

# THE CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

## Corpus Christi Parish

Preparing for and celebrating a marriage is a joyful and grace filled time in your lives. The parishioners and staff of Corpus Christi Parish share your joy. We promise you our prayerful support as you ready yourselves for this time of grace and as you go forth to live out the sacrament. To help in your preparation, we have prepared these brief notes.

There are many steps that must be taken before your wedding occurs. Use the checklist below to help you keep track of the church-related tasks that must be completed.

- Appointment with Parish at least six months prior to the wedding date—call the Parish Office to schedule, 872-2281.
- Take FOCCUS test.
- Appointment with Parish Priest for FOCCUS test review.
- Contact Musicians.
- Attend a Marriage Preparation Program.
- Appointment with the priest celebrating your wedding at least one month prior to wedding. Bring certification of your completion of a Diocesan approved Marriage Preparation Program.
- Secure marriage license—bring to wedding rehearsal.
- Fee paid at the Parish Office two weeks prior to rehearsal. Check should be made out to Corpus Christi Parish.

## **TIMES AND PLACES**

A date and time cannot be confirmed until you meet with a priest of the parish. Please do not reserve halls and services until you are assured that the parish can accommodate you. Weddings are permitted on Friday evenings and Saturdays before 4 PM in the Diocese of Portland. Because of confessions and evening Masses, **in Corpus Christi Parish a wedding service cannot be scheduled after 1 PM on Saturday afternoon.** A rehearsal time will also be scheduled, usually the evening before. It is most important that weddings and rehearsals start on time so please be on time. Since we often have more than one wedding celebration on a weekend, it is important that times are well coordinated. For this reason, we may not be able to honor a request to have a receiving line at church.

## **DOCUMENTS**

A current copy of the Baptismal record of a Catholic is necessary to ensure that the sacrament is properly recorded. If you were baptized in one of the churches of Corpus Christi Parish, we will research the record for you. If you were baptized in another Catholic Parish, please contact that parish and have them send to us your baptismal certificate with proper notations. A Catholic is permitted to marry a non-Catholic with appropriate permission. The priest will take care of that paperwork.

A marriage license is required and is issued by the municipal government. Please contact your city or town clerk. If you live outside the State of Maine, you may need to obtain a license from both states. The priest must have the license before he can witness the marriage, so please give it to him once you pick it up or by the rehearsal at the latest. For more information on how to apply for a marriage license please refer to the last page of this booklet.

If one or both of you have been married before, documentation must be presented to show that you are free to enter a new union. A church court must examine the previous marriage and declare that it no longer binds the party in question. This is called an annulment process. We can assist you with this process. *This applies to any marriage, civil or religious, and to both parties, even if one is not Catholic.*

If you are a parishioner from another parish, we require a letter from your pastor attesting to your status as a practicing Catholic in good standing and giving us permission to witness your marriage.

## **MARRIAGE PREPARATION WEEKEND**

All couples planning to marry in Corpus Christi Parish are expected to attend a Diocesan approved Marriage Preparation program. A list of programs throughout the Diocese will be provided to you. When you have completed your program, please bring a copy of your completion certificate to the priest preparing you for your ceremony so it can be included in your file.

## **FEES**

Corpus Christi Parish charges \$200 for all weddings within our parish. This fee must be paid to the Parish Office at least two weeks prior to the wedding. There is no fee for the priest's services. A couple may wish to show their appreciation at their own discretion.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

The styles of our churches provide options for decorating. Weddings planned during the liturgical seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter must take into consideration the environment established in the church. Alterations will not be made for a wedding ceremony. You may order flowers at your discretion. They are to be delivered to the church. The church will be open one hour before your scheduled wedding. Flowers are not allowed to be placed on the altar and cannot impede movement necessary to the celebration. Please keep in mind that you, the couple, are the focal point of the sacramental action. For safety reasons no runners are permitted. Flower girls are not to sprinkle flower petals in the aisle, nor can rice, confetti or other objects be thrown either inside or outside the church. Bows may be attached to pews, and we ask that this be done without damaging the finish.

