



CATHEDRAL

OF

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP

520 Cathedral Drive Rapid City, SD 57701 | 605.342.0507 | cathedralolph.org

**Sacrament of
Matrimony Guide
2026**

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Overview

Congratulations!

We at the Cathedral welcome and rejoice with you as you prepare to enter the Sacrament of Marriage and embark on this great vocation of love and service.

This *Sacrament of Matrimony Guide* will guide you through the steps needed to begin your marriage preparation and to plan your wedding liturgy. If you have any questions, call the parish office. We are honored to help you through this process.

Sharing this document

The bride and groom are responsible for sharing this document with all individuals who are part of planning, providing services for, or celebrating the wedding. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Visiting priests.
- Wedding planner.
- Photographers/videographers.
- Florists.
- Family members.

Confirming you read this document

Please read it in its entirety and bring the signed signature page with you to your initial meeting with the pastor.

Sacraments Documentation

To ensure your marriage file is complete and in accordance with diocesan guidelines, we kindly ask that you provide your updated sacramental records. Please submit the following documents:

- **Updated Baptismal Certificates:** These must be recently issued (dated within 6 months of your wedding) and include all notations for subsequent sacraments like First Communion and Confirmation.
- **How to obtain:** Simply contact the parish where you were baptized and request a "recently issued certificate with notations".

Having these on file allows us to finalize your paperwork and focus on the spiritual preparation for your big day.

Do this first!

Contact: Jacob Bennett, Director of Operations. (605) 342-0507 | jacob@cathedralolph.org

Call or email the Parish Administrator as soon as you get engaged, and **at least 6 months before the wedding**, who will help you with the following.

1. Schedule your initial meeting with the pastor. Whether you are doing your marriage preparation at the Cathedral and getting married here, or a combination of marriage preparation or ceremony here with part of the process happening elsewhere, this is your first step. The pastor will discuss the particulars with you. The pastor's Calendly link will be provided for you to schedule a time.
2. If you have a preferred wedding date, place a **courtesy hold** on your preferred wedding date, if available. We cannot confirm a wedding date until you both meet with the pastor AND return the signature page of this *Sacrament of Matrimony Guide*. **It is important that you wait to reserve a reception venue or make other arrangements until you have completed these steps.** (Please see the "Selecting a date & time" section.)

Next!

Once you have met with the pastor and he indicates your readiness to move on with the process, you will:

1. Confirm the date with the pastor and the Director of Parish Operations at the conclusion of your meeting (at the pastor's discretion and provided the signed signature page of this document is returned).
2. Begin and complete marriage preparation. Please see the "Marriage Preparation" section for details.
3. Schedule a meeting with the Coordinator of Sacred Liturgy to plan the liturgy and music.
4. Please use [this link](#) or the QR code below to access the reading, prayerfully review them, and provide the Coordinator of Sacred Liturgy with your selections when you meet.

Link to Readings



Contact person: Justin Stephens, Coordinator of Sacred Liturgy. justin@cathedralolph.org

Notes

Marriage Preparation

The Catholic Church is a leader in providing high-quality marriage preparation programs for engaged couples, and the Diocese of Rapid City and Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help stand in that tradition. All parts of the process share the common goal of providing engaged couples with the knowledge, skills, and formation they need to have a happy, holy, lifelong marriage. Adequate time is needed. In the Diocese of Rapid City, the marriage preparation program is a **minimum of six months** and includes:

1. FOCCUS Inventory.
2. Life Skills for a Joy-Filled Marriage weekend.
3. Heart to Heart weekend retreat.
4. Natural Family Planning seminar.

These four aspects of marriage preparation can be completed in any order. All must be completed prior to entering the Sacrament of Matrimony.

FOCCUS Inventory

To Register: An inventory link will be sent to both the bride and groom with instructions for them to complete it separately. The facilitator couple will reach out to the engaged couple to arrange a meeting.

The FOCCUS Pre-Marriage Inventory is designed to assist the couple in exploring their relationship through a variety of questions divided into several categories.

This research-based inventory assesses the couple's agreement, disagreement, or indecision about statements related to important issues such as communication, problem-solving, religion, family and friends, careers, cohabitation, parenting, sexuality, finances, and more.

