

**MARRIAGE IN THE
ST. ELIZABETH PASTORATE**



**104 1st ST SE
PO Box 286
Epworth IA 52045
563-876-5540**

www.stelizabethpastorate.com

Anticipated Expenses

Preparation Fee (at time church is reserved).....\$50.00

Registered Members of Church:

Church Contribution..... \$400.00
(Payable the Monday before the wedding)*

Non- Parish Members Contribution.....\$700.00
(Payable the Monday before the wedding)*

***No one will be denied the Sacrament of Marriage
due to financial difficulty.**

Musicians: The stipend is set by musician. Please pay the musician directly.

Seating Capacity of each Church

St. Clement Bankston—375
St. Patrick Epworth—300
St. Joseph Farley—390
St. John the Baptist Peosta—400
St. John Placid—250



Thank you for reading through these marriage suggestions and guidelines. We look forward to meeting with you and assisting you in planning this exciting celebration. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the St. Elizabeth Pastorate Office at 563-876-5540.

God bless you!

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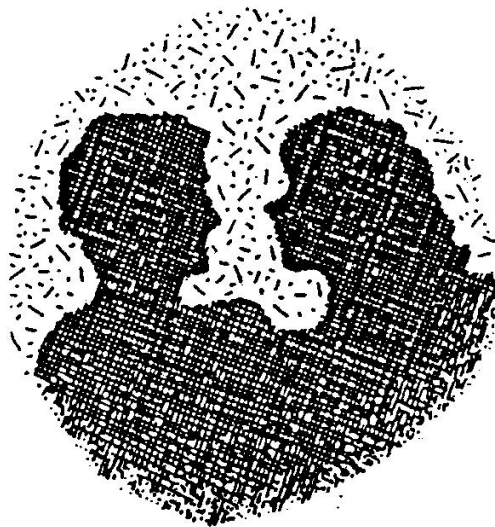
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Welcome

The St. Elizabeth Pastorate welcomes you! We rejoice in the mutual love you have discovered and commend you for your desire to declare and seal it, publicly and permanently, in the Sacrament of Marriage. In this way, your love and life together will serve those around you as a sign that Jesus Christ is alive and present to the world. Preparation for marriage is a time of spiritual growth together with God.

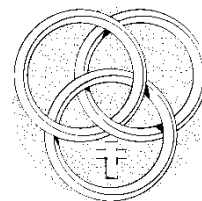
***We are a Catholic faith community.
Our mission is to proclaim the Gospel and build up God's Kingdom.***

Your preparing for marriage builds up God's Kingdom in a unique and special way. As a couple you offer a visible sign of God's presence and love for each one of us. Mature Christian love reveals the profound fact that the other person, your spouse, is the primary point of reference. This distinguishes Christian love from romantic infatuation or sentimentalism. The demands of love are difficult, at times, and marriage celebrates all aspects of the relationship.



Preparation Requirements for Marriages in the Saint Elizabeth Pastorate

Because of our great respect for you and for the Sacrament of Marriage, we don't take marriage preparation lightly! The following requirements show our commitment to your happiness and fulfillment in your married life.



Each couple is asked to:

- * **Make an appointment with the Pastorate Office to fill out Pre-Marriage Forms.**
- * **Reserve Marriage date by remitting the \$50 preparation fee, which covers all couples materials.**
- * **Be currently registered in a parish, or make arrangements to do so.**
- * **Be currently worshipping on Sunday regularly, or making an effort to begin.**
- * **Meet with priest, deacon or marriage coordinator for preparing the wedding liturgy.**
- * **Make an appointment to take the FOCCUS readiness inventory.**
- * **Participate in the Sponsor Couple Program.**
- * **Obtain current baptismal certificate from parish of baptism.**

Preparation Programs cover a variety of topics all centered around married life:

➤ **The Engaged Encounter**

Engaged Encounter is a powerful process for couples to broaden insights into their relationship and marriage through listening, and the experience of written and oral sharing.

➤ **Sponsor Couple**

Married couples share the blessings and struggles of day-to-day married life with the engaged couple. **Sponsor Couple** is designed to facilitate relationship-building discussions.

