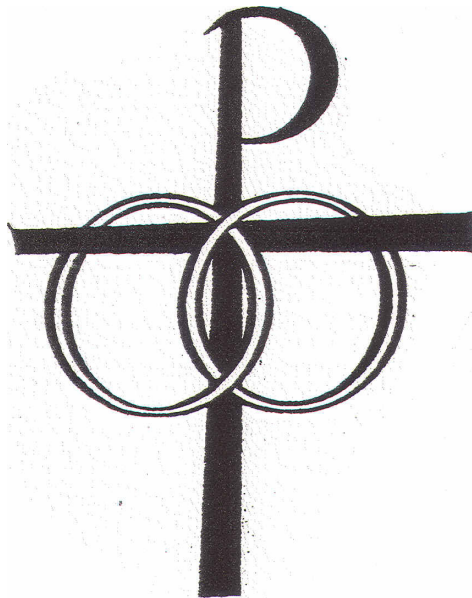


THE RITE OF MARRIAGE

SAINT RITA CATHOLIC CHURCH

“If we love one another,
God abides in us,
And His love is perfected in us.”

1 John 4:12



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	3
SECTION I: The Wedding Rite and Saint Rita Church Guidelines	3-5
Floral Arrangements	
Candles	
Processional Runners	
Traditions and Special Circumstances	
Photography and Videography	
Unity Candles	
Pew Decorations	
Rice, Birdseed, Confetti, Rose Petals	
Liturgy and Music	
SECTION II: Documents, Forms and Required Programs	5-6
Baptismal Certificates	
Marriage License	
Canonical Forms A& B	
Pre-Marital Inventory (PMI) – FOCCUS	
Engaged Encounter Program	
SECTION III: Scheduling Times	6-7
Announcement	
Saturday Wedding Times	
Other Than Saturday Wedding Times	
Rehearsal Times	
Agreement Contract	
SECTION IV: Other Important Information	7
Sacrament of Reconciliation	
Mixed Religion Marriage	
SECTION V: Offering, Fees and Music	8
Offerings and Fees	
Music and Music Interviews and Rehearsals	
Organist and Soloist	
SECTION VI: Check-Off List and Rehearsal Information	9
Check-Off List	
What to Bring to the Rehearsal	
SECTION VII: FOCCUS / PMI Facilitators	10
English	
Spanish	

INTRODUCTION

Soon you will be participating in the Sacrament of Matrimony. On behalf of the clergy and staff of Saint Rita Catholic Church, we pray that the Lord will bless this time of preparation with much holiness and peace. The following information is intended to assist you as you continue to plan for that day which, before God and His people, you will promise to love one another for life.

If you are like most engaged couples, you may have discovered by now that the joy, excitement and anticipation that accompanied the announcement of your engagement can quickly find way to anxiety, worry and tension as you prepare for your big day. Perhaps you were surprised to learn that you have a role in the process of your wedding liturgy. Following the Second Vatican Council, a revised Rite of Marriage was issued which now allows several options that enable your wedding to be special to you.

You are not alone in the undertaking. The priest or deacon who will preside over your wedding liturgy will work with you. The parish organist and vocalist will also help.

Preparing for your wedding liturgy takes time and attention. What is true for shower parties, rehearsal dinners and the wedding reception is equally true for the wedding liturgy: if the basic elements have been prepared well ahead of time, everyone will be less anxious and be free to celebrate.

Preparing your wedding liturgy should be a joy. Communication is vitally important to a healthy marriage; let this preparation process be an opportunity to practice that skill. Preparing your wedding liturgy can bring you closer together, and the result will be a liturgy that is festive and memorable for all involved.

SECTION I:

The Wedding Rite and Saint Rita Church Guidelines

The Sacrament of Matrimony within Mass celebrates God's greatest act of love for us and offers us the opportunity to receive the Eucharist. A wedding Mass is usually 40-50 minutes in length. For pastoral or personal reasons, the option of having a wedding ceremony without Mass is given, which is usually 25-30 minutes in length.

