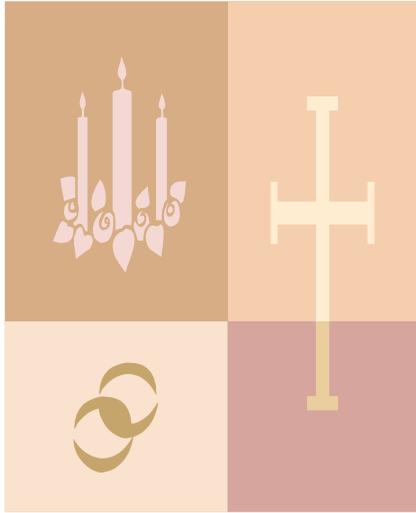


WEDDING
POLICIES
FOR
IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY
PARISH

HAYS, KANSAS



Congratulations on Your Engagement:
We at Immaculate Heart of Mary are happy for you and ask God's blessings on you as you prepare to receive this special sacrament in your lives.

Your Love is Holy and Blessed:
When you stand before God, your family, and friends to proclaim your love for each other, you are taking part in a Sacrament – the Sacrament of Matrimony. This sacrament intends to draw you closer to each other and to God.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

The Church requires the following before a wedding is held:

Baptismal Certificates of both the bride and groom.

Pre-nuptial Declaration for interfaith marriages. This declaration states the Catholic will practice his/her faith after the marriage and will do their best to baptize & raise the children as Catholic Christians.

Marriage License, obtained at any courthouse in the state of Kansas.

Witness Forms. We may ask these of both the bride and groom.

A WEDDING IS A DAY...

A MARRIAGE IS A LIFETIME.

Because a marriage lasts beyond the wedding day and because the Sacrament of Marriage is not just for you but for the Church, preparation is necessary for your life together. To help you develop the tools you need to grow in this Sacrament, the Diocese of Salina and Immaculate Heart of Mary has the following preparation steps which are required.

REQUIREMENTS:

INITIAL MEETING

No less than six months before the ceremony you need to meet with the priest who will most likely officiate at your wedding. At this meeting you may set your date. If you want a specific date and are worried it may not be available, come in earlier for this visit. The church reserves the right to delay scheduling.

FOCCUS

A pre-marital instrument geared to identify areas of strength and weakness in your relationship. Taking the inventory is one session. Discussing the results may take several additional sessions.

ENGAGED ENCOUNTER

This is a weekend for engaged couples to discuss their relationship in a prayerful atmosphere. A schedule of available weekends is online at the Salina Diocese Home Page, or you may visit www.engagedencounter.org. (In special circumstances the priest may allow a Sponsor Couple to be used in place of Engaged Encounter.)

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

The Catholic Church has a very definite stance on artificial means of birth control or family planning. This session introduces you to and helps you become aware of techniques for planning and spacing children by a natural means. The initial session is all that is required by the diocese, but we strongly urge you to take the entire course.

**GOD'S PLAN
FOR A JOY FILLED MARRIAGE
or BELOVED**

This is a one-day interactive seminar that offers engaged couples a compelling vision of God's glorious plan for marriage, love, and human sexuality.

LITURGICAL CELEBRATION

A final meeting with the priest no less than one month before the ceremony to discuss the Scriptural readings, prayers, and other aspects of the ceremony.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

SCHEDULING

Because of the Sacrament of Reconciliation at 4:00 p.m., weddings are to begin no later than 2:00 p.m. on Saturday.

CHURCH AVAILABILITY

Because of other scheduled events, you may have a limited access to the church. **Do not plan to have access to the worship space before 12:00 p.m. the day of the wedding.** You may check with the parish office a day or two before your wedding to determine if you may decorate the evening before or earlier in the morning of your wedding.

CHURCH AS SACRED SPACE

The grounds of any church are set aside for holiness, respect, and reverence. This space is different from an office, home, or recreational facility. With that in mind, we ask you to respect our policies:

-No food or drink in the church

(bottled water is an exception). It is permissible to have food and beverages in the changing areas and gathering space, but not in the church proper.

