

Celebrating Marriage at SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish

DOCUMENTS YOU WILL NEED TO OBTAIN

1. A **new-reissued Baptismal Certificate with notations dated within six months of the day you wish to be married** must be submitted by each Catholic party. In the marriage of a Catholic and a non-Catholic Christian, the Christian is also to present a record of baptism if that is possible. These certificates are easily obtained by **phoning the church in which the baptism took place** and asking them to send a reissued certificate with notations to us, at SS, Cyril & Methodius (608 Sobieski St., Lemont, IL 60439). For a catholic, copies of original certificates obtained on the day of baptism are **not** acceptable.

2. If there is no confirmation notation on your baptismal certificate (or you are unsure) you will also need a reissued Confirmation Certificate. Again, please call the church in which the confirmation took place and ask them to send a reissued certificate to us. Both the confirmation and baptismal certificates remain on file at SS. Cyril and Methodius.

3. A civil **Marriage License** is required for the marriage to take place in church. This license should be obtained at the Office of the **Cook County Clerk** www.cookcountyclerk.com/vitalrecords/marriagelicense or 312-603-5656 and should be submitted to our offices ten days prior to your wedding along with your wedding planner and remaining fees. Once purchased, a marriage license is then good for sixty days. In the United States of America, marriages in churches are legal and binding. There is no need to get married in the courthouse before your church wedding.

PRE-CANA

Pre-Cana preparation is a mandatory requirement when getting married in the Archdiocese of Chicago. It is a program that offers you the time and setting to consider together your life as a married couple. This should be completed as soon as possible. We would like it completed not later than about six months before your wedding date. Several programs are available to you.

We, here at St. Cyril's, offer an in-home Pre-Cana. We host two sessions a year (spring and fall), from 6-9 pm for two consecutive weeks (6 hours total).

Please contact our coordinator, Sue, at smnosal@att.net for specific dates and times.

The Archdiocese also offers Pre-Cana. Please visit www.archchicago.org (office and ministries; marriage, marriage preparation courses) to register for a class. You can also contact the Archdiocese's Marriage Preparation "Pre-Cana" Office at 312-534-3344 or by email at precana@archchicago.org. Arrangements for any of these classes are your responsibility. Reservations are required for all programs.

COMMUNICATION INVENTORY (FOCCUS)

As part of the preparation for the sacrament of marriage, one of the tools we use is the Foccus. This inventory has been designed to help you realize where you agree and disagree on certain important aspects of married life. The Foccus is not a test, and no one can fail it. It is simply a tool which will lead to discussion between you and the staff person you are working with. If SSCM is completing your prenuptial questionnaire, the Foccus will be sent to you via email approximately three months prior to your wedding day.

CHURCH DOCUMENTS THAT NEED TO BE FILLED OUT TOGETHER

1. A statement of intention by both bride and groom, called a pre-nuptial questionnaire, is required. The Priest or Deacon preparing your wedding will fill out this form with you at your meeting before you are married.

2. Two Witness Affidavits for each of you are required. The parish will provide the necessary forms, and you should ask parents or close family members to complete them. These affidavits attest to the fact that you are free to marry.

3. In case of a marriage between a Catholic and a non-Catholic, a dispensation must be granted. When the non-Catholic party is Christian and has a copy of his/her baptismal certificate, the parish priest can grant the dispensation. In cases where the non-Catholic does not have a record of baptism, the dispensation must be granted by the Chancery Office of the Archdiocese.

PLANNING THE LITURGY

In the Roman Catholic tradition, the bride and groom minister the sacrament to one another; they are the celebrants of the ceremony. A priest or deacon and at least two witnesses are also required to be present.

Presider

Ordinarily, one of the priests on the parish staff will preside at weddings celebrated in the parish. If your wedding will be a ceremony only (no mass) a deacon can preside.

Visiting Clergy

Visiting priests and permanent deacons are welcome. If you intend on having a visiting priest or deacon **outside of the Archdiocese of Chicago**, he will need a "letter in good standing" before the wedding. Three months prior to your wedding, your priest will need to contact the Archdiocese of Chicago, Office for Externs and International Priests at 312-534-8212 or externs@archchicago.org. The Archdiocese will then send us the appropriate endorsement. If he is within the Archdiocese of Chicago, we will only need his name and parish. Visitors will be asked to observe parish customs regarding the celebration of weddings. Be advised that when bringing in an **outside** priest, SS. Cyril & Methodius will not provide any stipend for him. Any donation is your responsibility.

Bridal Party

Every member of the bridal party will be required to follow all the liturgical directions that we as Catholics do in such wedding's ceremonies.

Lectors/Readers

The marriage celebration includes selections from scripture and general intercessions. We encourage you to ask family members or friends to serve in your wedding as Lector or Reader. When choosing family members or friends, please select those who are accustomed to public speaking and have a familiarity with this type of reading.

