



Guidelines for the Sacrament of Marriage at Sacred Heart of Mary

Congratulations to you both on your engagement. We understand you are interested in having your wedding at Sacred Heart of Mary.

As you know, you are requesting a Sacrament not just a celebration. A Sacrament that will continue for the rest of your lives, and a Sacrament that is best received within your Parish family. These guidelines give you the time to become faithful, active participants in our Parish family prior to receiving the Sacrament.

Here are the guidelines to be able to set a wedding date at Sacred Heart of Mary. Remember, all the guidelines refer to either of you or either of your parents. Therefore, if you have:

- been a registered parishioner for longer than 2 years you may set a date immediately and you may start preparation immediately.
- been a registered parishioner for less than 2 years and an active* member, you may set a date at the point of having been registered for 1 year and you may start your preparation immediately.

- been a registered parishioner for less than 2 years and not active*, you may set a date and start preparation at the point of having been registered for 1 year and showing proof of being active* for at least 6 months. If you continue to be inactive you must wait until you are a registered parishioner for 2 years.
- not registered as a member, you must register with the Parish to be able to set a date. You may set a date and start preparation at the point of having been registered for 1 year and showing proof of being active*.

We define “registered” as those individuals or families who have filled out a family card with the office.

To register with the parish you simply need to drop by the office any time Monday-Saturday 8:00am to 4:30pm. The process takes only 10 minutes.

If there is a doubt as to membership the records of the office hold priority.

***Active:**

In encouraging a Christ-centered, faithful membership, Sacred Heart of Mary is based on support of the community's life through time, talent and treasure. Therefore, what reflects this commitment to us is if you have:

- turned in a tithing commitment card.
- turned in a Time & Talent form with at least 1 item marked and active in the item. (Catholic individuals only)
- given regularly (At least once a month).

If you feel you meet the guidelines and wish to start your preparation, you need to contact Fr. Mallick at 303-494-7572 to schedule an appointment. After this initial meeting Father will instruct you on the next steps in the process.

The fees as of 8/1/2004 are:

- Suggested donation of \$150.00 for the priest or deacon.
- \$1,000.00 to Sacred Heart of Mary. This covers use of the Church for wedding and rehearsal, Cantor, Organist, Wedding Coordinator, and preparation expenses.

The fees are subject to change without notice.

Per the Archdiocese, you must allow 8 months to complete the preparation for the Sacrament of Marriage. This does not mean you are busy the whole time but it does give you enough time to get the most out of the information presented to you.

A quick summary of the preparation process is:

- Meeting with Father.
- Completing and reviewing results of the FOCCUS inventory.
- A weekend retreat.
- A one-day seminar.
- Natural Family Planning classes.
- Baptismal certificates.

If either of you have been married before, Catholic or not, you must obtain an annulment before setting a date or starting preparation!

We hope this has answered your initial questions. Please call if you have any more immediate questions.

