

# Catholic Community of South Baltimore

## Wedding Information Brochure

**The information in this brochure is for weddings scheduled in 2011**

### *Blessing from the Rite of Marriage*

**“Married Christians, in virtue of the sacrament of Matrimony, signify and share in the mystery of that unity and fruitful love which exists between Christ and his Church; they help each other to attain holiness in their married life and in the rearing and education of their children; and they have their own special gift among the people of God.” —Introduction to the Rite of Marriage, #1**

### **Welcome**

The parish welcomes you to the Catholic Community of South Baltimore ([www.southbaltcatholic.org](http://www.southbaltcatholic.org)) for your wedding, and we congratulate you on your engagement. When lived with respect and fidelity and with faith in Christ's sustaining presence, marriage can be an extraordinary blessing throughout all of life's moments. The staff at Holy Cross, St. Mary, Star of the Sea and Our Lady of Good Counsel is pleased to share in this time of preparation to make possible the best beginning for your married life. This preparation has spiritual and personal components as well as practical ones. With that in mind this brochure contains important information which will help direct the planning. Every effort will be made to consider your desires in union with the many components.

## **Scheduling your Wedding and Rehearsal**

It is best to set a firm date at least six months in advance of your wedding at one of the three parishes. The staff can assist you in finding a date that fits your schedule as well as the schedules of the parishes including those of the clergy staff of the parishes. You are welcome to invite a Roman Catholic priest or deacon who is a personal friend to witness the wedding. A confirmation will be sent to you when reserving your wedding; this is especially important in reserving your dates if you decide to use clergy from outside of the parish. A date will only be held for two weeks while the confirmation is in process. If the priest or deacon is from outside of the parish he needs to write to the parish that he is committing to the wedding at the time of the initial scheduling. Please make sure you have this written commitment before making the other arrangements (reception, photographer etc).

The times that may be chosen are as follows:

### Saturday

Holy Cross: 12 noon 2 pm 4 pm

St Mary: 12 noon 2 pm 4 pm

Good Counsel: 12 noon 2 pm 4 pm

(Exceptions may be made due to pastoral reasons)

Sunday – Friday weddings are also possible, please check with the parishes as to available times.

Please be aware of starting on time due to other liturgical events before or after your rehearsal and wedding. Each wedding has the church for two hours (30 minutes prior to the announced start time and 90 minutes after the announced start time). There is a 5:30 pm mass each Saturday evening, immediately after the 4:00 pm wedding. Staff members for the wedding are also staffing the mass. If there is a delay, some aspects of the rehearsal and wedding may need to be forfeited (receiving line, photographs) due to the start of the next liturgy. Due to proper staffing of the wedding (musicians, clergy, sacristans etc) only one wedding can be occurring at any one time among the three churches.

Please note that the parish may need to do renovations to any of the churches due to their age and upkeep. Each wedding is booked at all three churches in case the church of your preference is not available due to renovations or extensive maintenance. You will definitely have a church in which to be married. You would know prior to printing the invitations if a change has to occur unless there is an emergency in one of the buildings.

The rehearsal can be booked once you are within five months of the wedding.

### **Wedding In Another Locale Or Church**

If you are a parishioner and you wish the parish to assist you in receiving the sacrament of marriage in another house of worship (Catholic or not Catholic) at another location, please notify us. This situation occurs when the fiancé is not Catholic and the marriage is taking place in his/her church. Your marriage can be recognized by the Roman Catholic Church with or without Roman Catholic clergy present. The parish can also assist you when either the bride or groom is a registered parishioner but will be married in a Roman Catholic Church elsewhere.

### **Marriage Preparation Program**

All couples preparing for marriage in the Catholic Church are required to participate in a church-sponsored Marriage Preparation program. The *Engaged Encounter* <http://www.mdcee.org/> retreat weekend and the *Pre-Cana* <http://archbalt.org/marriage-family/preparation/index.cfm> class series are both sponsored by the Archdiocese of Baltimore. Information about these programs is available from the parish. Marriage preparation should be complete at least three months prior to the wedding date.

### **Required Documentation and Paperwork**

Baptismal certificates of the Catholic bride and groom need to be obtained. For Catholics, new copies issued from the church of baptism need to be issued within six months of the wedding date.

If neither the bride nor the groom is a member of one of the CCSB parishes, written permission from one of their pastors needs to be obtained for the wedding to be held in CCSB.

### **Marriage License**

A civil marriage license is obtained for Baltimore City from the Clarence Mitchell Courthouse, Room 628, 100 N. Calvert Street. For more information please call the Marriage License Bureau at (410) 333-3780.

