

# **Regulations for Marriages for Saint Edward Church**

## **Introduction**

The regulations contained in this booklet are intended to help you live out your marital relationship as God intended and to preserve in a practical way the integrity and sacredness of the marriage.

By entering into marriage, you and your spouse will establish a covenant that is a partnership of the whole of life. This partnership is directed by its nature to the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of children, so that day by day you may lead a fuller and holier life of faith as a married couple.

With the publication of these regulations on November 1, 2011, and revised on October 1, 2018, all other norms and policies are abrogated. The Order of Celebrating Matrimony issued on September 8, 2016, is the revised Ritual for Marriage that must be followed.

## **General Regulations**

The law of the church states: “Catholics are to be married in the parish church of residence of the bride or groom.

Couples are referred to the Parish Bulletin and *The Directives for Marriage Ceremonies at Saint Edward* on the parish on the web site, before the initial meeting with the Pastor. All directives for marriage at Saint Edward are to be followed.

Saint Edward is not a designation site for weddings. Saint Edward does not rent the Church to non-parishioners for the celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage. Saint Edward Parish reserves the celebration of the sacrament of marriage to registered parishioners and their immediate family members.

The Parish requires proof of one year of residence within the parish boundaries, [the area of the island of Palm Beach north of the Sloan curve]. Six months for proper preparation for the celebration of marriage is required.

Interfaith Marriages Interfaith marriages may be celebrated at Saint Edward when the non-Catholic party resides within the parish boundaries, [ the area of the island of Palm Beach north of the Sloan curve], and the Catholic party resides outside the parish boundaries. The Parish requires the non-Catholic party to present proof of one year of residence within the parish boundaries.

All couples who meet these requirements and are intending to marry at Saint Edward are to meet personally with the Pastor.

### **Arrangements for marriage ceremonies at Saint Edward**

Arrangements are to be made by the couple to meet personally with the Pastor. No date or promise for a date for marriage will be made or even tentatively scheduled until the parties (bride and groom) meet with the Pastor. This includes couples living outside the area. Arrangements for the marriage ceremony are not made with third parties, only the couple intending marriage.

Three meetings with the Pastor and couple are required before the marriage ceremony:

At the first meeting with the pastor, the seriousness of Marriage and proper determination as to the canonical freedom of the couple will be assessed, and only then will a possible date and time for the marriage ceremony be scheduled. The type of ceremony will also be determined, and the canonical pre-nuptial investigation and required legal documents required for the marriage. The couple will be advised to participate in engagement encounter or Pre-Cana

Program of the Diocese of Palm Beach. If the couple reside outside the area they are to participate in engagement encounter or Pre-Cana Program in that area and documentation forwarded to Saint Edward.

At the second meeting with the pastor, the type of ceremony, readings and prayers, as well as the teaching of the Church on Marriage, and, the FOCCUS | Pre-Marriage Inventory will be administered to the couple which assesses their readiness for marriage and communication skills.

At the third meeting with the pastor, final arrangements and any changes will be discussed. The marriage license is to be given to the pastor, as well as the donation for the parish and fees for the organist and cantor [see section on fees].

Arrangements are to be made with the Saint Edward Director of Music for Liturgy before this final meeting. All matters involving the music, instrumentalists and hymn selections are made with the help of the Saint Edward Director of Music and must be submitted to the Pastor for approval.

Please know that these minimum requirements are intended to help you plan not only your marriage ceremony, but most importantly your marital life.

## **Celebrant for the Marriage Ceremony**

The Pastor is normally the celebrant of the Marriage, but an exception is made for Catholic Deacons or Priests to be celebrants who are members of the immediate family of the bride or groom. Priest or Deacon Friends may participate in the Marriage Ceremony, but not as the celebrant.

Any Catholic Priest or Deacon not incardinated in the Diocese of Palm Beach must obtain a "certificate of aptitude" issued by their proper bishop or religious superior, testifying as to good standing in their diocese or religious community.