➤ **Special Circumstances**

Some couples have special needs, which may require more paper work and preparation than usual. Some of the possibilities include:

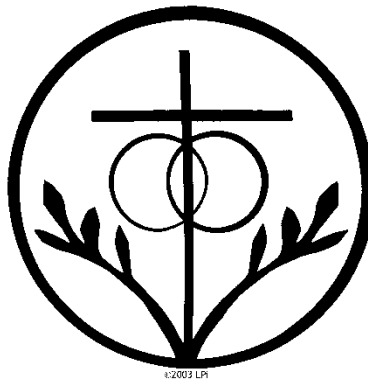
- a. **Interfaith Couples:** when one of the persons is of a faith tradition other than Catholic, some additional instruction in orientation into the Catholic concepts of marriage is helpful. Special permission of the priest/deacon witnessing the marriage is required. A dispensation is required to marry in the non-Catholic party's church.
- b. **Non-Christian or Non-Baptized:** when one of the persons are non-Christian or non-baptized, some additional preparation may be required. Special permission (dispensation) is required.

- c. **Previous Marriage:** When one or both partners have been married before, a Decree of Nullity (Annulment) may be necessary. Please see one of the priests about the process. Even if the person has been married by a minister in another faith tradition or by a Justice of the Peace, a Decree of Nullity is still necessary.

➤ **Documents, Forms and Records**

Some documents and forms are completed as preparation for a Catholic marriage. It is easy to look upon “paperwork” as a simple legal requirement, rather than a part of the symbolic ritual in which a couple evidences their faith, membership in the Church, freedom to marry, and their openness to God’s invitation for children. Records are needed of what takes place in the preparations for and celebration of the marriage. We will assist you with all of these, and they are available at the Pastorate Office.

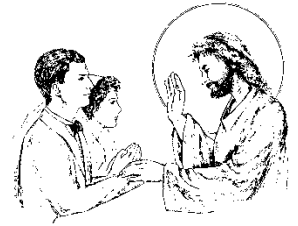
- a. Baptismal Certificate (for each party)
- b. Form 1—the Pre-Nuptial Questionnaire
- c. Form 2—The Affidavit Concerning Freedom to Marry (if the presider of your wedding has not been your pastor since you were born)
- d. Form 3/4: Dispensations, Permissions, and Delegations
- e. Sponsor Couple Certificate.
- f. **FOCCUS** forms
- g. Civil Marriage License—It is the responsibility of the couple to apply for and bring their wedding license to the rehearsal. There can be NO wedding without the wedding license. The parish office will let you know which forms need to be completed and will assist you in completing these forms.



It All Begins With a Catholic Vision of Marriage

- **A Catholic Marriage**

You have expressed a desire to be married within the Catholic Church. Since there are other alternatives, such as civil marriage, your decision to be married in the Church is a significant one. Participating in the Sacrament of Marriage bespeaks an understanding and faith commitment on your part, which sets your wedding plans apart from many others.



The Sacrament of Marriage is a covenant between a woman and a man, based upon unconditional love and fidelity, sealed in the presence of the community of believers. This sacred covenant of marriage is a symbol of the union between Christ and the Church. (*Ephesians 5: 21-32*) In Christ, God has made a Covenant with us, sealed by the death and resurrection of Jesus. Through our celebration and living the sacrament, God continues to be present and active in our world, making us holy.

- **The Catholic Faith Community**

Sacraments belong to the whole church, not just to the individual. Indeed, it is the local community, making visible the Church, which celebrates the sacraments. Each has customs, which are part of the marriage celebration in the local church. The parishes of St. Elizabeth Pastorate celebrate the love of God manifested in your loving relationship with each other. We thank you for being that grace and witness of God in our lives.

- **An Active Life of Faith**

The sacrament is celebrated and lived within the context of a committed faith community. The Sacrament of Marriage is a declaration that these persons are, and intend to be, a part of a parish community, faithfully celebrating Mass on Sunday, celebrating God's forgiveness regularly in Reconciliation, giving evidence of faith in daily living, contributing time, talent and finances to the work of the parish, and respecting the teaching of the Church, especially in sharing faith with any children born to this union. If you are not currently worshipping on Sunday or registered in a parish it is important to do so now. Going to Mass together is one of the best preparations for marriage that you can have.