Once scored, a trained facilitation couple will assist the engaged couple in discussing a broad range of important topics. These discussions can help them understand the meaning of their union, discover their individual styles, and learn communication and conflict resolution skills that will enhance their lifelong relationship.

Life Skills for a Joy-Filled Marriage weekend

To Register: Use the Cathedral QR code at the end of this section.

Joy-Filled Marriage classes consist of one weekend: Friday 6:30PM - 9:00PM and Saturday 8:30AM - 3:00PM. The weekend includes breakfast and lunch on Saturday.

Heart to Heart weekend retreat

To Register: Use the Diocese of Rapid City QR code at the end of this section.

The Heart to Heart weekend retreat offers engaged couples the opportunity to deepen their relationship with each other and God through a series of talks, activities, prayer experiences, and quiet reflection time. It is a time to eagerly and openly talk with your beloved, to pray to God, and to listen to your heart quietly.

Which marriage rite is right for you?

Contact person: The pastor will discuss this with you in your initial meeting.

The Catholic Church provides three different forms of celebrating the Rite of Marriage. When two Catholics are marrying, the celebration will normally take place within a Mass. The second form, which does not include a Mass, is used when a Catholic marries another baptized Christian. A third form, also outside Mass, is usually celebrated when a Catholic marries someone who is not baptized. The second and third forms are structured around the celebration of the Liturgy of the Word.

Both are Catholic

Form: Order of Celebrating Matrimony Within Mass.

When two Catholics marry, the Sacrament of Matrimony normally takes place within Mass. This is fitting because of the connections all sacraments have with the Paschal mystery of Christ (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 1621) and because it is in the Eucharist that Catholic married couples “meet the one who is the source of their marriage” (USCCB, *Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine Plan*, p. 52). Receiving the Eucharist as their “first meal” together is a beautiful expression of the newlyweds’ reliance on God to sustain and strengthen them throughout their lives.

A Catholic and a baptized Christian

Form: Order of Celebrating Matrimony Without Mass.

There are several reasons why a Catholic wedding would take place without a Mass: when a Catholic marries a baptized non-Catholic Christian (although such couples can request permission from the bishop to hold their wedding within Mass); when a significant number of wedding guests are not Catholic; or when a priest is not available. Either a priest or a deacon can use the Order of Celebrating Matrimony without Mass.

A Catholic and a non-baptized person

Form: Order of Celebrating Matrimony Between a Catholic and a Catechumen or a Non-Christian

The *Order for Celebrating Matrimony between a Catholic and a Catechumen or a Non-Christian* takes place outside Mass. The ceremony offers a wide range of options so that the couple, with the assistance of the priest or deacon, can tailor it to their circumstances.

Notes:

Wedding Ceremony Logistics

State of grace and intentionality

The marriage covenant illustrates and illuminates God's love for us. The couple enters this covenant with their own promise, or vow, publicly to God and the community. The following are intended to help you enter that promise in a state of grace and intentionality.

Sobriety is required; alcohol and drug consumption are prohibited

The bride, groom, and all those involved in the rehearsal and/or ceremony shall abstain from consuming alcohol or illegal drugs. It is the responsibility of the bride and groom to ensure those involved know this and are free of alcohol and drug influence prior to the rehearsal and wedding.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is encouraged

Catholic brides and grooms are encouraged to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation prior to their wedding day. Its grace will help them enter the Sacrament of Matrimony with the healing strength of Christ. We encourage you to schedule this adjacent to your rehearsal, typically thirty minutes prior. Visit with your presiding priest to schedule.

Selecting a date & time

Contact: Jacob Bennett, Director of Operations. (605) 342-0507 | jacob@cathedralolph.org

The Cathedral is an active parish family with regularly scheduled services. We are happy to make the days and times listed below available for wedding ceremonies. Please note, the Cathedral is unavailable for wedding celebrations during the season of Lent, on Holy Days of Obligation, and on civil holidays.

A Friday Wedding Celebration

Times when a wedding celebration may begin.

- Earliest: 11:00AM
- Latest: 5:30PM

A Saturday Wedding Celebration

Times when a wedding celebration may begin.

