

Checklist for the Ceremony

Below is a list of many items that are needed for the ceremony of your upcoming wedding.

- ____ Name, Address, Phone Number, E-mail of the bride & groom
- ____ Wedding Date and Time
- ____ Rehearsal Date and Time
- ____ Baptism Date and Certificate
- ____ Meet with Priest at least 6 months before marriage
- ____ Marriage Prep (with Marriage Prep Team or Priest)
- ____ Complete FOCCUS
- ____ Review FOCCUS
- ____ Reading & Prayer Selections
- ____ Meet with Music Director (3 months prior)
- ____ Marriage License (Wednesday prior to ceremony)
- ____ Donation (\$200.00 – bring with Marriage License)

2012 - Wedding Booklet for the Catholic Community of Manistee



A guide for engaged couples preparing for marriage

Catholic Community of Manistee

St. Joseph Church; Guardian Angels Church;

St. Mary of Mount Carmel Shrine

This booklet is intended to be a valuable resource as the two of you prepare for marriage. It contains contact information, wedding guidelines for the Catholic Community of Manistee and other relevant information that you need to know regarding your upcoming marriage.

Date of Wedding: _____

Time of Wedding: _____

Church _____

Priest Presiding: _____

Date of Rehearsal: _____

Time of Rehearsal: _____

Appointment Dates and Times

regarding your Ceremony:

Date	Time	With
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Resources

If you are interested in more information regarding your wedding and marriage, there are many resources that can assist you. As well as marriage and wedding booklets available at the Parish Office, there are other booklets and handouts of various topics, including:

- Money & Budget
- Step-families
- Living Together
- Natural Family Planning
- Conflict
- Jealousy
- Communication
- Alcoholism & Domestic Violence

FOCCUS

FOCCUS stands for Facilitating Open Couple Communication, Understanding & Study. It is part of the marriage preparation program used here in the Catholic Community of Manistee.

It is designed to help couples learn more about themselves and their unique relationship. It is not a test. The results are *confidential*. There is no right or wrong response. It is an inventory that provides feedback about various topics that are important in a marriage.

FOCCUS was developed to reflect the values and ideals of marriage as sacred. The couple individually responds to a series of statements *honestly*. Each person answers the statements without consulting with the other person. Many couples complete the inventory in 45 - 60 minutes. This inventory of statements generally causes a discussion after the inventory is completed, before the results are reviewed with a facilitator.

Many couples have taken this inventory and enjoyed working with a facilitator to review the statements. It helps the couple to understand each other better. The intent is to continue open and honest communication between the couple.

INDEX

Contact Information	4
Marriage Guidelines	5
Photography Guidelines	13
Music Guidelines	14
Marriage Preparation Team	16
Common Wedding Questions	18
FOCCUS	22
Resources	23
Checklist for Ceremony	24

Contact information

Phone:

To contact one of the priests or the music director, you may call the *Catholic Community of Manistee Parish Office at 231-723-2619.*

If the person you are trying to contact is not there, you can either leave a message with the receptionist or a voice mail message. Staff members have their own personal voice mailbox and will call you at their earliest convenience to answer your question or set up an appointment.

Email:

Email is a great way to get a simple answer quickly. Below are email addresses for:

Priests:

Fr. John E. McCracken:

johnm@catholiccommunityofmanistee.org

Fr. Sylvestre Obwaka:

sylvestreo@catholiccommunityofmanistee.org

Music Director:

Kelly Niles:

kellyn@catholiccommunityofmanistee.org

Fax:

To send a fax, our number is: (231) 723-6827. Be sure to provide home and work numbers, mailing address, as well as email addresses. This allows a quicker response to your questions and needs.

Ordinary (Bishop of the Diocese) may permit marriages to be celebrated in some suitable place besides a church or oratory.” The Local Ordinary is free to determine what constitutes a suitable place, and thus he may exclude certain kinds of places, such as garden weddings, reception hall weddings, etc. since the ecclesial significance of a sacramental marriage is not well signified in such places. In the Diocese of Gaylord, the Local Ordinary had determined that marriages take place only in churches or oratories approved for this purpose by the diocesan policy.

Question: Is it a policy in the Diocese of Gaylord that a couple preparing for marriage must attend a Pre-Cana?

