

*The Sacrament of Matrimony
St. Elizabeth of Hungary
Handbook*



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2021 Edition

Congratulations on your engagement! Your wedding will be one of the most important events in your lives. We are happy help prepare you for your wedding day and for the rest of your married life.

Choosing Your Celebrant

It is important to choose a priest to help you with the preparations for your wedding at St. Elizabeth of Hungary. Please contact him to make an appointment at least 6 months prior to your anticipated date.

Any request for a guest priest should be made through the pastor. Typically the guest priest will be responsible for the rehearsal and the wedding ceremony itself.

Marriage Preparation Requirements

A. Meeting the Priest

You will meet with the priest three times prior to the wedding rehearsal. During these meetings the couple and the priest will discuss the Church's teachings on marriage and the family and will prepare for the wedding day.

B. Set the "Date" and "time"

A date cannot be reserved until you meet with the priest. Weddings at St. Elizabeth of Hungary are typically celebrated at 1:00 pm on Saturday when there are no conflicts with church activities or holy days.

C. Setting the Rehearsal

Rehearsals for the wedding ordinarily take place the evening before the wedding.

D. Diocesan Marriage Preparation Program

You will need to register after your first meeting with the priest. The Diocesan Marriage Preparation Program can be found at <https://www.allentowndiocese.org/> (catholic life).

E. The FOCCUS Inventory

The FOCCUS inventory is a survey designed to help couples with open and honest communication about their expectations in marriage. FOCCUS should be taken online when diocesan classes begin.

If you have questions please feel free to contact the

Office of Marriage and Natural Family Planning

2121 Madison Avenue

Bethlehem, PA 18017

Phone: (610) 289-8900

F. Documents

We will review with you the documents you need to gather before the wedding rehearsal can even take place.

1. Baptismal certificates (*recent copy*)
2. Confirmation certificates
3. Letter of Freedom to Marry
4. Marriage Preparation Certificate
5. Marriage License
6. Fees

Regulations for the Wedding Day

A. Wedding Offerings

Please use separate envelopes provided for each specific offering:

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 1. Church | \$350 |
| 2. Organist | <i>consult organist</i> |
| 3. Cantor | \$100 |
| 4. Altar Servers | \$20/each |
| 5. Sexton | \$50 |
| 6. Pew Candles | \$10 each undecorated (16ct)
\$20 each decorated (8 max) |

B. Wedding Flowers

You may use the florist of your choice however no tape or adhesive may be applied to pews or other church surfaces.

All decorations should be removed immediately after the ceremony; however flower arrangements should be left at church for the weekend Masses.

C. Unity Candle / Flowers for Blessed Mother / Arras

A unity candle is for use at the reception. The priest can provide the prayers for you to use at the reception.

Flowers for Blessed Mother or family members are permitted – please notify the priest beforehand.

Please talk to the priest about any other cultural customs.

D. Wedding Photographers and Videographers

You are welcome and encouraged to have photographers and videographers record the ceremony. Care should be taken, however, that the liturgical celebration is not disturbed or interrupted in any way. During the wedding ceremony the photographer and videographer should remain in one place near the pews and are not permitted in the sanctuary or sacristy.

Photographs will be permitted after the ceremony respective of confessional time (3:30 pm) in preparation for the 4:30 pm Mass.

E. Rice, Confetti, Bird Seed

Due to insurance regulations no rice, confetti, bird seed, flower petals, or similar items may be tossed either inside the church or outside on church property. The practice causes hazardous walking conditions and is detrimental to the environment.

F. Wedding Liturgy

The parish priest will guide you in planning the wedding liturgy. The wedding liturgy is a special liturgy which contains prayers, readings, blessings, and forms of consent (vows) approved by the church for use in wedding liturgies. Only these prayers and readings are permitted.

G. Wedding Music

The music chosen for the wedding celebration should fit the nature of the liturgical action. The music must conform to Catholic doctrine and be drawn chiefly from sacred scripture and accepted liturgical sources. Therefore no secular songs are allowed during the wedding ceremony. No recorded music is permitted. The organist can assist you in selecting music.

Non-Catholic Ministers

The priest is the official witness at a Catholic marriage and must receive the vows of the couple. However, the non-Catholic party may request that the priest in charge of the wedding extend an invitation to a non-Catholic minister to be present for the ceremony in the sanctuary, to wear liturgical garb, and, at the conclusion of the wedding ceremony, offer additional prayers, blessings, and words of exhortation.

Other Information

A. Intercommunion at Wedding

A non-Catholic person, whether baptized or not, may not receive the Catholic Eucharist/Communion at a Catholic wedding or ceremony. Nor may Catholics receive communion at weddings performed in non-Catholic ceremonies.

B. Confirmation

If they can do so without serious inconvenience, Catholics who have not yet received the sacrament of Confirmation are to receive it before being admitted to marriage. You should ask the parish priest how you might receive Confirmation before your wedding.

C. Confession and Eucharist

It is strongly recommended that Catholics receive the sacraments of reconciliation prior to their wedding and the Most Holy Eucharist at the time of their wedding so that they may fruitfully receive the sacrament of Marriage.

D. Wedding Mass or Wedding Ceremony

The marriage of two Catholics should take place during Mass. Interfaith Marriages could be a wedding ceremony (without Mass).

E. Parish Registration

Once you move into your residence together after the wedding you should register as a new family with the parish.