Floral Arrangements

Your florist must provide their own flower containers. Two arrangements are placed on either side of the altar, not on the back tables. No arrangements are to exceed two feet in width or height. You may take your flowers with you after the wedding or you may leave them in the church for the weekend Masses in your honor.

Candles

We will use the sanctuary candles already in place. We do not allow the use of wax candles in the church. For insurance reasons, no candles or candelabras are allowed anywhere in the church or placed down the center aisle.

Processional Runners

We do not recommend the use of aisle runners. Paper runners rarely roll out evenly and may stick to your shoes or puncture easily when placed over carpet. You also run the risk of someone tripping over the runners.

Photography and Videography

Professionals are always your best bet. They are familiar with wedding ceremonies and the desires of the church. ALL photographers must not step into the sanctuary area at any time during the liturgy or wedding ceremony. ALL photographers must use discretion and make sure they are not a disturbance to the wedding ceremony.

Unity Candle

The unity candle is a beautiful part of the ceremony which has become more popular with wedding couples over the past few years. It involves the mothers (or some other designated person) of the couple who light two side candles before the ceremony begins. The couple, after the exchange of rings, take the light from the two side lit candles and together light the one center candle, signifying unity.

Pew Decorations

You, your friends, family or florist may decorate the ends of the pews with real or artificial flora and ribbons. No tooling down the center aisle; this is disruptive for receiving communion. Please do not use any fasteners that will permanently damage or mark the wood. If you wish to save these decorations, please assign someone to disassemble them immediately following the wedding, otherwise they will be discarded. Decorations outside the church on the columns or walkways are not permitted.

Traditions and Special Arrangements

Please discuss any special arrangements or ethnic traditions with your assigned priest or deacon well in advance of the wedding.

Rice, Birdseed, Confetti, Rose Petals *--do not use these items--*

For safety and church cleanliness, the throwing of these items is strictly prohibited on church grounds and within the church itself. There is a danger not only to animals outside the church but to your guests who may slip and fall, creating a liability for the church. Inside the church, these items create an unclean atmosphere for those attending Masses after your wedding since the church does not staff maintenance people during the weekend. Bubbles are an inexpensive alternative you may use outside the church. They should be handed out after the ceremony outside the church.

Liturgy and Music

Your priest or deacon can offer assistance to some of the questions you may have. If you wish, you may also call our Music Director, Ronald Sinram, for a particular liturgical or music question you may have. His contact number is 793-8544 ext. 7.

SECTION II:

Documents, Forms, Required Programs

This section deals with some sensitive information. Please discuss these details with your priest or deacon.

Baptismal Certificates

Catholics are to obtain a baptismal certificate from the parish they were baptized in. The date of request will be marked on the certificate and must be dated within the last a year.

Marriage License

This is a requirement for marriage in the State of Florida. For further information, call the Marriage License Bureau of Palm Beach County, at 355-2330. This document will be signed by the Maid of Honor and the Best Man as well as the priest or deacon and submitted to the church at the rehearsal or before the ceremony.

Canonical Forms A and B

Form A, the Pre-Nuptial Questionnaire, will be filled out by your priest or deacon.

Form B, and affidavit of witnesses, will also be given to you. The bride and the groom need to have two witnesses fill out these forms, so that a total of four affidavits are used. Witnesses should have known the bride and groom for a considerable length of time. Parents are usually preferred.

Pre-Marital Inventory (PMI)

This mandatory program is designed to identify various areas of agreement and disagreement in your relationship. This program is administered by a trained couple from our parish. Please call or visit the parish office for further information. The last page of this booklet lists the names of the FOCCUS couples, who will administer the questionnaire.

Engaged Encounter Program

This mandatory full day program helps promote a relationship based upon open and honest communication between the engaged couple. To register for this program well in advance of your wedding date, call the diocesan office: Janice Petersen, 775-9557

SECTION III

Scheduling Times:

Announcement

Please contact the parish office at least six months prior to your proposed wedding date. After the initial interview, with a priest or deacon, an official date may be written in the church calendar book.