It is assumed that Catholics preparing for marriage have already received the Sacrament of Confirmation. The Catholic engaged couple is strongly encouraged to receive the sacraments of Confirmation, Penance and Eucharist before marriage.

- **Cohabitation/Living Together**

Cohabitation is commonly understood as the situation where a couple has been living together for an extended period of time, and there is recognition by family, friends, and those who know them that they share a household. Some in our society have accepted these arrangements as a "sign of the times", due to the uncertainty of relationships, economic factors, and desire to establish sexual compatibility.

When a man and woman publicly live together before marriage, they are representing values contrary to the teachings of Christ and His Church. Sexual relations are a sign and symbol of a total gift of one person to another. That total gift is made in the marriage vows in which two people give themselves publicly and irrevocably to each other for life. To engage in cohabitation before making that formal, public, permanent gift and commitment in marriage is to falsify the sacred symbol.

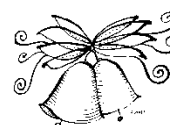
God's design recognizes the profound sacredness of our sexuality and is directly opposed to the attitudes and societal norms that compromise this great gift of sexuality. We believe couples that cohabit and approach the Church to be married are seeking something more profound and deeper in their relationship and want to respond to that inner, spiritual yearning. If this is currently a part of your engaged relationship, we encourage you to consider the following:

- * Use this period of anticipation to **express intimacy in a non-sexual manner.**
- * Put your future spouse's well-being above your own.
- * Commit all of yourselves to one another—bodies, pleasure, thoughts, hopes, dreams, fears, failings, plans, difficulties, bank accounts, bad moods, in-laws, etc. in the self-giving covenant of love.
- * Prepare for a Christian marriage by living a Christian lifestyle with participation in the Sunday Eucharistic celebration, the sacraments, prayer, works of justice, charity and chastity as a life lived in Christ.

- **Preparing to be One**

As individuals and as a couple, you need to be spiritually prepared for two to become **ONE**. Disciples of Jesus Christ are persons of prayer. We encourage you to grow in your prayer life, not only as individuals, but also together as a couple. Learning to pray together is important in growing in love, forgiveness, fidelity, and in becoming a sacrament and sign of God's love to others. Call upon the Lord and ask Him to guide your heart in the covenant of love.

Basic Information for your Wedding Celebration



Who

The priest or deacon only celebrates the Rite of Marriage in a given parish, on a given weekend. The scheduling will be done on a first come, first serve basis for those who desire The Rite of Marriage Within Mass. The deacons will also be available for The Rite of Marriage Outside of Mass and The Rite of Marriage Between a Catholic and an Unbaptized Person.

Because of the community dimension of the Sacrament, the usual presiders for weddings at St. Elizabeth Pastorate are the priests or deacons from the pastorate. However, exceptions can be made depending upon the circumstances, e.g. family member who is a priest/deacon or priest/deacon friend of the family. In an interfaith marriage ceremony, the minister is welcome to participate in a special manner during the celebration.

When

Providing all other requirements are met, all requests will be handled according to the availability of the priest, the deacons and the calendar of the St. Elizabeth Pastorate. Some times, dates and seasons you should be aware of are:

- Weddings should not be celebrated during Lent or on the Sundays of Advent.
- Wedding Masses are **prohibited** on the following days: Holy Week and the Triduum.
- The Archdiocese of Dubuque does not allow wedding Masses to take place on Saturdays after 2:00 p.m.
- Set up the wedding rehearsal with the priest or deacon celebrating your marriage.

Where to be married?

Sacraments are celebrated in a church, because the church building is a visible sign of the gathered faith community. Traditionally, marriage is in the parish church of the bride. Another church may be used with permission of the pastor of either the bride or groom and the pastor of the selected church. If one of the engaged is not Catholic, the wedding may be held in the church/synagogue/temple of the non-Catholic party with special approval. Because a parish church is a powerful symbol of the community gathered, Catholic weddings are not celebrated in any other setting, i.e. on the beach. Check with your presider for further information.



