



Planning Your Marriage At
Saint Cyril of Alexandria Church

3854 Brighton Road
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15212
412-761-1552

stcyrilchurch@yahoo.com

Thank you for prayerfully planning your Marriage ceremony. We realize that all the arrangements and attention to detail can be a very stressful and time-consuming task.

Look beyond the hard work to see the spiritual and beautiful wedding day that awaits you! And look to the future to see the wonderful gift which God has given you - a gift that will last a lifetime.

May God bless you and continue to keep you in His loving care! And please continue to pray at Sunday Mass each week.

*“A family that prays together, stays together.”
~ Bishop Sheen*

Dear Engaged Couple,

Congratulations!

The most important aspect of your wedding day is the religious ceremony in which you make your commitment to one another. Too often the preparations for the wedding day cause us to lose sight of the importance of the marriage ceremony itself. And so, we would like to highlight the very center of the Sacrament of Marriage, and that is commitment.

We are aware that there are practical items you may wish to know as well. It is with this understanding that we approach the preparation of the Sacrament with great care. The guidelines in this booklet are designed to ensure that your marriage is a prayerful, reverent and holy celebration.

God bless you as you plan and prepare for this most wonderful day in your life!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Reverend James L. Bruney
& St. Cyril's Parish Staff*

Marriage Arrangements

Please call the Rectory secretary at least six months prior to your wedding to schedule your wedding date and time. If a St. Cyril's priest is officiating at your marriage, you need to call again three months prior to the wedding to schedule an appointment with him. Priests who are friends or relatives of the couple are welcome to officiate. *All paperwork and liturgy planning will be done with the priest who officiates.*

Wedding Times

Marriage ceremonies may be scheduled on Saturdays no later than 2:00 p.m., or Friday evening at 5:00 or 6:00 p.m.

Wedding Rehearsal

The rehearsal usually takes place the evening prior to the wedding. Please call Jean DiDonato at 412-734-0505 to schedule.

The rehearsal will be approximately one hour in length and will be conducted by two parish wedding rehearsal team members. *The Bridal Party is asked to be punctual for the rehearsal.* Being late may seriously inconvenience a rehearsal for another scheduled wedding party, as well as the parish wedding rehearsal team members.

The Marriage License must be given to a team member the evening of the rehearsal. The Unity Candle (optional) and a copy of your program (optional) should also be delivered then.

Wedding Site

Church law does not permit alternate sites such as parks, homes, hotels, boats, etc. The parish church is where the local community gathers to worship, pray, hear the Word of God, and celebrate the great events of Catholic life. The Church also symbolizes God's Kingdom and our coming to it.

Wedding Party

Only **one** Maid of Honor or Matron of Honor and **one** Best Man may be chosen for the marriage ceremony.

Publication of Banns

The publication of Banns in the church bulletin is no longer required by Church law.

Photography

Please ask your photographer to be as inconspicuous as possible during the ceremony. Under no circumstances may he/she enter the sanctuary during the ceremony.

Time is limited after each wedding. Those married at 2:00 p.m. must leave the church by 3:45 p.m. Please keep this in mind when planning pictures. ***Father asks that you not have a receiving line at church, but greet your guests instead at the reception.***

While photographs are being taken, we ask that there be minimal talking by those remaining. Please be seated in pews and await the photographer's instructions.

Parish Records

Please contact the Rectory to inform us if you will be remaining as parishioners and to complete any paperwork (name change, new address, etc.) that might be necessary.

Sacristan

The Sacristan prepares the altar and sanctuary for the ceremony, removes the crash and all debris after the wedding. She will unlock the hall door for the bridal party to use for last minute preparations. She is also available for any other unforeseen needs.

Crash

If you intend to use a crash (aisle runner), the aisle is 90 feet long. This measurement includes a few yards extension into the vestibule. The number of pews on each side of the church is 30.

Pre-Cana Classes for the Engaged

These are Diocesan mandated classes. St. Cyril of Alexandria Church conducts classes each April - four classes on Thursday evenings from 7:00-8:45 p.m. in the School Library. Call Jean DiDonato at 412-734-0505 to register. Fee: \$40/couple.

If this schedule does not suit you, call the Diocesan Office (412-456-3114) for availability at other sites/parishes. There is also an all-inclusive weekend offered to satisfy the Pre-Cana requirement. Go to www.pittsburghengagedencouter.org.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

It is highly recommended in preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage that we as Catholic Christians celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation in order to be prepared spiritually and filled with God's grace. This is especially recommended for the bride and groom, the wedding party, and the immediate families. The Sacrament is available at St. Cyril's on Saturdays from 1:00-2:00 p.m. Please celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation sometime *before* the weekend of the rehearsal and wedding.

