

Holy Ghost Church

Wedding Guidelines

Congratulations!

If you are reading this, you have already met with the pastor, you have booked your wedding date and have completed the initial paperwork. The following guidelines are important for further preparation. Please be sure to read this page so that everything will be well prepared for your wedding day. If you cannot find the answer to a question, just call the rectory.

Between Now and Then

One of the most important things you can do to prepare for the celebration of your wedding is to attend Mass faithfully each week on Sundays and on Holy Days of Obligation. If you are not a practicing Catholic, we may postpone the celebration of your wedding until you are properly disposed.

Required Certificates

Procure new copies of the following documents and get them to the priest as soon as possible:

- Baptismal certificate
- First Communion certificate
- Confirmation certificate
- Birth certificate (for non-catholics)
Sacramental certificates may be obtained by calling the church where they took place. If the church has been closed, call a nearby parish or the chancery of the diocese

Holy Ghost Church

Wedding Guidelines

to see where the records are kept.

Other important documents:

- Certificate of attendance at Marriage Preparation Classes
- Marriage license (at least one week before the rehearsal)

Marriage Preparation Program

Make reservations for the required Marriage Preparation Program. You can find dates for the classes in the book provided by the pastor at the initial meeting. Classes fill up fast, so book yours as soon as possible. You can find the program book on the website for the Diocese of Providence by clicking [here](#).

Music

Meet with the parish music director to plan the music for your wedding. Our music director is contracted to play all weddings at Holy Ghost. No other musicians may play at Holy Ghost!

Readings & Prayers

You may choose the approved prayers and readings for the celebration of your wedding. Please be sure to choose someone who will proclaim the readings clearly and with dignity. Click the link for “Readings & Prayers”.

Holy Ghost Church

Wedding Guidelines

Church Fees

As you have probably come to realize, weddings can become extremely expensive celebrations. Fortunately, one of the least expensive fees is that of the church. Our current fee is \$200.00. This should be paid at least one week before the celebration. Since this money does not go to the priest, checks should be made out to "Holy Ghost Church". Altar servers should be given a gift of \$10.00 each by the best man on the day of the wedding. The fee for our music director is \$150.00. She should be paid directly prior to the wedding Mass.

Flowers & Decorations

Most wedding couples wish to donate flowers to the church in order to decorate the sanctuary and to leave in God's presence a symbol of prayerful thanksgiving for the gift of His love. Therefore, all floral decorations must be real flowers (no plastic or silk artificial). **Likewise, since the flowers are also a gift of thanksgiving to God, they MUST remain in the church after the ceremony.** If you would like to take your flowers after the ceremony, please do not take them into the church.

If you wish to have a white runner in the main aisle, you may obtain one from your florist. The length of the main aisle is approximately **fifty feet**. Floral pieces at the end of pews are allowed, but due to fire hazards, candles along the main aisle are not permitted. Likewise, due to fire regulations, nothing can hamper a person's access in and out of the pews at both ends. Therefore, it is forbidden to have ropes, ribbons or the

Holy Ghost Church

Wedding Guidelines

like, that extends the entire length of the pews down the aisles. Individual bows or flowers are permitted on the pews as long as nothing is screwed, taped or tacked. You may tie or use elastic bands.

Although the Unity Candle is **not** part of the Catholic wedding ceremony, you may choose to have one. If you would like a Unity Candle, they may be purchased from Tally's or many candle stores.

Please be aware, we do not allow the throwing of rice, confetti, flowers or anything else. This is mainly out of concern for the safety of all people walking into our church. Also, we do not have weekend staff to clean the church and walks following your ceremony.

Pictures & Videos

Professional photographers/ videographers must meet with the Priest in the sacristy immediately before the wedding celebration. In order to maintain the sacredness of the Sacrament, photographers/ videographers are not to enter the sanctuary area and must be as inconspicuous as possible. If you need a photographer, we can recommend one.

Rehearsal

The rehearsal time and date for your wedding should be scheduled with the priest about two months before the ceremony. Many times, the priest has other appointments follow your rehearsal. Please be on time for your rehearsal. After the rehearsal is finished, it is customary for the bride and groom (if both are Catholic) to go to Confession in order

Holy Ghost Church

Wedding Guidelines

to prepare properly and spiritually for the reception of Holy Communion at the Wedding mass. Other Catholics present at the rehearsal may also go to Confession, and certainly are strongly urged to do so.

The Wedding Day

Please remember, the Mass is not your Mass. It is the public worship of the Catholic Church and must be respected in all matters.

Catholics are obliged to fast for one hour before receiving Holy Communion. Only water and medication may be taken during this time. It is never permissible to drink alcoholic beverages before the celebration of your wedding. Doing so may invalidate your vows. If we witness the bride or groom consuming alcohol before the wedding, the ceremony would have to be cancelled.

We request that your limousine driver not "pop" bottles of champagne in the front of the Church once the ceremony is over. It is highly inappropriate. It would be better if they simply serve you champagne in the car or pop the bottle at another place than the church.

You may choose from the approved prayers and readings for the celebration of your wedding. The Mass consists of three readings. The first reading is taken

Holy Ghost Church

Wedding Guidelines

from the Old Testament, the second reading from the New Testament and the Gospel. The Psalm Response is sung by the organist.

As you select your readings and prayers, please note the numbers, so that you can fill out the Wedding Planning Request Form. Be sure to keep a copy for your records.

Large copies of the readings will be given to you once you have made your choices! It is important that your readers have a copy long in advance so that they can prepare. On the day of the wedding, the readings will be placed on the pulpit beforehand.

If your wedding is being celebrated outside of the Mass. You need to choose the Nuptial Blessing, which is listed with the Mass Prayers.

You may choose someone to read the First and Second Readings and the Intercessions. Please be sure that the person you choose is able to read them clearly and with dignity.

(V. 2010.08.16)