The Marriage Liturgy

Together the couple and the priest/deacon carefully plan a prayerful and meaningful liturgical celebration for the wedding. The Marriage Preparation booklet you will receive does an excellent job of informing you about necessary liturgical options and arrangements of the wedding ceremony. The reception of Holy Communion is an action signifying a oneness in faith, life, and worship. Reception of Holy Communion by Christians not fully united is not permitted by the Catholic Church. While not apologizing for our Catholic faith, it seems more appropriate not to celebrate Eucharist when half of the worshippers cannot receive Communion. Because of this, most interfaith couples choose to celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage without the Eucharist. Your presider will be very helpful in discussing these options.

In choosing the Scripture readings for your wedding, select ones that articulate your understanding of marriage, or what you hope your marriage can become. Those who come to your wedding celebration will come to know your hopes and dreams for your marriage through the scriptures that you have selected. We also suggest that you begin to recite your marriage vows to each other now in prayerful preparation for the day in which you pronounce them in public before the Church and your witnesses. The more you become familiar with them, the more you will gain insights into the meaning of those vows for your future married life. By prayerfully reciting them together, you will be prepared to speak them clearly and with heartfelt confidence on the day of your wedding.

~~Sometime before the wedding, we urge you to experience reconciliation with God and others in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. ~~ Prayer at the beginning of the rehearsal also reminds us that what we do is sacred. Remember, as a Catholic, you are encouraged to: 1) pray together and alone, 2) receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Eucharist regularly, and 3) pray at your wedding rehearsal.



- **The Wedding Music**

Music has an amazing power in our lives! And while there are many great love songs which are beautiful and meaningful to couples, many of them are not appropriate for a God-centered worship service. The music that you select should be liturgical—music that belongs to Christian worship. And since it is a worship service, *the expectation is that there is some opportunity for congregational singing*. In planning your music there are certain ideas that should be present in the songs you choose:

- God's love for us
- Our love for God and for those people around us.
- Christ being always present in every marriage.

Sunday worship is the model for your wedding celebration. Priority should be given to singing the Eucharistic Acclamations (the Rite of Marriage Within Mass), the Gospel Acclamation and the Responsorial Psalm. As good hosts, select music that would invite your guests' participation. Refer to the outline on page 12 in this booklet for ideas as to where and when music is appropriate and desired. Find out what music is well known and sung where you will be married. Every effort should be made to invite everyone who comes to your wedding into active participation in the ceremony, and singing is one of the best! If there are people from other faith traditions invited, choose music that can include them. If your wedding is celebrated in the context of Mass, everyone should normally sing the Gospel Acclamation, the Holy, Holy, the Memorial Acclamation, and the Great Amen. Above all, your musicians must be able to lead the assembly in its sung participation. A list of approved liturgical wedding music is available at the Pastorate Office. **All music for worship must be approved by the Pastorate Music Coordinator before programs are printed.**

- **Attendants**

Remember that a nice wedding does not necessarily mean a big wedding with a large number of attendants. There is great beauty in simplicity and moderation. All of one's good friends cannot possibly be included in the wedding party. Please also remember the cost of a wedding for your wedding party. Many find it difficult to decline the invitation to be in a wedding party even if they cannot financially afford to do so. Costs such as clothing, travel, vacation time from work can add up quickly. Take into consideration the size of the sanctuary. Use common sense. If you have any questions, visit with your presider. **Try to limit to no more than 5 attendants.** Exceptions can be made. Please contact your presider.

- **Lector**

It is preferable to choose someone who functions in this ministry on a regular basis and can proclaim the Word of the Lord effectively, or is comfortable with public speaking. You may use one or two lectors, plus someone to lead intercessions.

- **Servers**

Perhaps you have siblings or other relatives that you would like to possibly include in your ceremony as servers, otherwise the parish could possibly provide some.