Restrictions

We ask you to inform your guests that no rice, no confetti, no bird seed, and no rose petals, etc. may be thrown. These create a safety hazard, not to mention the nuisance of clean-up required. Our church will be used by many people after the bridal party and wedding guests depart. In addition, it is illegal to release helium balloons into the air due to environmental concerns.

Planning your Music

Theresa Hammond, Director of Music Ministries will be helpful in choosing appropriate music. A music planning packet, containing a list of appropriate music, a sampling of the music on a CD and a planning sheet, will be given to all engaged couples. Please contact Theresa at least three months before your wedding at 412-734-2865.

The Marriage Rite: An act of worship on the part of all those present to offer thanks and praise and to ask God's blessing on the couple's life together. It is also a solemn exchange of vows and a religious ceremony of the Church.

As such, all music used before and during the religious ceremony must: reflect the reverence and dignity of the occasion, intensify the Christian meaning of the ceremony, and dignify and enhance the sacredness of the service. In this light, the Diocese of Pittsburgh holds that: "Of special importance is the danger of secular tunes . . . that may have romantic overtones for the couple, such as the song that they first heard together . . . and other pop tunes. These do not fulfill good basic qualities of music in the religious ceremony."

Therefore, the following should **not** be used: any music which is purely secular in nature and, as such, neglects the sacred union of the couple, not only to one another but also to Christ. This includes love songs and secular ballads; trivial and frivolous music; popular, operatic or Broadway musical favorites which merely recall sentimental personal associations. All such music should be reserved for the wedding reception. To deem a song inappropriate for the ceremony or liturgy but to say it is "alright" beforehand is not a legitimate compromise. The prelude music should prepare the community for the worship. It must create a framework to enhance and compliment it and cannot be seen as something apart from the ceremony.

Types of Ceremonies

- a. Marriage within the Eucharistic Liturgy (the Mass). *This is the traditional form for the marriage of two Catholics.*
- b. Marriage ceremony outside of Mass. This is a special ceremony *suggested* for marriage between a Catholic and a baptized, non-Catholic Christian. It is *mandatory* when one party is not baptized. A bride or groom of another faith is welcome to invite his/her clergy to participate. Please consult the officiating priest for more details.

Readers

You may ask friends or relatives to serve as Lectors (Readers) for your ceremony. They should be proficient in reading (clear, loud, and slow) and they should rehearse the readings in advance. Lectors are needed for Reading 1, Reading 2 and the General Intercessions. If the Lectors are present at the wedding rehearsal, they will be invited to practice at that time. Readings are selected from a booklet given to you at the Rectory.

Details for Wedding Rehearsal Team

The Religious Education secretary will contact the bride at least two weeks prior to the wedding to outline the details of the ceremony (number in bridal party, etc.) for the information of the wedding team.

Flowers

Arrangements should be made directly with your florist. Flowers purchased for the altar are to remain after the wedding. St. Cyril of Alexandria Parish *does not provide flowers, unity candle, or white aisle runner for weddings. Please call the Rectory at least one month before the wedding to notify us that flowers will be delivered.* Florists should deliver on the day of the wedding between 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.

Any bows or decorations for the pews are taken care of by the florist or family members. These can be placed the morning of the wedding anytime after the 7:30 a.m. Mass. *Check with the Rectory to make sure there are no funerals that morning.*

Offerings

All offerings and fees are to be brought to the Rectory office at least one week prior to the wedding. Please place each offering in a separate envelope with name or title marked.

Donation to Church	Parishioners:	\$250
	Non-parishioners:	\$500 *

(check made payable to St. Cyril of Alexandria Church)

Organist Fee	Parishioners:	\$175
	Non-parishioners:	\$250

(check made payable to Theresa Hammond)

Cantor Fee		\$ 75
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(check made payable to Cash)

Altar Servers (2)	in cash	\$ 15 each
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Sacristan	in cash	\$ 50
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Priest Mass Stipend	in cash	\$ 10
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** If a non-parishioner requests the use of St. Cyril of Alexandria Church for wedding celebration, be it known that the parish priest is not canonically responsible for anyone outside of the parish. Hence, if a non-parishioner requests the use of our church, they must also provide a priest to celebrate and witness the marriage vows for the couple. An out-of-parish priest **MUST** have permission from his bishop or local superior. This permission must be in writing and be presented at St. Cyril of Alexandria Rectory three (3) months prior to the wedding celebration. This request of permission is required by statue of the Diocese of Pittsburgh. The local pastor is authorized to grant permission and delegation for the priest celebrant of the wedding.*

Also, the guest priest celebrant must provide for, and is responsible for, all pre-marriage investigation forms which are submitted to St. Cyril's and the Diocese of Pittsburgh two months prior to the wedding.