A popular custom in recent years is the use of a unity candle. This is not an official part of the Rite of Christian Marriage. However, if a couple wishes to use one, they are responsible for its purchase. The priest will direct where it can be placed. Other expressions of unity, such as unity sand, are not permissible as they have no connection to traditional practices of the sacred liturgy.

## **PHOTOGRAPHY**

The taking of pictures, both still and video, is permitted during the ceremony. Please ask the photographer/videographer to check with the presider to go over any restrictions so that the liturgy is not interrupted. Be advised that if there is another wedding scheduled in the same Church, or a 4 PM Vigil Mass, you will have a limited time to have pictures taken after the ceremony.

## **MUSIC**

The Diocese of Portland and Corpus Christi Parish have definite guidelines for the use of music for Catholic worship. Because you have chosen to invite Christ to make your love a sacrament, the music you choose for your wedding should express this unique and distinct encounter. Just as you would not expect to pronounce your wedding vows in street language, so you would not expect to hear “everyday” love songs at the celebration of the sacrament of marriage.

It is the responsibility of the couple to select, contact, and coordinate music with the music ministry. We presume that you will utilize Corpus Christi Parish music ministry who understands the flow of liturgy. Payment for their services should be negotiated and paid directly to the musician and cantor. All music selections must be made and communicated to the accompanist at least two weeks prior to the wedding. Expressed permission of the priest must be given to use a musician from outside our parish. Any outside musician must know Catholic liturgical music especially the responses used with the Revised Roman Missal.

**PARISH WEDDING MUSIC MINISTRY**

ORGANISTS AND PIANISTS	CANTORS & SOLOISTS
Rick Dostie, 702-1154	Kristin Day, 877-4316 musicalmom26@gmail.com
Jeff Quinn, 474-5253	Aimee Bourgoin, 649-7618 ambourgoin@gwi.net
AnneMarie Thibodeau, 861-8950 anne-marie.thibodeau@hotmail.com	Daniel Giroux-Pare, 872-5222 daniel.girouxpare@maine.edu
	Dan Quirion, 873-6788; 509-1253 dgquirion@colby.edu
	Maureen Vashon, 861-9924 vashon5@roadrunner.com
	Randa Veilleux, 624-0156 rveilleux@memun.org

*Other Corpus Christi Parish musicians may be available—check with the priest preparing you for your wedding.*

## **HOW TO GET A MARRIAGE LICENSE**

Marriage licenses are issued at the town or city level. The couple must visit the town office in person to apply for the marriage license. You may want to check your town's website for information.

- If both of you are residents of the state of Maine, you should both apply at the town office where at least one of you is a resident. If you are residents of different Maine towns, you both may apply in one town or the other - you do not need to apply separately in each town.
- If one is from out of state, then both of you should apply in the town where one holds residency.
- If neither of you is a resident of Maine, then you may apply in any Maine town office. It need not be the same town where you plan to be married.

Your marriage license is valid for 90 days and can only be used within the State of Maine. There is no longer a Waiting Period from the time your marriage license is issued until your wedding can take place. The person performing the ceremony is responsible for filing the marriage certificate with the town office that issued the marriage license.

## **REQUIREMENTS**

To obtain a marriage license:

- Photo ID such as a driver's license may be required.
- If this is not the first marriage for one of you, bring a certified copy (raised seal) of the divorce from or death certificate of the last spouse.
- Applicants must be over 18 years old. Written parental consent is required for an applicant under 18. Written parental consent and written consent of a judge are required for an applicant under 16.
- No blood test is required.
- You may want to check with the municipal clerk where you are filing before-hand to find out what that municipality's policies are.

For more information please visit:

<http://www.maine.gov/portal/family/marriage.html>