- Earliest: 11:00AM
- Latest: 2:00PM

A Sunday Wedding Celebration

Please visit with the pastor about options to celebrate your wedding within a Sunday Mass.

Wedding ceremony location

Wedding ceremonies are celebrated in the Main Church.

- Capacity: 1,000 people.
- Pews: Forty pews on each side of the aisle.

Please note, we are blessed with the gift of Perpetual Adoration in Our Lady’s Chapel, making it unavailable for wedding celebrations.

Rehearsal

The celebrant and Cathedral staff have a depth of experience in preparing solemn and beautiful wedding liturgies. They celebrating Priest will conduct the Rehearsal and set the time.

The rehearsal takes place the evening before the wedding and allows those involved in specific ministries to practice, so they understand their role. Please work with the priest (or deacon) performing the ceremony to coordinate and schedule. The Rehearsal will last about an hour.

Those who need to be present include:

- Presiding priest.
- Sacristan.
- Altar servers.
- Musicians.
- Readers.
- Bridal party.
- Ushers.
- Gift bearers (if within a Mass)

Getting ready on the wedding day

We have two spaces we’re happy to make available on the wedding day for brides and grooms to get ready. Both are located in All Saints Hall, in the lower part of the Cathedral, and serve as classrooms on a day-to-day basis.

- **Bride: Saint Joan of Arc.** Located near the base of the stairs from the Narthex.
- **Groom: Saint Augustine.** Located below the sacristy.

Access to the Main Church on the wedding day

Contact person prior to the wedding day: Jacob Bennett, Director of Parish Operations.

(605) 342-0507 | jacob@cathedralolph.org

Contact person on the wedding day: The sacristan scheduled for your wedding celebration will turn on the lights in the Main Church and unlock the choir loft.

The Main Church may be accessed **two hours before the wedding celebration** (e.g., for a 2:00PM ceremony, the Main Church may be accessed at Noon). During this time, the Main Church may be decorated, following the decoration guidelines, and photos may be taken.

It is also held for **one hour for the ceremony**, and for **thirty minutes following the ceremony** for cleaning and, if you would like, additional photos.

Please also see “[Honoring the sacred space](#)” under the section “Photographers/Videographers” and pictures for guidelines on decorum while in the Main Church.

Wedding Liturgy Preparation

Contact person: Justin Stephens, Coordinator of Sacred Liturgy. justin@cathedralolph.org

The Sacrament of Matrimony is a gift! A Catholic wedding celebration is intentional and prayerful. It highlights the reality of what truly happens when a husband and wife come together. We celebrate that God loves His people, and the husband and wife express this divine love concretely— through words and deeds— as they live out their conjugal love over a lifetime.

Wedding Music

Please see “[Assisting ministers](#)” under “Wedding celebration” in the “Fees” section for information about musicians.

You are celebrating your wedding in a Catholic church, which is a sacred space. Music used in the celebration of the Sacrament of Matrimony must reflect its sacred nature. *Music in the eyes of the Church is meant as prayer.* The music selected must meet the following requirements.

1. It is Sacred Music.
2. The Cathedral has the right to perform the music.
3. It is performed live. Recorded music is prohibited.

Below is a list of music that is fitting for wedding celebrations. You are not required to use this music; it is intended as a helpful resource. Should you wish to include music that is not listed below, please contact the Coordinator of Sacred Liturgy with the song information at least 60 days before the wedding to request approval. All music played in the Cathedral must be approved by the Coordinator of Sacred Liturgy.

