

# **WEDDING POLICY**

## **FOR THE PARISH**

### **OF**

## **HOLY CROSS**

***“Love one another, as I have loved you”***

December 2007

### **REQUIREMENTS:**

#### **A. DIOCESEAN:**

1. A couple desiring to be married is expected to contact the priest/deacon at least six (6) months prior to the proposed date of their wedding.
2. Both parties, if Christian, need Certificates of Baptism. Catholics need baptismal certificates issued within the past six months. You must present these certificates at the time of reserving the church.
3. The bride and groom must fill out a Pre-Nuptial questionnaire on their personal status and marital convictions with the Deacon.
4. In an interfaith marriage between a Catholic and a Christian of another Church, the ceremony will consist of the Liturgy of the Word and the Rite of Marriage. Mass is not allowed nor is a Communion Service permitted.
5. The Marriage may be delayed for any one of the following reasons: 1) non-practice of the Catholic faith by either party with no evidence of an intention of practicing the faith; 2) lack of readiness or maturity for marriage; 3) lack of appreciation for the spiritual and sacramental aspects of the marriage; 4) refusal to cooperate with the marriage preparation guidelines.

#### **B. CIVIL**

1. A Marriage License must be obtained from the Court House no sooner than 30 days and no later than 3 days before the wedding. The marriage license is valid for 30 days from the date of issuance. Both parties will need Birth Certificates and Social Security Numbers. For further information, including fees, call the Clerk of Court Office.

## **PARISH POLICY**

1. **Wedding Times: FRIDAY: 6:30PM OR 7PM  
SATURDAY: 10AM, 11AM, 1PM  
NO SATURDAY EVENING WEDDINGS**
2. **Every couple desiring to be married at Holy Cross will be required to attend an Engaged Couple Seminar.**
3. **A fee of \$500 is charged for the use of the Church to non-members of the parish. This fee is payable upon reserving the Church. The member status of the groom, bride, or parents of either, must already be established by a census record at the FIRST time of INQUERY(The first phone call to the church desiring information about a wedding).**
4. **Out of parish individuals wishing to use the Church for their wedding must obtain their own priest, who will do all the paper work.**
5. **If one or both parties to be married do not frequent Church on a regular basis, NO Mass will be performed. The ceremony will consist of the Liturgy of the Word and the Rite of Marriage.**
6. **Mass will start on time.**
7. **No more than six (6) groomsmen and six (6) bridesmaids will be allowed.**
8. **NO Unity Candle will be allowed as there is no Liturgical reason for this activity. The Unity Candle could be used at the reception, if you so choose.**
9. **Candles are allowed ONLY if they are encased in a glass globe.**
10. **The use of rice, flower petals, confetti, etc., is NOT allowed in Church or on the Church grounds.**

11. **No decorations that are already in Church for liturgical purposes may be removed. No adhesives of any kind are allowed on the pews. This also includes NO candle arrangements attached to pew ends.**

12. **Pictures are welcomed. Photographers should check with the Priest before the ceremony to safeguard the solemnity of the Liturgy. The same is true for the use of video equipment.**

13. **Rehearsals will be held at 6 or 6:30pm at least one or two evenings before the wedding. Please remember to bring the Marriage License at this time.**

14. **There will be a \$100.00 fee for the Church Wedding Coordinator to conduct the rehearsal. This fee will be paid at the time of reserving the Church.**

15. **You are responsible for acquiring your own musicians. The parish will provide a list if you so desire. A list of the music to be played needs to be cleared by the office. This needs to be done as soon as possible.**

16. **No food or drink of any kind is allowed in or around the Church and its grounds.**

**Marriage as a sacrament is a serious and sacred commitment that call a couple to each other in the most profound and permanent way. Your mutual love is a reminder of the sacrificial love of Jesus Christ. By the grace of this sacrament, you become able to love one another as Christ loved them. As a married couple, you become a visible sign and reminder of Christ's sacrificial love for all people.**

**Yes I have read the policy of the Church. Please sign and return to**

**The church. Groom \_\_\_\_\_**

**Bride \_\_\_\_\_**