–Alcoholic beverages are not allowed on any church grounds at all. Anyone who has consumed alcohol to any degree

may be asked to leave. Please mention this policy to your families and attendants. If either the bride or groom is drinking, or even can be legitimately suspected of drinking, prior to the ceremony, the wedding may be postponed by the priest.

-Wear attire that is respectful. A church is a space designated to show respect to and give praise and glory to God. Our attire is certainly one way in which we do this. Men, please remove your hats in church.

PLANNING THE CEREMONY:

A MARRIAGE SERVICE IS A WORSHIP SERVICE

The wedding is primarily a sacrament of the Church and an act of worship. Because of this, the Church has the following wedding guidelines.

MUSIC

As a marriage is a sacred event, all music must be sacred, both in lyric and in style (for example, the genre of Contemporary Christian Music, although Christian in nature, is not considered “sacred” in style). “Secular music” is not allowed during the actual ceremony. Secular music may be allowed as preludes; however, it must be approved. The music preferably should be sing-able by the congregation and avoid the feeling of a “solo performance.” This is a communal celebration. Recorded music is not allowed, not even for accompaniment. See the parish music

coordinator for the complete guidelines and approval.

PHOTOGRAPHS & VIDEOS

You are welcome to record this moment, but picture taking can distract from the ceremony. Videography and/or photography from the sanctuary (altar area) during the celebration is not allowed.

DECORATIONS

Remember the principle, “less is more” when decorating. If candelabra are used, please use drip-less candles. **It is inappropriate to place objects other than sacred books and vessels on the altar!** We allow the use of a unity candle, but please do not set it on the altar. A table will be provided for its placement. Other adaptations that are not part of a Catholic ceremony are not allowed. We would prefer that you not re-arrange the plants, stands, or candles in the sanctuary space. However, if you do, please have someone who will make sure they are repositioned as they were before. **Please do not use flower petals, rice, wheat, smoke makers, or similar materials before, during, or after the ceremony.**

SET-UP & CLEAN-UP

You are responsible for decorating before your wedding and for cleaning up both the Church and dressing areas afterwards. Please have someone designated that will take care of this responsibility.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES:

INTERFAITH MARRIAGES

In an ecumenical wedding, the couple may invite the minister of the other denomination to participate. If you plan to do this, please inform the priest with whom you are working and have the minister contact that priest. Because non-Catholics cannot receive communion at a Catholic Mass, if either the bride or groom is not Catholic, we encourage the couple to consider a wedding celebration without Communion.

COHABITATING COUPLES

The Catholic Church considers it a sin for a couple to be living together before marriage. If a cohabitating couple comes for marriage prep, we will share the Church’s reasons for this stance. We will also visit about living a chaste relationship with separate living arrangements before we schedule the wedding, as well as liturgical guidelines for cohabitating couples should they choose not to live apart.

NON-PRACTICING CATHOLICS

If a Catholic is not attending Sunday Mass, the Catholic Church considers it a sin. If one or both persons are not practicing their religion on a regular basis (going to Mass weekly), we will visit about this and we will ask the individual or couple to return to church attendance before we will schedule the wedding.

Fees:

For the use of the Church:

(due when church is scheduled)
Active parish member - \$ 0.00
Non-active parish member - \$1,000.00
Non-parishioners - \$1,000.00

Suggested Fees:

Altar Servers: \$10.00 each.

Cantors: \$75.00 to \$100.00 each.

Organist /Instrumentalists:
\$100.00 to \$150.00 each.

Celebrating Priest:
\$100.00 to \$150.00
(This is only a suggested donation.)

*May God Bless Your Wedding Day
and
Your married life together.*

Congratulations!

*The Staff of
Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish*

Effective Date: May 1, 2021

Revised: April 22, 2021