### **Wedding Celebration**

Since the bride and the groom are the ministers of the Sacrament of Marriage, they have a prominent role in the planning of their wedding liturgy. The officiating priest or deacon will work with the couple to prepare the wedding liturgy. When both parties are of the Catholic faith, it is recommended that the celebration of the marriage takes place within a mass. If one of the parties is not Catholic, the celebration usually takes place at a ceremony outside mass.

If you are having a nuptial mass on a Saturday evening at 4 pm or after or on a Sunday, the readings for that particular Sunday mass will be used so that the wedding mass fulfills your Sunday obligation. The priest or deacon can review these readings and prayers with you.

## **Music for the Wedding**

The Director of Music for the parishes will assist you with music selections that are appropriate for the sacrament of marriage. Your wedding will be scheduled with his calendar as well. If need be the director or his designee will be responsible for the music for your wedding. The music director will be responsible for providing all the liturgical music needs for your wedding. If musicians, soloists and cantors who are not connected to the parish staff are desired, please contact the Director of Music prior to making arrangements with anyone. An outside musician/soloist may be able to be included under the direction of the parish music director and the staff cantor for the parish.

## **Lectors**

It is proper for a lay person to proclaim the First and Second Readings from scripture and to announce the intentions of the Prayer of the Faithful. Couples should invite members of the family or the bridal party or other close friends to serve in this capacity. The nature of the Word of God requires that such persons be persons of faith and effective public speakers. They will be given copies of the readings in advance and it is best that the readers be present at the rehearsal. The responsorial psalm which is sung will be chosen at the time you meet with the music director.

## **Altar Servers**

If the couple desires altar servers please speak to the priest who is arranging the wedding, because of the limited number of altar servers at the parish this is not always possible. Couples are invited to seek altar servers from their own family and friends who will be at the wedding. If the parish is securing the altar servers, a stipend would be appropriate for the server. It is not necessary to have a server.

## **Official Witnesses**

The official witnesses (best man and maid or matron of honor) may be of any faith. Their names must be given to the officiating priest or deacon for inclusion in the marriage records.

## **Ring Bearers and Flower Girls**

It is necessary that the ring bearers and flower girls be at least five (5) years of age in order to assure that the children are mature enough to handle the responsibility.

## **WEDDING FEES**

### **Fees**

The fee for weddings is \$1000. This fee covers the sacristan who is present at the rehearsal and wedding as well as the general costs of the church (utilities, cleaning after the wedding, donation to the Church for its work and ministry). It is recommended that the parish receive your full payment at the time of the booking of your wedding or at least a good faith deposit to secure the date. Please make the check payable to the Catholic Community of South Baltimore, 110 E. West Street, Baltimore, MD 21230

Fees for musicians are in addition to the fee for the church. These fees should be paid one month prior to the wedding. The base fees are as follows;

Fee for Organist start at \$250

Fee for Soloist start at \$175

These fees are for standard wedding music. Additional musical selections or rehearsals will incur additional fees.

## **OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

### **Photography/ Videography**

Photographs and/or video certainly are welcome to make sure you have a great keepsake of the day. Please have the photographer discuss with the celebrant prior to the liturgy any guidelines regarding from where pictures may be taken. The photographer is asked to stay within the nave of the church. You may wish to suggest to family and friends to limit their picture taking so as not to interfere with the professional photographer.

### **Flowers**

Please ask the florist to contact the church to establish a time for delivery so as to be assured the church is open and available. Typically the florist would have access about an hour prior to the start of the wedding. It is customary for the flowers to remain in the church after the wedding. If there are multiple weddings on the same weekend, you may wish to coordinate flowers to help minimize your expense. The parish staff can inform you of other weddings.

### **Safety**

Please refrain from the following due to safety: aisles runners, pew candles, candles in the aisles and the tossing of rice, confetti, birdseed, flower petals in or outside of the church. These items often cause a hazard on the steps of the church. Eco-confetti may be used, outside only.

### **Wedding Coordinators**

Some couples choose to hire a wedding coordinator to assist with planning the wedding. If you have hired one, please have him or her contact the celebrant well in advance to coordinate roles and responsibilities.

### **Alcohol**

Unfortunately, experience has shown that this statement needs to be made. Since this is a Sacrament taking place in a Church, consumption of any alcoholic beverages on Church property before, during or after the wedding rehearsal or wedding is prohibited. Please have any and all alcohol reserved for the receptions. Please make sure everyone understands and is in compliance with this requirement. Anyone attending either the rehearsal or the wedding who is inebriated will be asked to leave.

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