## **Date and Time for the Celebration of Marriage**

The celebration of marriage takes place within Mass when both spouses are catholic, and outside of Mass when one of the spouses is not catholic.

The date and time of the rehearsal and marriage ceremony are to be established with the pastor of Saint Edward. The times for marriage ceremonies are Saturdays at 10:00 AM, 12 Noon, or 2:30 PM. Marriage ceremonies are never scheduled for Saturday evening after the anticipated Mass for Sunday, or on Sundays, Holy Days of Obligation, Christmas or New Year Eve, nor during the three days before Easter (Easter Triduum). Other days of the week may be available for marriage ceremonies at times different from above listed times for ceremonies.

The wedding party is to arrive well before the scheduled time of the bridal procession. The seating of parents and family is to take before the bridal procession. The bridal procession is to begin at the scheduled time for the wedding ceremony [usually 2:30 pm] for a Saturday wedding.

Rehearsals are usually scheduled for 5:00 PM the evening before the marriage ceremony, subject to the approval of the Pastor.

## **Delayed Weddings**

If the procession is more than twenty minutes late, the ceremony will be shortened (Mass may be eliminated, readings may be eliminated for ceremony without Mass as well as the time allotted for photographs).

## **Distributing of liquids and a Reception at the Church**

The distribution of drinks, including bottle water, is forbidden before or after the wedding ceremony.

There is to be no Reception on the steps and/or sidewalk in front the church before or after the Wedding Ceremony. You are not to contract a vendor to serve any drinks before or after the marriage ceremony, nor setup a reception in front of the Church with wait staff.

The throwing of rice, any other substance, or the blowing of bubbles is forbidden.

## **Alcohol**

The consumption of Alcohol is not permitted on the property of Saint Edward Church before or after the wedding ceremony.

If any member of the wedding party appears to be intoxicated at the rehearsal, you must have them leave the rehearsal or the wedding ceremony may be canceled.

If members of the wedding party, especially the Bride, Groom, Best Man and/or Maid of Honor seem to be intoxicated before the wedding ceremony, the ceremony will be canceled for the Bride and Groom must be able to give free consent and the Best Man and/or Maid of Honor cannot act as witnesses to the nuptial vows if intoxicated.

## **Documents Proof of Freedom to Marry**

In order to prove freedom to marry, the Catholic spouse(s) are to obtain a Baptismal Certificate with notations, issued within six months of the date of the marriage ceremony from their Church of Baptism. An original Baptismal Certificate may be helpful in obtaining the required current certificate, but is not a substitute for a current certificate. If you were baptized at Saint Edward, the parish will issue a current certificate and place it in your marriage file.

If possible, the Christian spouse of another faith is to obtain a copy of their Baptismal certificate or have two witnesses who were present to verify the Baptism in writing.

Spouses are required to complete the prenuptial investigation forms to determine their proper understanding of the Church's teaching on marriage: marital consent, impediments to marriage, intention for a permanent faithful union of love and life without reservation, precondition or premarital contract, openness to children, and psychological capability.

Spouses may be asked to provide the names of two persons who has known them since puberty to complete a form attesting to the fact the spouse to be has never been married before or have obtained a declaration of nullity from a Catholic Church for any former marriages that ended in divorce.

If applicable, death certificates of former spouse(s) are to be provided as proof of freedom to marry, or Declaration of Nullity decrees are to be provided if a marriage ended in divorce and the former spouse is alive.

## **Interfaith Marriages**

Interfaith marriages require the catholic party to state in writing or verbally that they intend to remain a catholic and do all in their power to share their faith with the children to be born of this union. The non-Catholic must be aware of the responsibility of the Catholic party. These documents are forwarded to the Diocesan Bishop requesting the proper dispensation or permission for the marriage to take place.

