

St. Bernadette Wedding Agreement

The purpose of this agreement is to clarify the parish wedding policies and the responsibilities of all parties involved. Please review this agreement with the photographer and florist, giving them each a copy. It helps the wedding day go more smoothly if everyone has the same set of expectations. It is our hope that this information will help couples communicate to all involved in their wedding of our parish policies, reducing misunderstandings. We greatly appreciate your cooperation! Please see the Marriage Packet for further information.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ENGAGED COUPLE

1. The couple and others affiliated with the wedding will fully cooperate with the Wedding Coordinator and all of her directions.
2. **(Photographers & Florists)** All photography and decorating needs to be completed 1/2 hour before the wedding begins. Church banners and other decorations are not allowed to be removed, unless with the permission of the Wedding Coordinator.
3. **(Photographers)** Out of reverence for the sanctuary, backdrops and other props are inappropriate in the Church. This also applies to flood lights and flash pictures during the ceremony.
4. **(Videographers)** You are welcome to video tape your wedding. However, video cameras are not allowed in the sanctuary during the ceremony. They are very distracting and irreverent in this sacred place. They are allowed in the side aisles near the pillars.
5. **(Florist)** To protect the finish of the wood pews, pew bows cannot be hung using any kind of tape or wire. Plastic clips are recommended.
6. **(Musicians)** The Wedding March is not allowed in the wedding ceremony as it is a satire on marriage and thus not appropriate to the sacramental nature of the liturgy.
7. The Marriage License is not to be signed on the altar. This is a sacred part of our Church and the marriage license does not have anything to do with the sacramental celebration of the marriage. It is a legal document for civil purposes only. It must be signed before the couple leaves for the reception.
8. The Unity Candle is not allowed on the altar during the ceremony because again, the altar is considered sacred. It can be placed on a side table which can be provided for by the Wedding Coordinator.
9. It is recommended that children be at least 5 years old to participate in the wedding. Younger children sometimes become distracted and/or afraid, and that can disrupt the ceremony. If they do participate, we strongly recommend that it be minimally, such as a flower girl or ring bearer in the entrance procession. They can then be seated in the pew with a family member to enjoy the rest of the ceremony. (over)

10. **The consumption of alcohol is not allowed on Church property. Also, please do not bring food or drink into the Church at any time, whether at the rehearsal or before the wedding.**
11. For safety and extra cleanup reasons, dried flowers, lighted candles at the end of the pews, candles that drip, party poppers and the throwing of rice or birdseed is not permitted.

PARISH RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The parish will provide the best marriage preparation that it can.
2. The parish will make sure the Church is clean and in order at the time of the wedding.
3. The parish will provide a wedding coordinator to:
 - a: welcome the wedding party to St. Bernadette
 - b: assist in the planning of the wedding
 - c: conduct the wedding rehearsal
 - d: coordinate the wedding

The wedding coordinator will make the church available to the wedding party at the agreed upon times.

If this agreement is not honored, there may be the assessment of an extra fee and/or postponement of the wedding. The decision will be made at the discretion of the priest or deacon.

We, the undersigned, have read, discussed and agreed to all of the above.

Parish Contact Person

Bride

Groom

Date signed: _____