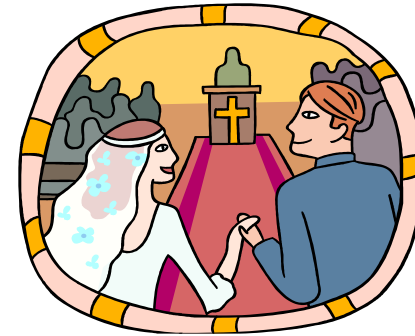
Answer: The diocesan policy, as is the Province of Michigan Policy, is that a couple must have six months of marriage preparation. Pre-Cana sessions are only four hours long. They may **supplement** a parish marriage program or help with a small parish in which only the pastor prepares couples for marriage. They don't replace the six-month mandatory preparation.

Question: I want my father to give me away, but I am told that the bride and groom should process down the aisle together or the bride with her mother and father and the groom with his mother and father. Do they have a right to tell me this?

Answer: Many of our customs we see or remember from our childhood come from a pagan background where the woman was considered the property of her father and the property is exchanged with the man who will now own her. In our culture, we are trying to arrive at the fact that men and women are of equal value in the eyes of the Lord. We should really try to read about marriage customs and choose wisely.

Question: I want to have my wedding in a garden (on a lake) (on the ski slope) (on the golf course) (in a wayside chapel), can you find me a priest?

Answer: Once more, marriage is a *Sacrament*. Sacraments are celebrated in the church building. Canon 1118 #1 states: "A marriage between two Catholics or between a Catholic party and a baptized non-Catholic is to be celebrated in the parish church; with the permission of the Local Ordinary or the pastor, it may be celebrated in some other church or oratory." Canon 1118 #2 states: "The Local



Catholic Community of Manistee **Marriage Guidelines**

Your approaching marriage is *special* and *sacred*. The priests, and those who help them, are here to assist you, not only in planning your wedding day, but **most especially** to help you prepare for a loving marriage that will last a lifetime.

Being married in the Church means more than having a wedding take place in a building. Marriage in the Catholic Church means making a **life-long commitment** to a person in the context of a faith community that is and will continue to be a vital part of your life together as husband and wife.

The Catholic Church views marriage as a Sacrament, an encounter with the presence of God in our lives. The bride and groom are the principle celebrants of the Sacrament. The priest is the official witness for the church, while the best man and maid/matron of honor are the official witnesses for the state.

All ceremonies are to reflect the distinctive quality of Christian faith, with special attention to the main elements of the marriage celebration: the reciting of vows by the couple promising to live together in loving trust and fidelity, the exchanging of rings and the nuptial blessing prayed over them.



Order of the Ceremony:

If you and your fiancé/fiancée are **both Catholic**, then the wedding ceremony normally takes place within the context of Mass. This presupposes that both bride and groom regularly attend the Eucharist on Sunday. If regular church attendance is not part of the lifestyle of the bride and groom, it would be more appropriate to have the wedding ceremony without the Mass. The wedding ceremony, within the context of Mass, would be as follows:

wedding ceremony?

Answer: This custom of honoring Mary has much worth but it is not part of the sacramental celebration. It is a private devotion. If a bride and groom wish to retain this custom, it can take place at the rehearsal. Devotion to Mary should be shared by both bride and groom and not merely be carried out as an empty custom.

Question: Why can't I have the music I want at my wedding? After all, it is my day!

Answer: The sacraments are not the property of any individual. They are the sacraments of the Church. It is the Church that celebrates a wedding as a witness of Christ's love for the Church. The bride and groom accept the responsibility of witnessing to this love that Christ has for us in their love for each other. The music at a wedding or any other sacramental celebration is to speak of Christ's love and relationship to us. The couple is to base their love and relationship on this. The movies, television and MTV have influenced our sacramental celebrations more than we would like to admit. The parish musician ought to have tapes of music which is appropriate for weddings to let the couples review during marriage preparation. The musician, with the pastor/administrator, should have policies that are to be followed for music as well as for other aspects of the wedding celebration.

Common Wedding **Questions & Answers**

In the May 2001 issue of “*Liturgical Forum*”, published by the Secretariat for Worship and Liturgical Formation of the Diocese of Gaylord, there was a question and answer section on ‘Planning a Wedding’. Below are several of the questions that were discussed.

Question: My fiancé and I think that the use of the Unity Candle is a very romantic touch to our wedding but our parish priest says we may not use it during the ceremony. Can he do this?