- **Eucharistic Ministers**

You may wish to provide your own Eucharistic Minister. You will need two or three depending upon the number of priests and/or deacons. The couple themselves should consider being Eucharistic Ministers for their ceremony as a sign of hospitality.

- **Church Environment**

When planning the environment (decorations) for your wedding, it is well to keep a few good liturgy principles in mind. Consider the liturgical season in which your wedding will take place. Christmas and Easter are naturally more festive times with more flowers and color. Your wedding environment should work with these seasonal decorations.

Maintain the simplicity and authenticity of the Church. Check and see what the church may be using closer to the time of your wedding, as well as any seasonal hangings that may be in place. Churches will not remove seasonal environment for your wedding.

Church guidelines to keep in mind are as follows:

- Floral arrangements are not placed on the altar table.
- Everything brought into the worship space must be removed following the service. The church needs to be left as it was in preparation for the weekend liturgy.
- While candelabras can be used in the sacristy, we do not permit pew candelabras. They can be a fire hazard and spill wax into the carpet. The use of large candelabras in the sanctuary is fine, but the wedding party incurs the cost of the candles. Consider using footed glass votives in the stands as a beautiful and economical alternative.
- No flower petals dropped on the carpet.

- **Photography/Videographers**

The time for taking pictures for your wedding is scheduled before the ceremony takes place. Pictures **must** be completed

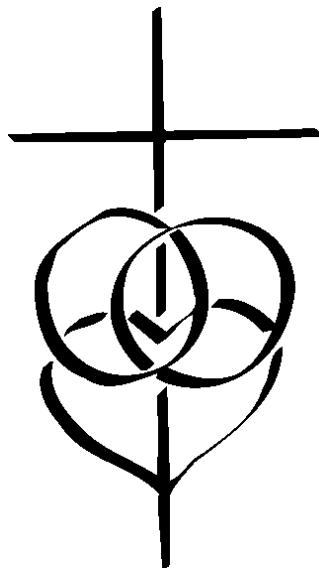
before the wedding begins. This provides the wedding party a little “down time” prior to the ceremony, as well as time to tidy up church and dressing areas. It is the responsibility of the bride and groom to see that the wedding party conducts themselves properly during pictures. Weddings are joyous occasions, but we ask when in church and/or around the tabernacle that guests conduct themselves accordingly. The presence of the Blessed Sacrament in the sanctuary should always be respected. A sheet with suggestions and guidelines will be provided for you to pass on to your photographer. No pictures after the wedding ceremony.



- **Church Etiquette**

Since the Church is a place for sacred worship, please respect this area, noting the following:

- Maintain reverence for the Blessed Sacrament in the Church.
- Conversation and behavior should be respectful and appropriate in the sacred space.
- No alcohol consumption is ever permitted prior to the wedding ceremony and after in church, on church grounds, and parking areas. Good taste and respect for the church grounds dictate that wedding parties not begin drinking immediately after the ceremony.
- No rice, bird seed, confetti or flower petals are permitted.
- Please do not bring any food or drink into the church or vestibule areas. Please confine all food and drink to the church basement or social gathering area. (Catholics also need to remember to observe the one-hour communion fast.)
- No gum chewing!
- Please ask your wedding party (ushers, personal attendants or others appointed by the couple) to assist you by cleaning up and returning the Church and dressing room areas to good order immediately after the wedding, disposing of boxes, papers, pins and other discarded material. Please leave all spaces you use in the condition you found them. Note that additional fees may be billed to the couple in cases of broken, stained or damaged property.



Wedding Liturgy Outline

The capitalized items are those most important for including the congregation and are always sung. The underlined items may be sung if you wish. Those items marked with * are omitted if your wedding does NOT include the Eucharist (communion).