Saturday Wedding Times

Since your wedding time will be set so not to interfere with our regularly scheduled evening Vigil Masses, you may choose a time of 11:00 a.m. or 2:00 p.m. If you are not the only wedding on that day, we will allow a minimum of 2 ½ hours between start times to allow pictures.

Other Wedding Times

A wedding set for any day other than Saturday will be scheduled as not to conflict with the regularly scheduled Masses and events of the church.

Rehearsal Times

Most rehearsals will be scheduled Friday evenings at 5:00 or 6:00 p.m., the day before the wedding unless another church function has been scheduled. For two or more weddings the same day or a wedding set for a day other than Saturday, an equitable time for all will be arranged by your priest or deacon. Please make your preferences known well in advance to avoid conflicts.

AGREEMENT CONTRACT

I have read and am in agreement with the regulations stated above.

Bride: _____ Groom: _____ Date: _____

SECTION IV:

Other Important Information:

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Catholics are encouraged by the parish priests to make use of this sacrament prior to the wedding.

Mixed Marriage

A marriage between a Catholic and a non-Catholic may be contracted with a dispensation by the local Bishop from the impediment of mixed religion. The Catholic person, however, must promise to practice the Catholic faith and provide a Catholic education for their children.

SECTION V:

Offerings, Fees and Music:

Offerings and Fees

Tax deductible Church offering		
Convalidations		\$400.00
Weddings	Parish Members	\$600.00
	Non-Members	\$800.00
Organist, Soloist, Instrumentalists	\$125.00 each	

All offerings and fees MUST be brought to the parish office TWO WEEKS prior to the wedding date. Please provide one check for the offering and separate checks for organist, soloist and/or instrumentalists.

Music and Music Interviews and Rehearsals

Our organist and soloist will be available to talk with you on the phone or meet with you to preview musical selections.

You may bring your own organist, soloist or any other musician you desire. There is no bench fee for a visiting musician, however, that person must be familiar with the music in Catholic worship and must be a professional in the music field.

The priest, deacon, or music director reserves the right to refuse music not in good taste for a Church setting. Tasteful pre-ceremony secular music is allowed; however, liturgical church music must be provided during the ceremony or Mass. Our own organist, soloist or music director may further assist you in this matter.

Organist and Soloist

Organist:	Mark Croteau	790-3024	
	Richard Chisholm	204-2668	1-954-448-8380
	Peter Greenblatt	753-1353	
Soloist:	Mary Lou Bedford	795-5307	
	Lynn Pernezny	795-2880	
	Ginnie Piechocniski	790-3452	

SECTION VI:

Check-off List and Rehearsal Information

Check-Off List

After you have meet with a priest or deacon and filled out the required forms, they will set the date and time.

- _____ 1. Complete all forms, programs noted in Section 2 and any other items specific to your situation.
- _____ 2. Bring in completed forms and baptismal certificates to your priest or deacon.
- _____ 3. Speak to the priest or deacon who is to preside over your wedding to finalize your rehearsal and wedding ceremony.
Or ask any questions your might have.
- _____ 4. Bring offerings and fees to parish office two weeks prior.
- _____ 5. Bring in readings and prayer choices to be reviewed by your priest or deacon.

What to bring to the rehearsal

- ❖ All members of the wedding party, parents, readers, gift bearers, etc. Anyone directly involved is required to be at rehearsal on time.
- ❖ Marriage License
- ❖ Special items to be used during the liturgy that pertain to a specific culture, ring, and your own unity candle if you have one.

SECTION VII:

FOCCUS—PMI Facilitator List

English:

James + Jane Bastian	753-8284
John + Carol Fulton	792-0982
Edward + Rosalina Hom	791-1843

Spanish:

Bi-lingual:

Denis + Leonor Eirikis	793-5769	
Jose + Niurka Ponce	317-6253	204-2072