Answer: Several years ago the Bishops Committee on the Liturgy stated that the Unity Candle was not to be used during the marriage ceremony. Their reasoning was that it diluted the Church’s symbols at the wedding. The Church’s symbols are: the vows, the ring, and the nuptial blessing. The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy states that, “No one, even though he be a priest may add or delete anything from the Church’s liturgy.” It is suggested that if couples want to use the Unity Candle they may do so at the rehearsal or at the reception. We hope that all parishes will obey this decision to avoid parish/priest hopping. The Church’s sacraments are too important to be diminished by a candle company.

Question: Do we still honor Mary at weddings by taking flowers to her statue/picture during the

- *ProceSSIONAL
- *Opening Prayer
- *First Reading from Scripture
- *Sung Response
- *Second Reading from Scripture
(optional)
- *Sung Gospel Acclamation
- *Gospel Reading
- *Homily
- *Exchange of Wedding Vows and
Rings
- *Preparation of Gifts
- *Eucharistic Prayer
- *Lord’s Prayer
- *Nuptial Blessing
- *Sign of Peace
- *Communion Rite
- *Closing Prayer, Blessing and
Recessional

If your fiancé/fiancée is **non-Catholic or not baptized**, then the wedding ceremony takes place outside the context of Mass. The wedding ceremony would be as follows:

***Processional**

***Opening Prayer**

***First Reading from Scripture**

***Sung Response**

***Second Reading from Scripture (optional)**

***Sung Gospel Acclamation**

***Gospel Reading**

***Homily**

***Exchange of Wedding Vows and Rings**

***Lord's Prayer**

***Nuptial Blessing**

***Recessional**

As you plan your wedding ceremony, we encourage you to reflect on how the Catholic Church in Michigan marriage guidelines understands certain aspects of the ceremony:

Many topics are covered during these sessions that will benefit your marriage, including:

- *Wedding Day Planning*
- *Expectations of Marriage*
- *Personality Match*
- *Family of Origin*
- *Communication*
- *Fidelity*
- *Problem Solving*
- *Values and Priorities*
- *Sexuality*
- *Natural Family Planning*
- *Spirituality*



Marriage Preparation Program

The Catholic Community of Manistee Marriage Preparation Program is a unique program run by a team and designed to help better prepare you not only for the wedding, but for everyday life as husband and wife. The team consists of Fr. John and Fr. Joe, and married couples from the Catholic Community of Manistee. The couples provide personal reflections and witness and have discussions one-on-one with attending engaged couples.

The Marriage Preparation Team's goal is to help you have a beautiful wedding and most especially a faith-filled, life-long marriage.

To help cover some of the cost of the program, including lunch, snacks and valuable handouts, there is a donation of \$50.00 per couple.

This program has two Saturday sessions - one in February and March. They take place in the St. Joseph Parish Center, from 9:00 a.m. till 3:30 p.m., on the dates listed below:

Saturday February 11, 2012
Saturday, March 10, 2012

Seating the Congregation: “Just as the bride and groom are united, so are their family and friends joined together by this wedding. Far better that they sit together as one assembly than that they be separated according to bride-groom association. Marriage as a bond of unity has special significance to the church that identifies itself as the “sacrament of unity.” The intermingling of guests – rather than seating in separate groups – manifests that unity.” (*Provincial Guidelines for Marriage Preparation, January, 1999, p. 3*)

Entrance Procession: “The Rite of Marriage envisions a very different entrance procession than the one to which most of us are accustomed (RM 19-20). It has the priest, ministers carrying the cross, candles and lectionary going to the door of the church where they would welcome the couple and lead them to their place at the altar. It also recommends that the parents of the bride and groom would accompany their daughter or son in the procession. Attendants would follow.

The more customary procession loses much of its attractiveness when its original purpose is known, namely, one man handing over a woman to another man. It dates to a time when women were considered primarily as property; it was indeed a father giving away his daughter.” (*Provincial Guidelines for Marriage Preparation, p. 4*)

It would be wonderful if couples would reflect on why certain things are part of the ceremony, and not just do what every other ceremony has looked like.

