p>	<p>Prelude The Introductory Rites Entrance: Ministers & Wedding Party Sign of the Cross & Greeting Collect (Opening Prayer)</p> <p>The Liturgy of the Word Old Testament Reading <i>(NT during the Easter Season)</i> Responsorial Psalm New Testament Reading <i>[At the discretion of the couple and priest/deacon, 1 reading may be read before the Gospel]</i> Acclamation before the Gospel Gospel & Homily</p> <p>The Celebration of Matrimony Introduction Questions before the Consent The Consent The Reception of the Consent Blessing and Giving of Rings The Universal Prayer The Lord's Prayer Nuptial Blessing</p> <p>The Concluding Rites Congratulatory Remarks / Introduction of the Couple Blessing & Dismissal Recessional Postlude</p>	<p>Prelude The Rite of Reception</p> <p>The Liturgy of the Word <i>One or two readings are read, depending on the circumstances.</i></p> <p>Homily</p> <p>The Celebration of Matrimony Introduction Questions before the Consent The Consent The Reception of the Consent Blessing and Giving of Rings The Universal Prayer The Lord's Prayer Nuptial Blessing</p> <p>The Concluding Rites Congratulatory Remarks / Introduction of the Couple Blessing & Dismissal <i>A suitable song may be sung</i> Recessional Postlude</p>

THE CELEBRATION OF MATRIMONY

With all standing, including the couple and the witness, who are positioned near them, the Priest addresses the couple in these or similar words:

Dearly beloved, you have come together into the house of the Church, so that in the presence of the Church's minister and the community your intention to enter into Marriage may be strengthened by the Lord with a sacred seal. Christ abundantly blesses the love that binds you. Through a special Sacrament, he enriches and strengthens those he has already consecrated by Holy Baptism, that they may be faithful to each other forever and assume all the responsibilities of married life. And so, in the presence of the Church, I ask you to state your intentions.

The priest then questions them about their freedom of choice, fidelity to each other, and the acceptance and upbringing of children, and each responds separately.

Name and Name, have you come here to enter into Marriage without coercion, freely and wholeheartedly?

The bridegroom and bride each say: I have.

The Priest continues: Are you prepared, as you follow the path of Marriage, to love and honor each other for as long as you both shall live?

The bridegroom and bride each say: I have.

The Priest continues: Are you prepared to accept children lovingly from God and to bring them up according to the law of Christ and his Church?

The bridegroom and bride each say: I have.

THE CONSENT

The Priest invites them to declare their consent:

Since it is your intention to enter the covenant of Holy Matrimony, join your right hands and declare your consent before God and his Church.

They join their right hands and say:

A.

I, *N.*, take you, *N.*, to be my wife/husband.

I promise to be true to you

in good times and in bad

in sickness and in health.

I will love you and honor you

all the days of my life.

B.

I, *N.*, take you, *N.*, for my lawful husband/wife,

to have and to hold from this day forward,

for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer,

in sickness and in health, until death do us part.

Or the Priest may obtain the consent of the contracting parties through questioning.

A.

N., do you take *N.*, to be your wife/husband?

Do you promise to be true to her/him

in good times and in bad

in sickness and in health;

to love and honor him/her

all the days of your life?

B.

N., do you take *N.*,

for your lawful husband/wife,

to have and to hold from this day forward,

for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer,

in sickness and in health, until death do you part?

Groom/Bride: I do.

Groom/Bride: I do.

THE RECEPTION OF THE CONSENT

Then, receiving their consent, the Priest say to the bride and bridegroom:

May the Lord in his kindness strengthen the consent you have declared before the Church and graciously being to fulfillment his blessing within you. What God joins together, let no one put asunder.

Or: May the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob, the God who joined together our first parents in paradise, strengthen and bless in Christ the consent you have declared before the Church, so that what God joins together, no one may put asunder.

The priest invites those present to praise God: Let us bless the Lord.

All reply: Thanks be to God.

THE BLESSING AND GIVING OF RINGS

The priest says one of the following:

1. May the Lord
bless these rings
which you will give
to each other
as the sign of your love
and fidelity.

2. Bless, O Lord, these rings,
which we bless in your name,
so that those who wear them
may remain entirely faithful
to each other, abide in peace
and in your will,
and live always
in mutual charity.
Through Christ our Lord.

3. Bless and sanctify
your servants in their love,
O Lord, and let these rings,
a sign of their faithfulness,
remind them of their love
for one another.
Through Christ our Lord.

The husband places his wife's ring on her finger, and likewise, the wife places her husband's ring on his ring finger, both saying, as circumstances so suggest:

N. receive this ring
as a sign of my love and fidelity.
In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

The UNIVERSAL PRAYER (General Intercessions/Prayer of the Faithful) follows.



Wedding Agreement

The offering for the use of Saint Catherine Labouré Church includes fees for the marriage preparation program including FOCCUS and mentor, organist/cantor, celebrant, wedding coordinator, sacristan, altar servers as well as for the use of the Shrine Church. Non-parishioners are required to pay an additional \$250 (non-refundable) in order to hold the date requested and is to be submitted with the signed agreement in order to hold the requested date.

Priest	\$150.00	
Organist	\$125.00	
Cantor	\$ 75.00	
Altar Servers	\$ 10.00 each	<i>Servers from your family may be compensated as you see fit.</i>
Sacristan/ Wedding Coordinator	\$ 50.00	<i>Not charged if the priest/deacon serves as the coordinator due to COVID-19 restrictions, the size of the wedding party, or other such reasons.</i>
FOCCUS	\$ 35.00	
Mentor Materials	\$100.00	<i>Not charged if the couple uses the Engaged Encounter or web-based marriage preparation. Use of alternate services through the parish will be charged accordingly.</i>
Parish (suggested)	\$200.00	

TOTAL \$_____.

Arrangements for any other musicians, soloists or items and services not mentioned above are to be made by the bride and groom who are responsible for payment of any fees directly to the additional party.

A copy of this "Agreement" MUST be signed by the bride and groom and returned to the Parish Office as soon as possible in order to hold the requested date.

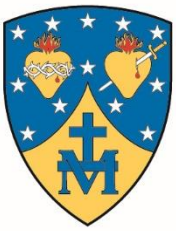
Payment of the total offering is due in the Parish Office five days prior to the wedding.

We have read the Liturgical Norms for Marriage in the Diocese of Harrisburg and the Wedding Policies of Saint Catherine Labouré Parish and promise to adhere to them.

Signature of Groom

Signature of Bride

Date



Wedding Agreement

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