Ministers of Communion

If a wedding is celebrated during Mass, there may be a need for the service of Ministers of Communion for the distribution of Communion. Family members or friends who participate in this ministry here or in another parish are welcome to assist with the distribution of communion at your wedding if more than 50 people are receiving.

Music Ministers

The parish Music Director, Mira Sojka-Topor, assists the couple in planning the music for their wedding. For all weddings (English or Polish), contact Mira Sojka-Topor at musicmin@stcyril.org approximately three months in advance of the wedding date, even if the couple desires to ask other musicians to participate in the wedding.

Servers

If available, altar servers from the parish will be scheduled for your wedding celebration. If you have specific servers you would like, please contact Szymon (skoszarek@archchicago.org) with your request.

Wedding Sacristans

As a ministry to be of assistance to bridal couples and priests, people in the parish volunteer their time to attend your rehearsal and to be there the day of your wedding. These "**wedding sacristans**" will provide help, getting things in church ready for you and can assist you in any last-minute details that need attention.

If you plan on employing an outside Wedding Consultant to assist with your wedding, please be advised that they **will not** be needed at your rehearsal or the day of your church wedding. This is to ensure the sanctity of your ceremony and to prevent outsiders, who are not familiar with the liturgical and religious aspects of your ceremony, from interfering. Your wedding planner/coordinator is welcome to attend the rehearsal and marriage ceremony to observe **only**.

SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT THE LITURGY

Should we get married at a Mass, or should we have a ceremony?

First, let's understand the difference. A celebration of Mass consists of a Liturgy of the Word (entrance rite, readings, homily, general intercessions) and a Liturgy of the Eucharist (presentation of bread and wine, the Eucharistic Prayer, and Holy Communion). When a wedding is celebrated at Mass, the rite of marriage takes place after the homily and before the general intercessions; the Liturgy of the Eucharist then follows. When a wedding is celebrated outside of Mass (a ceremony) there is no offertory gifts being brought forward and there is no communion. It still has readings, homily, and general intercessions in which the rite of marriage takes place after the homily and before the general intercessions.

Where do the prayers and readings come from for our wedding?

During your visit with our presiding priest, you will be given a workbook for planning your wedding, Together for Life. This booklet provides a step-by-step outline for planning your celebration of the Rite of Christian Marriage.

SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT OPTIONS IN THE WEDDING LITURGY

Though it is not an official part of the Catholic marriage rite, some couples wish to light a candle during the ceremony symbolizing their unity. Should you choose this you must know that unity candles and their holder are **not** provided by the parish. **It is also the responsibility of the wedding couple to have a designated person to make sure their unity candle and holder is taken with them after the ceremony.**

Marian shrine

Bringing flowers to the Blessed Virgin Mary shrine is a European custom added to the marriage ceremony. The bride took a floral offering to the Marian shrine as an expression of surrendering her virginity. In our time and culture, it may also be prayers of invocation to the Blessed Virgin Mary that God bless the wedding couple in their new life together. With this later meaning, it has become common for the bride and the groom to visit the Marian shrine as a couple.

REHEARSAL

Confessions are not available on the day of rehearsal.

Rehearsals are recommended if there are four or more attendant couples (bridesmaids and groomsmen). If there are three or less couples, we ask that they, along with the bride and groom, arrive at the church 20 minutes prior to the wedding start time. If needed, your rehearsal date/time can be booked via email at secretary@stcyril.org, or by calling the rectory at 630-257-2776. A rehearsal lasts about one hour. Friday rehearsals are held at 5, 6 or 7 pm. First Friday of the month rehearsals are at 4:45 or 5:45 pm. Thursday rehearsals are at 5, 6 or 7 pm. The rehearsal may be conducted by the Priest or Wedding Sacristan. In addition to the bride, groom and members of the wedding party, you may want to have your readers present to learn where they will sit, when they will read, and (if they would like) to go through their reading at the rehearsal. Anything included in your ceremony/mass should be brought to rehearsal (unity candle, programs, bubbles, etc). Rehearsals last about one hour. Please ask everyone who will be attending the rehearsal to be on time. There may be other rehearsals before or after yours.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

The bride and groom, the bridal party and members of the family may have a desire to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) as part of their spiritual preparation for the wedding. This **does not** take place on the day of the rehearsal. We suggest that the Sacrament of Reconciliation be celebrated prior to the rehearsal. Confessions are heard at St. Cyril's on Tuesday's at 7:00 pm; Saturday's at 4:00 pm and the First Friday of every month at 6:00 pm.

FEES

All fees are due ten days prior to your wedding date along with your wedding planner (which will be given to you at your meeting with the priest), **your witness affidavits and your Cook County marriage license.**

If an engaged couple and/or their family are currently active, registered parishioners and have clearly exhibited a history of financial support through their recorded Sunday contributions, the church fee is \$600.