Introductory Rites

Prelude Music (always sacred)

The Processional

Instrumental or Congregational song

GLORIA

Opening Prayer

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

CANTOR AND CONGREGATION

Second Reading

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

CANTOR AND CONGREGATION

Gospel

Homily

Rite of Marriage

Consent (vows)

Blessing and Exchange of Rings

Nuptial Blessing

General Intercessions



Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Altar

Congregational song, solo, or Instrumental

Presentation of Gifts

*Eucharistic Prayer

*HOLY, HOLY

CONGREGATION

*MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

CONGREGATION

*GREAT AMEN

CONGREGATION

*Communion Rite

Lord's Prayer

Congregation (never a solo)

Sign of Peace

Instrumental Music

*Lamb of God

Cantor & Congregation

*Communion

Congregational Song, solo and/or Instrumental

*Prayer after Communion

Concluding Rite

Presentation to Mary is an option if the couple desires to do so. (Prayers of intercession to Mary as the couple begins their life together is the model of how they are to live out their faith and trust in God within family life).

Blessing and Dismissal

Recessional

Congregational Song, solo, or instrumental

Postlude

Instrumental

Prelude Music (2-3 songs)

A Blessing – Marchionda Davis
 Benediction – Redman
 Covenant Hymn – Daigle
 Doubly Good To You – Mullins
 El Shaddai – Thompson
 Faith, Hope and Love – Haas
 Forever – Oberreuter
 God, a Woman and a Man – Green
 Grow Old with Me – Lennon
 He Has Chosen Me for You – Terry
 Here We Stand – Carter
 How Beautiful – Paris
 I Will Be Here – Chapman
 If You Could See What I See – Chapman
 In Love We Choose To Live – Cotter
In Perfect Charity
 In This Very Room – Harris
 Love Grows Here – Besig
 Love is the Sunlight – Haas
Love One Another
 Love Will Be Our Home – Chapman
 Remember Me
 Shine On Us – Smith
 Something Beautiful – Newsboys
 Surely the Presence
 The Gift of Love – Hopson
 The Greatest Gift
 The Irish Wedding Song – Betteridge
 The Marriage Prayer – Waller
 The Prayer – Sager
The Servant Song
 This Ring – Carter
 We Promise To Love – Oberreuter
 Wedding Song (There Is Love) – Wilson
 When I Say I Do – West
When Love Is Found
Where Charity and Love Prevail
Where Love Is Found
Where This Is Love
 Wherever You Go – Haas
 Wonderful, Merciful Savior – Rodgers
 You Are My Everything – Allen

Seating of the Parents (Optional)

Parent's Prayer (Let Go of Two)
 The Prayer - Sager
 You Raise Me Up - Graham

Processional (Instrumental) One Song Only

Air (Water Music) - Handel
 Canon in D - Pachelbel
 Canon in F –O'Neill
 Gabrielle's Theme - Dachman
 Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring - Bach
 Liebstraum - Liszt
 Ode to Joy - Beethoven
 Prelude in C - Bach
 Reminiscent Joy – O'Neill
 Trumpet Tune - Clarke
 Trumpet Voluntary - Clarke

Gloria (Only required within full mass)

Mass of Renewal
 Mass of Spirit and Grace
**Mass Setting of your choosing*

Responsorial Psalm (Sung by Cantor)

Psalm 33: Lord, Let Your Mercy
 Psalm 33: The Lord Fills the Earth With His Love
 Psalm 33: Blessed the People
 Psalm 34: I Will Always Thank the Lord
 Psalm 103: The Lord Is Kind and Merciful
 Psalm 103: The Lord is Kind and Merciful- Haas
 Psalm 112: Happy Are Those Who Do What the Lord Commands- Carroll
 Psalm 118: Give Thanks to the Lord
 Psalm 118: This Is the Day
Psalm 128: O Blessed Are Those
Psalm 145: I Will Praise Your Name
God Is Love - Haas

Gospel Acclamation (Sung by Cantor)

Celtic Alleluia
 Alleluia (from any Mass setting)

Presentation of Gifts (*Only needed within Mass*)

Doubly Good To You - Mullins
El Shaddai – Thompson
Shine On Us – Smith
We Have Been Told

Sign of Peace (*Instrumental*)

A Blessing – Marchiondi
El Shaddai – Thompson
May God Bless You
Peace, I Leave With You
Prayer of St. Francis
Shine On Us – Smith

Communion Hymns (*Only needed within Mass*)

Gift of Finest Wheat
How Beautiful – Paris
One Bread, One Body
Supper of the Lord
Taste and See