The couple may invite a Protestant Minister or Rabbi to partake in the wedding ceremony. They cannot receive the vows, but offer a prayer or blessing if there is not Mass. If Mass is celebrated, they may participate only after the end of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

## **Civil Requirements**

The State of Florida requires a license issued by the state for all who wish to marry in Florida. For further information, please contact the Marriage Bureau of Palm Beach County for details (561-335-2230). Priests are advised not to marry anyone without a civil marriage license. The civil marriage license is to be given to the priest at the rehearsal or to the parish secretary before the rehearsal date.

The celebrant of the marriage ceremony and the two official witnesses will sign the marriage license at the end of the ceremony, and the parish office will handle its mailing and forward the marriage certificate, as it is recorded in the parish register,

## **Preparation of Marriage**

The preparations for marriage require a prayerful time of serious reflection on one's vocation in life. Couples are encouraged to pray together and reflect on the great vocation of the marital state to which they are called by God.

## **Diocesan Programs**

The Diocese of Palm Beach and Parish of Saint Edward requires the completion of the “Foccus *FOCCUS | Pre-Marriage Inventory* Program”- a questionnaire survey designed to identify various areas of agreement and disagreement in the couple’s relationship. The Diocese and the Parish require participation in the program “Engaged Encounter” – A full day activity that helps promote a relationship based on open and honest communication between the couple. Please phone the Pastoral Center of the Diocese @ 775-9557 for more information and to register for the Encounter or visit the Diocese of Palm Beach Web Site to register. Please know that there are full weekend encounters available, and you are urged to participate in the weekend encounter if possible. At the completion of the Engaged Encounter, a certificate will be issued acknowledging that you have completed the Encounter Session. Take this with you when you obtain your marriage license in order to receive a discount on your state license fee. Give a copy to the parish secretary for proper filing in the parish files.

## **Rehearsals**

Rehearsals are usually scheduled for 5:00 PM the evening before the marriage ceremony, subject to the approval of the Pastor. All members of the wedding party are to be present for the rehearsal. Marriage consultants may assist the Pastor at the rehearsal, but the Pastor determines the procedures for the marriage ceremony. You must bring your civil marriage license to the rehearsal, if you have not given it to the parish secretary beforehand. Please remind members of your wedding party to be prompt for the rehearsal and to respect the sacredness of the Church.



## **The Rite of Marriage    Marriage Ceremony**

The Rite for Marriage is celebrated in accord with Liturgical Law of the Roman Ritual of the Catholic Church and nothing can be added or omitted from the Rite. The celebration of marriage takes within Mass when both spouses are catholic, and outside of Mass when one of the spouses is not catholic.

The Sacred Scriptures are the only readings permitted during the marriage ceremony. The couple will be given a booklet to aid in choosing the Scriptural, the vows to be recited, the Universal Prayer of the Faithful, and other prayers for the ceremony. The Pastor will finalize the choices with the couple in a timely fashion in order that a worship aid may be properly prepared. The Priest celebrant will choose the Gospel and the proclamation of the Gospel is reserved to a deacon or priest.

The custom at Saint Edward is to have the Bride and Groom and Best Man and Maid (Matron) of Honor receive the consecrated host and partake of the chalice for Holy Communion if they are Catholic. The Chalice is not extended to the wedding party or to the congregation.

The ceremony of lighting of a Unity Candle, mixing of colored sand, and the ceremony of the bride places her flowers on the altar in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary is not part of the Revised Ritual of Marriage.

## **Other Details for a Sacred Marriage Ceremony**

The number of Bridesmaids and Grooms Men is limited to six so that they can be seated in the first or second pew depending on the seating of the immediate family of the couple. Bridesmaids and Grooms Men must be adults, dressed appropriately and conduct themselves with proper decorum. Flower girls and Ring Bearers must be at least six (6) years old and able to follow directions.

Chairs or kneelers for the Bride, Groom Best Man and Maid (Matron of Honor) will be placed in the sanctuary.