Our non-parishioner/non-contributing parishioner fee is \$1200. This fee also applies to non-registered engaged couples that have had no direct affiliation or commitment to supporting the parish.

The standard music fee for a wedding is \$300. Any additional cantors or instrumentalists you require are an additional fee.

If available, the church will provide two altar servers for your wedding. A fee of \$20 per server (cash) is required.

FLOWERS

Sanctuary flowers: Two large arrangements can be placed on either side of the altar platform. They must be placed so that they will not interfere with movements of the wedding party. Flowers cannot be placed upon the altar itself. If purchasing altar flowers, if possible, we ask that you leave them for our weekend masses. Flowers placed in the sanctuary during liturgical seasons (Easter/Christmas) will **NOT** be removed for your wedding.

Aisle flowers: We do not recommend placing flower vases on stands, in the church, down our main aisle. They are a hazard to those walking down the aisle and the risk of falling over is great.

Other flowers: Be sure to let your florist know if you are choosing to make a floral tribute to the Blessed Virgin Mary (Marian Shrine) or are presenting flowers to members of your family

Flowers Delivery: Delivery of flowers is allowed not more than ½ hour prior to your scheduled wedding time. If your wedding is at 11:00 am, your flowers can not be delivered before **10:30 am**; 1:00 pm wedding, no sooner than **12:30 pm**; and 3:00 pm no sooner than **2:30 pm**.

Capacity and Pew decorations. Our church seats 700 comfortably. There are 24 rows of pews. If you choose to have bows or other decorations placed upon pews in the center aisle, please inform your florist that they may **not** use tape on the wooden pews. Alternatives to tape, such as elastic bands or ribbons, should be used.

Decoration removal: If you choose to decorate the pews, let your florist know that **all decorations must be removed immediately** following the ceremony to accommodate the next wedding.

Runner for the center aisle: For the safety of you, your wedding party, and your guests, we **discourage** you from having a runner. We have a beautiful marble floor. A runner tends to bunch-up when walked on and can be a hazard. However, if you wish to have a runner for the center aisle, this should be arranged through your florist. The center aisle is 85 feet from the altar to the church door and 72 feet from the altar to the last pew. The width of the center aisle (pew to pew) is 6 feet.

Only artificial flower petals can be strewn on the aisle or runner. Real flowers are **not** allowed.

PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEOTAPING

There is available to you a wide selection of photographic and videotaping possibilities for recording your wedding day. We respect your desire to obtain a remembrance of this most important day. However, we do ask that the photographer and/or video-taper you employ to record your wedding be unobtrusive and not obstruct or distract attention from the primary focus of the celebration which is the bride and groom and the sacrament you are celebrating. Our guidelines are included in this packet. Please read them over yourselves and then give them to your photographer and videographer. There is adequate lighting in the church for all contemporary photographic and videotaping equipment. **No additional lighting is required or permitted.**

Please note that if your photographer wishes to pose you for photos in front of the altar after your wedding, you must be out of the church ½ hour before the next wedding. The 11 am wedding **MUST** be out of the church by 12:30 pm, the 1 pm wedding **MUST** be out of the church by 2:30 pm and the 3 pm wedding **MUST** be out of the church by 4:30 pm. There are **NO exceptions**. This includes all florists, photographers, and attendees.

OTHER CONCERNS

Weddings must begin at the scheduled time. Parking lots need to be cleared between services to allow for adequate parking for the next service. If you are late arriving, or your ceremony starts late, **you will not be given additional time** for pictures.

Your wedding will be announced in our Parish Bulletin on the three weeks prior to your wedding date.

If a horse and carriage are to be used as a means of transportation, **you must notify** the Lemont Police Department. You will also be expected to clean-up after the animals.

There is no smoking in church and alcohol is not permitted on the premises of the church. Please be respectful to our neighbors when in our parking lots and on church grounds.

Because of the danger it poses to elderly and handicapped parishioners, we ask that nothing be thrown on church grounds. This includes rice, bird seed, and other items such as confetti. We also do not allow anything flammable, such as sparklers. We appreciate your concern for the safety of others. If you choose to disregard this request, you will be charged a clean-up fee. Please do not bring balloons into the church. If you wish to release them after your wedding, we ask you to keep them outside.

CHURCH ADDRESS

The church address for the printing of invitations is:

SS. Cyril and Methodius Church
608 Sobieski Street
Lemont, IL 60439

The phone number is 630-257-2776

CONGRATULATIONS!

We look forward to sharing this time of preparation and celebration with you. The commitment you make to one another in the presence of God and the community is important to the ongoing life of this parish. Information can also be found on our website at www.stcyril.org