The Prayer – Sager

****Any Eucharistic/Communion hymn in
Breaking Bread***

Presentation to Mary (*Optional*)

Ave Maria - Bach
Ave Maria – Schubert

Hail Mary, Gentle Woman

Recessional (*Instrumental*)

Air (Water Music) – Handel
Canon in F – O’Neill
Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring – Bach
Liebstraum – Liszt
Ode To Joy – Beethoven
Prelude in C – Bach
Reminiscent Joy – O’Neill
Silver Inches – Enya
Trumpet Tune – Clarke
Trumpet Voluntary – Clarke

OR

Recessional (*Sung*)

Beginning Today - Ducote
Benediction – Redman
Companions on the Journey
Lead Me, Lord
Something Beautiful – Newsboys
This is the Day – Brown

*****All highlighted music can be
found in the OCP Breaking Bread
Missal & any music not on this
listing is subject to approval***

Revised January 2019

A Blessing of the Bride and Groom

May God the eternal Father
keep you of one heart in love for one another,
that the peace of Christ may dwell in you
and abide always in your home.

May you be blessed in your children,
have solace in your friends
and enjoy true peace with everyone.

May you be witnesses in the world to God's charity,
so that the afflicted and needy
who have known your kindness
may one day receive you thankfully
into the eternal dwelling of God.

Amen.



Wedding Traditions

Have you ever heard the old wedding rhyme that suggests that the bride should carry “something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue?” Most weddings involve some combination of old and new as couples try to reflect their continuity with the weddings that have gone before theirs as well as what is unique in their marriage. Those who favor what they think of as the old often speak of their wedding as “traditional,” while those who favor what they consider to be new often

consists of social customs from another era that no longer correspond to the church’s (or even a modern man’s or woman’s) understanding of marriage. For example, at one time people believed that it was “bad luck” for the groom to see the bride before the ceremony began. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* refers to such superstitions as a “perverse excess of religion” and a “deviation of religious feeling” (#2110–2111). The custom whereby the bride’s father “gives the bride away” to the groom at the



refer to theirs as “contemporary.” More often than not, these terms simply imply a particular style.

For Catholics, weddings are both traditional and contemporary in the best sense of these terms. Each Catholic wedding is traditional because it hands on and enfleshes the church’s faith concerning the sacrament of marriage. (The root of the Latin word *traditio* literally means “to hand down” or “to hand over.”) Each Catholic wedding is contemporary because it makes present *here and now* in *this unique marriage*, God’s love for the couple and Christ’s relationship with the church.

Much of what is popularly considered “traditional” at weddings actually

head of the aisle reflects a time when marriages were arranged between the groom and the bride’s father, and in some cases, the woman was seen as property to be given and received. Today, the church and society both emphasize marriage as a mutual decision by equal and free partners.

Wedding customs that no longer reflect reality or faith are meaningless. Authentic wedding traditions “hand down” the church’s ageless faith in ways that respect the current social reality of marriage and the contemporary Christian understanding of marriage.

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Quick Reference Timeline and Checklist

Twelve to six months prior

- Register in one of the parishes in the St. Elizabeth Pastorate or in the parish of the town you are or will be living.
- Contact parish office, set the time, place and date of wedding.
- Do necessary paperwork and apply for permission, if necessary.
- Register for Sponsor Couple marriage preparation.
- Complete FOCCUS Pre-Marriage Inventory.
- Contact musicians, reception hall, florist and photographer.
- Receive the sacraments regularly throughout your marriage preparation.

Four to Six Months Prior

- Meet with Sponsor Couple

Two Months Prior

- Complete your liturgy preparation by meeting with the priest/deacon who is witnessing your marriage.

One-Month Prior

- Pick up your Civil Marriage License

The Evening Before

- Wedding Rehearsal—bring marriage license
- Reconciliation is encouraged

Revised January 2019

St. Elizabeth Pastorate

Serving the Parishes of

St. Clement—Bankston

St. Patrick—Epworth

St. Joseph—Farley

St. John the Baptist—Peosta

St. John the Evangelist—Placid