## **Arrangement of the Sanctuary and Church**

### **Wedding Planner and Florist**

The Pastor must be informed of the wedding planner and florist you wish to employ, before contracting them to avoid past problems with certain wedding planners and florists.

Live flowers may be placed on both sides of the Altar of Sacrifice, and their purchase is the responsibility of the couple. The Church has flowers stands, but your florist may choose to use their own stands to accommodate the arrangements. You may leave the flowers at the altar or arrange for their removal immediately after the wedding ceremony.

Nothing is to be attached to the end of the pews that would scratch the wooden pews. No plants are to be placed in the aisles, or pews. Nothing is to be attached to the outside handrails. Aisle-runner and swags may not be used in the Church

Flowers petals are never to be used by flower girls. The throwing bird seed, rice and confetti and the blowing of bubbles is forbidden not only in the Church but also at the door or front steps of the Church.

## **Photography**

The rules for photography and videography are issued in a separate document that will be given the couple at their first meeting with the Pastor.

## **Sacred Music for Weddings**

Sacred Music All musical arrangements and hymns, including instrumentalists, and/or singers other than Saint Edward's Director of Music for the Liturgy are to be made through the Director of Music for the Liturgy of Saint Edward Church, should be contacted two months prior to the wedding, and you will find her to be most helpful in arranging the sacred music for your wedding, in accord with the approved liturgical norms of the Church.

## **Armed Security Personnel**

If you have arranged for private security for your ceremony, you must inform the Pastor of this as soon as possible before the date of your wedding ceremony. You must inform the security person that they may NOT have a concealed weapon in their possession in the Church even if they have a permit for the weapon.

Your security person must make himself known to the Pastor when arriving at the Church. He will be asked if he has in his possession a concealed weapon. If he responds in the affirmative or refuses to respond, he will be directed to leave the Church. Failure of the security person to leave the Church will result in the implementation of our policy of contacting the police emergency code 911 stating there is a person with a concealed weapon on the property. Their response will be immediate!

## **Financial arrangements**

The Revised Financial Policy for Weddings at Saint Edward Church as of August 1, 2018 is:

### **Financials for a Nuptial Mass**

Donation to the Church	\$250
Organist	\$250
Cantor and planning of music	\$300
Total	\$800

A check is to be made payable to Saint Edward Church is to be sent to the Parish Office three weeks before the date for the Wedding.

Accommodations will be made for financial difficulties.

Instrumentalists or other musicians must have the preapproval of the Pastor

### **Financials for a Wedding without Mass**

Donation to the Church	\$200
Organist	\$250
Cantor and planning of music	\$250
Total	\$700

A check is to be made payable to Saint Edward Church sent to the Parish Office three weeks before the date for the Wedding.

Accommodations will be made for financial difficulties.

## **Organist, Cantor and other instrumentalists**

The Parish Organist/pianist is the only one permitted to play the Church organ/piano.

Instrumentalists or other musicians must have the prior approval of the Pastor.

**Sacred Music** All musical arrangements and hymns, including instrumentalists, and/or singers other than Saint Edward's employees are to be made through the Director of Music for the Liturgy of Saint Edward Church.

Singers other than Saint Edward's Director of Music for the Liturgy may sing at the prelude before the wedding ceremony with arrangements made through the Director of Music for the Liturgy of Saint Edward, in accord with the approved liturgical norms of the Church.

In keeping with the decor of Saint Edward Church, the music is to be classical and folk music is restricted. Questions concerning proper music is be director The Saint Edward's Director of Music for the Liturgy Parish

## **Conclusion**

Please understand that neither the Pastor or parish secretary will be involved with anyone other than the couple to be married. The Pastor and parish staff will not deal with third parties no matter how involved they are in the planning of the ceremony. This includes parents of the bride or groom. It is hoped that these regulations will ensure the sacredness of your wedding ceremony.