Processional

Two pieces are typically selected, one piece for the wedding party and one for the bride.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| – “Air,” Handel | – “Largo from Xerxes,” Handel |
| – “Canon in D,” Lachelbel | – “Processional from Royal Fireworks,” Handel |
| – “Hornpipe from Water Music,” Handel | – “Trumpet Voluntary,” Clarke |
| – “Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring,” Bach | – “Rondeau,” Mouret |

Offertory

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| – “Ave Maria” | – “Air II,” Handel |
| – “Thou Shalt Bring Them In,” Handel | |

Communion

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| – “Humbly We Adore Thee” | – “O Jesus, We Adore Thee” |
| – “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” | – “Gift of Finest Wheat” |
| – “O Sacrament Most Holy” | – “I Am the Bread of Life” |

Recessional

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| – “O Had I Jubal’s Lyre,” Handel | – “Psalm 19,” Marcello |
| – “Rigaudon,” Campra | – “Trumpet Voluntary,” Stanley |

Photographers/Videographers and Pictures

Contact person: Justin Stephens, Coordinator of Sacred Liturgy. justin@cathedralolph.org

The bride and groom are responsible for ensuring the photographer receives the information in this section, understands the parameters for his/her activity before and during the wedding celebration, and agrees to follow them.

Honoring the Sacred Space

The wedding party is encouraged to remember that they are in a sacred space dedicated to a holy purpose. Additionally, the Cathedral is blessed by the gift of perpetual eucharistic adoration in Our Lady's Chapel, located adjacent to the Main Church. While photos are being taken, those involved are to maintain a respectful, quiet atmosphere. Normal conversation is appropriate; loud talking or shouted instructions are not.

No food or drink of any kind is permitted in the church proper, except for persons who need to consume *water* for health reasons. All furniture (kneelers, chairs, etc.) moved during the photographic session must be carefully returned to the proper place.

Role of the Photographer

Photos are a beautiful reminder of the day you enter the Sacrament of Matrimony, and we value the role your photographer/videographer plays. It is essential to ensure they do not distract from the marriage rite. To assist with this, we've outlined these guidelines for photographers.

1. All photos must be completed at a minimum of one-half hour before the wedding celebration to allow the bride and groom time to prepare for their ceremony prayerfully.
2. During the ceremony, the photographer/videographer must stay behind the last guests seated in the pews of the center aisle. The photographer/videographer may move up either side aisle during the ceremony. They may never cross the front of the sanctuary. The area where movement is permitted resembles a horseshoe around the side aisles.
 - The photographer may stand in the choir loft to take pictures during the ceremony. The sacristan must be informed of this at the rehearsal so that the balcony can be unlocked.
3. Videographers may station a camera in the aisle on the right side of the sanctuary to record the wedding celebration, provided they turn the camera on before the ceremony.
4. Flash photography is allowed during the processional and recessional as the subjects are moving. Flash photography is prohibited during the ceremony itself.
5. The bride and groom are encouraged to include a statement about the use of flash photography in their orders of worship. For example, "The bride and groom ask guests to refrain from using flash photography during the ceremony."
 - On Saturdays, the Sacrament of Reconciliation takes place in the Main Church beginning at 3:00PM. If photos are taken during this time, the noise level must be kept to a minimum.
 - All photos need to be completed no later than 4:30PM on Saturdays.
6. The Cathedral's AV equipment is for the Cathedral's use. The photographer/videographer must provide their own equipment.

Timing

Please see "[Access to the Main Church on the wedding day](#)" under "[Wedding Ceremony Logistics](#)" for information on when photos may be taken.

Rite of Marriage

Contact person: Justin Stephens, Coordinator of Sacred Liturgy. justin@cathedralolph.org

Liturgy of the Word

The USCCB has provided a body of readings for the Sacrament of Matrimony, which can be accessed using [this link](#) or the QR code.

The readings in a Catholic wedding liturgy proclaim God's Word and the Church's faith about marriage. For this reason, they are limited to readings from Sacred Scripture. There are nine options for the first reading from the Old Testament, thirteen options for the second reading from the New Testament, and ten choices for the Gospel. You choose one from each of these categories.



You may find it helpful to reflect prayerfully on each reading and to choose those that speak to your hopes and dreams for your marriage. The link provided includes the reading options in their entirety, along with commentary to provide context and highlight key themes in each reading.

Clean up

It is important to clean up the church, hall, and dressing rooms immediately after the wedding celebration. This includes, but is not limited to, the following.

- Remove all decorations.
- Remove all personal items from all spaces used.
- Remove orders of worship from the pews.
- Help the sacristan return the kneeler and any chairs used by the wedding party.
- Throw all trash into the appropriate receptacle.