Liturgy of the Word: “Only readings from the Scriptures may be used. The lector (reader) should be **capable and rehearsed!** It is an imposition to ask a member of the bridal party – or anyone else – to read when the person is not motivated by faith, does not have an adequate voice, or is not accustomed to speaking before a group.” (*Provincial Guidelines for Marriage Preparation, p. 4*)

Exchange of Consent: “Because this is a central element in the ceremonies, the couple should move to a prominent place before the assembly and face each other for an exchange of their vows. The form of the vows **must** be from among those given in the Ritual.

If desired, the witnesses may flank the couple at this moment. There is no requirement that one of the witnesses be Catholic.” (*Provincial Guidelines for Marriage Preparation, p. 5*)

Parish Music Guidelines:

- Music used during the Wedding Liturgy must be religious in nature.
- Only *live* music is permitted (**no** tapes, CDs, sound tracks, etc.)

Liturgical Music Outline:

- Prelude Music (keyboard or vocal music is performed as the guests are being seated)
- Processional (music as the bridal party and bride enter)
- Psalm (a psalm is sung following the first reading)
- Gospel Acclamation (Alleluia)
- If Mass is to be celebrated, music is required for:
 - Presentation of Bread and Wine
 - Holy, Holy
 - Lamb of God
 - Communion
- Recessional (music as the bridal party and guests exit)

4. Photographs taken *after* the ceremony are **not to exceed one hour after the ceremony**. This means photographs need to be completed between 2:45-3:00 p.m.
5. The Church is **not a studio**, it is a *sacred place of prayer*. Flowers, plants and other decorations are **not** to be moved to “create” a picture. The use of “added lights and umbrellas” is **not permitted**.

Catholic Community of Manistee Music Guidelines

NOTE: Effective: January 1, 2010

Statement of Purpose: The celebration of a wedding liturgy is the celebration of a *Sacrament*. The norms, which apply to music selection, are those common to all celebrations of the Liturgy in the churches of the Catholic Community of Manistee.

Procedure: A couple planning to be married makes contact with the parish Music Director normally **three months** in advance of their wedding date to review the Liturgy outline and to make selections of music (and musicians).

Guidelines for other matters:

- a) If children are going to be part of the wedding party, they **must be at least five (5) years of age.** Children younger than this often find the ceremony and the events leading up to it to be very stressful.
- b) The unity candle is **not an official part** of the rite of the Catholic wedding ceremony. It is the creation of florists and card shops. If you are planning to have a unity candle, it needs to be included as part of the table blessing that takes place at the beginning of your reception or rehearsal dinner. (The Parish Office has copies of this blessing, please ask for one.)
- c) The throwing of rice, birdseed or confetti at the bride and groom is **prohibited** on church property. This action has its origins in pagan fertility rites.
- d) Aisle runners are **not permitted**, it can make for a dangerous situation for the wedding party as well as for the guests.

- e) The rehearsal usually takes place the **evening before** the wedding. When planning your activities for the evening, please **allow at least an hour** for the rehearsal. Check with the priest who is officiating at your wedding to set up the time of your rehearsal.
- f) If the bride plans on dressing at the church please remember that all changes of clothing, hair sprays and curling irons, must be removed from the bride's dressing area **before** the wedding ceremony begins.
- g) When applying for the marriage license, it must be **from the county in which one of you resides**. There is a three-day waiting period from the time you apply for the license until you can pick it up. All copies of the marriage license are to be dropped off at the Parish Office **by the Wednesday before** the wedding, if possible. We need to type in the appropriate information beforehand, plus it guarantees that the license is at the church on the wedding day. When you drop off the license, it would also be helpful if the **donation to the church (\$200.00)** could be given at that time.

Catholic Community of Manistee Photographer Guidelines

NOTE: **These guidelines are effective beginning January 1, 2010.**

1. Photographs are allowed during the wedding ceremony, however, the assumption is that photographs and photographers will not detract from the service. Therefore, photographers are to remain *as inconspicuous as possible* during the ceremony.
2. The sanctuary (altar area) is a place reserved for designated ministers. Photographers are not ministers and therefore, are **not** to enter the sanctuary before, during, or after the ceremony.
3. Photographs taken ***before*** the ceremony in the Church are **not to exceed one-half hour (30 minutes)**. Photographs before the ceremony are to be completed by 12:30 p.m. since the wedding will begin at 1:00 p.m. This is to allow the bride and groom time to reflect and focus on the sacredness of the ceremony that is about to take place