

Wedding Policies for Immaculate Heart of Mary Church

Crowley, LA

I. Church Decoration

Wedding decorations should reflect the solemnity of the service and take into account the liturgical season and paraments that are currently in use in the church.

1. The floral decorations are to be live flowers.
2. All pew markers must be attached to the pew securely, but not with tape or other items that may damage the pew, walls, or floor.
3. Aisle runners and archways are not permitted.
4. If candelabras are used, they must have enclosures to protect the flame and drip-plates to collect excess wax. These items may be placed on either side of the sanctuary where they will not cause obstructions to movement.
5. No torches may be used at the end of the pews.
6. It is the responsibility of the florist and the wedding party to remove all floral and other decorations from the church after the wedding.

II. Music

Music for weddings must be appropriate for the Sacred Liturgy. Secular music is not allowed. Please consult with Pastor about music before finalizing selections.

III. Bridal Attendants

1. The number of bridal attendants should conform to local customs, namely between four and seven.
2. The bridal attendants' attire should be modest and convey the respect that is due in church.

IV. Readers

The bride and groom may ask one or two persons to serve as Readers for their wedding. These persons are to be faithful Catholics.

V. Gift Bearers

The bride and groom may ask two persons to serve as Gift bearers for their wedding. These persons are to be faithful Catholics.

VI. Unity Candle

The unity candle is not part of the Catholic marriage rite, and therefore not permitted. It may be used at the reception.

VII. Photography/Videography

1. There may be only one official still photographer with a hand-held camera at the wedding ceremony.
2. There may be only one videographer with a self-contained, battery operated shoulder camera or camera tripod at the wedding ceremony.
3. The photographer and videographer may stand in the nave as well as the sides near the sanctuary.
4. Photography during the consecration (Liturgy of the Eucharist) is not allowed.
5. Photographers and videographers are to be properly dressed when working in the church.
6. Photographers should check with the Priest celebrant before the wedding for any additional instructions. The photographer and videographer must adhere to these guidelines.

VIII. Scheduling of Weddings

1. Friday evening weddings are scheduled for 6 or 6:30 p.m.
2. Saturday weddings are scheduled for either 12 noon, or 6:30 p.m. **Saturday evening weddings will be according to the *Rite of Marriage Outside of Mass*** (A nuptial Mass will not be celebrated).
3. Rehearsals are scheduled either Thursday evenings at 6 or 6:30 p.m or Friday evenings at 6 or 6:30 p.m., provided that nothing is scheduled in the church.
4. Weddings will not be scheduled from December 17th through December 26th of any given year.
5. Weddings are discouraged during the Holy Season of Lent. They will not be scheduled during the Fifth and Sixth weeks of Lent.
6. Weddings will not be scheduled on the following holy days of obligation or feast days: Christmas, New Year's Eve, New Year's Day, Ash Wednesday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Saturday, Pentecost Saturday, the Assumption, the Ascension, All Saints, All Souls, Immaculate Conception, the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart.

IX. Marriage between a Catholic and a non-Catholic

Marriage between a Catholic and a non-Catholic will be according to the *Rite of Marriage Outside of Mass* (A nuptial Mass will not be celebrated).

X. Couples living together before marriage.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church does not offer the option of a wedding Mass if the couple is living together before marriage. Cohabiting couples will be offered the *Rite of Marriage Outside of Mass*, which consists of the Liturgy of the Word and the Exchange of Vows.

XI. Visiting Clergy

Couples wishing to have a visiting clergy member officiate must discuss this with the Pastor prior to inviting and making arrangements with the visiting Priest. Couples and visiting clergy will be bound by these policies.

XII. Fee Schedule

- Suggested donation of: _____ \$100.00
- Suggested donation to clergy: _____ \$100.00

No parishioner will be denied the Sacrament of marriage or any other Sacrament due to financial constraints.

This guide is not exhaustive. Other questions may be presented to the Pastor, and they will be resolved using a common sense approach.

Established: July 2017