Fees

We work to keep our rental fees affordable while balancing our responsibilities as stewards of the facility and gifts from our parish family.

Wedding celebration

Contact: Jacob Bennett, Director of Operations. (605) 342-0507 | jacob@cathedralolph.org

Use of the Main Church

The rental fee for the Main Church is waived for Cathedral parishioners in recognition of the generous support they regularly offer their Cathedral parish family. To qualify, the renter must be an active Cathedral parishioner for at least six months *before* scheduling the wedding celebration and a parishioner in the year the event is held. A parishioner may not rent the facility for a non-parishioner to receive the parishioner rate.

| Description | Fee: Parishioner* | Fee: Non-Parishioner |
|---|-------------------|----------------------|
| Main Church for rehearsal & wedding celebration | \$0.00 | \$1,500.00 |

Assisting ministers

Cathedral musicians are the musicians for all weddings. The Coordinator of Sacred Liturgy will coordinate Cathedral-trained assisting ministers for you. The bride & groom are responsible for ensuring the assisting ministers are ***paid at the rehearsal, prior to it beginning***, in an envelope for each assisting minister, labeled by position. The assisting ministers are not Cathedral employees, and the fee will not be included on an invoice and must be compensated separately.

| Description | Fee: Parishioner* | Fee: Non-Parishioner |
|--|-------------------|----------------------|
| Sacristan, for 5 hours. This includes rehearsal: 1 hour & ceremony. 2 hours before, 1 hour during, and 1 hour after. The Sacristan will be present at your rehearsal and wedding celebration. They will prepare the sacristy, unlock the facility, and assist the presiding priest with other liturgical needs. | \$125.00 | \$125.00 |
| Sacristan, each additional hour. Should your needs exceed the 5 hours allotted, the sacristan is to be compensated for each additional hour, in whole hours rounded up. | \$25.00 | \$25.00 |
| Altar Servers, per server. | \$30.00 | \$30.00 |
| Cantor. A Cathedral cantor is required. | \$150.00 | \$150.00 |
| Organist. A Cathedral organist is required. You may choose to have additional musicians by your own arrangement and at your own expense. The Coordinator of Sacred Liturgy must approve all musicians. | \$225.00 | \$225.00 |

Optional services

The Cathedral is happy to work with you to produce and print the order of worship or provide a Cathedral-trained live streamer.

| Description | Fee: Parishioner* | Fee: Non-Parishioner |
|--|-------------------|----------------------|
| Order of worship design , flat rate. Paid to the Cathedral. | \$75.00 | \$75.00 |
| Order of worship printing , flat rate per copy. Paid to the Cathedral. | \$0.75 | \$0.75 |
| Live streaming , the Coordinator of Sacred Liturgy will coordinate a Cathedral-trained and approved live streamer for you. Fees to be paid directly to the live streamer. <u>To be paid in the same manner as assisting ministers.</u> | \$75.00 | \$75.00 |

Wedding Reception

Contact: Jacob Bennett, Director of Operations. (605) 342-0507 | jacob@cathedralolph.org

The Cathedral is delighted to be able to host wedding receptions in the new Saint Joseph Hall with its attached commercial-quality kitchen. Details about the space and rental terms can be found in the *Cathedral Event Guide*.

Saint Joseph Hall

Please note that other event rates do not apply to weddings. Weddings will be billed at the current rate for the year in which the reception occurs. Rentals include use of the kitchen and steam table.

| Description | Fee: Parishioner* | Fee: Non-Parishioner |
|--|-------------------|----------------------|
| Saint Joseph Hall , max occupancy 400 people. | \$500.00 | \$3,000.00 |
| Saint Joseph Hall or Kitchen Advance Access See the <i>Cathedral Event Guide</i> for additional information. | \$300.00 | \$500.00 |

Acceptance

I fully understand the information in this *Sacrament of Matrimony Guide* and agree to comply with the terms indicated.

BRIDE

Signature: _____
Print Name: _____
Date: _____
Address: _____
Telephone: _____
Email: _____

GROOM

Signature: _____
Print Name: _____
Date: _____
Address: _____
Telephone: _____
Email: _____

Please bring this signed signature page with you to your initial meeting with the pastor.