



*Holy Name
Cathedral*

WEDDING GUIDELINES

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Once you have completed the Wedding Inquiry, you will be assigned a Priest or Deacon who will work with you throughout the preparation and the wedding. He will call you to set up an appointment.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO PRECANA COURSE

PreCana is a required course for couples getting married in the Archdiocese of Chicago. At the completion of the course, couples will receive a certificate of completion which they are to give to their home parish to be added to their marriage/prenuptial file.

PreCana is currently offered in-person or virtually over Zoom.

To register please visit <https://formedcatholiconline.com/Marriage-Preparation>

PREMARITAL INVENTORY

A premarital inventory is a questionnaire based on scientific research and a Catholic understanding of marriage. Two options are available online for this inventory to be completed The Catholic Couple Check Up or Better Together. The results are available as soon as you finish, and you can discuss them together or with the priest or deacon preparing you for marriage.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

An important aspect of preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage for Catholic brides and grooms is to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) before the wedding day. Confession Schedule: consult the bulletin or website for times for Confessions at Holy Name Cathedral or ask your priest to set up a time that is convenient for you.

DOCUMENTS

- A Baptism Certificate dated within six months of the wedding is to be submitted by each Catholic person. In an interfaith marriage, a baptized non-Catholic is asked to present a record of Baptism, if that is possible.
- A recently issued Confirmation Certificate is requested, but not required.
- A pre-marital questionnaire for both the bride and the groom will be completed by the consulting priest or deacon.
- Two affidavits affirming each person's freedom to marry may be required in some cases. The consulting priest or deacon will advise.
- The completion certificates from the PreCana course and the marriage inventory.
- A marriage license from Cook County, Illinois, is required and is to be presented to the priest or deacon at the time of the rehearsal. Currently, a Cook County license is valid for sixty days from the date of issue and must be obtained at least one day prior to the wedding. For information on obtaining a marriage license, including locations and hours, go to <https://www.cookcountyil.gov/service/marriage-licenses> or contact Cook County Clerk's Office at 312-603-7790.
- Additional documents: in some cases, other documents may be required. The consulting priest or deacon will advise and assist in this regard. If a priest or deacon from outside the Archdiocese of Chicago is to officiate at your wedding, it is Archdiocesan policy for him to provide a letter of current status from his bishop or religious superior. Your Cathedral priest or deacon will explain what needs to be done.

FLOWERS

- The couple will make arrangements for flowers with a florist of their choice.
- Flowers may not be placed in the aisles or on the pews.
- Flower arrangements and candle stands may not obstruct the liturgical movements of the ceremony.
- Flowers can never be placed on the altar.
- Liturgical decorations around the altar may never be removed or rearranged.
- Aisle runners are not allowed.
- Flower petals must not be dropped inside of the cathedral during the processional or outside after the wedding.
- All flowers/decorations must be removed from the cathedral immediately after the ceremony.
- Flowers are not permitted inside or around the cathedral and courtyard due to safety, maintenance, and time concerns.
- Please give a copy of the "Guidelines for the Florist" to your florist

GUIDELINES FOR THE FLORIST

1. No floral arrangements, candles, hurricane lamps, trellises, canopies, ribbons, aisle runners, or other decorations are allowed in the aisles or on the pews.
2. Flower arrangements and candle stands in the sanctuary should not obstruct the liturgical movements of the ceremony.
3. Flowers are not to be placed on the altar itself.
4. Aisle runners are never allowed.
5. Flower petals must not be dropped inside or outside of the Cathedral.
6. If the area around the altar is decorated for the Liturgical Season, it is not changeable. No items may be removed or added to this area.
7. All flowers and decorations must be removed from the Cathedral immediately after the ceremony



OFFERINGS AND WEDDING FEES

The Cathedral Offering for a wedding is \$2,500. This covers the use of the church, coordination, and execution of all necessary paperwork, and logistical coordination for the ceremony. Additionally, the music fee is \$550. Use of the Cathedral musicians is required. Payment of all wedding fees (as well as any other fees, such as additional musicians) can be made on our Wedding Payment Form found at <https://tinyurl.com/HNCweddingPmt>. If you prefer to pay by check, you can mail it to: Holy Name Cathedral, Attn: Wedding Office, 730 N. Wabash Avenue, Chicago IL 60611



UNITY CANDLE

While not a part of the official Roman Rite, couples may choose to light a Unity Candle at the wedding. The candle will be given to the couple as a memento.

MUSIC

All music is planned in consultation with the Cathedral Music Department. The Cathedral Musicians will play all Cathedral weddings. To contact our Music Department, please email music@holynamecathedral.org

VISITING CLERGY

If another priest or deacon from another parish other than Holy Name Cathedral but is within the Archdiocese of Chicago, will officiate at your wedding, it is Cathedral policy for him to complete the marriage preparation process as well as all paperwork.

If a visiting presider is from outside the Archdiocese of Chicago, is Archdiocesan policy for him to provide a "Letter of Good Standing" from his bishop or religious superior. This letter must be sent to the Archdiocese of Chicago no later than two weeks prior to the wedding date. The letter should be mailed to the Archbishop's Delegate for Extern and International Priests at the Quigley Center, 815 N. Rush Street, Chicago IL 60611.

BRIDE'S ROOM

The bride's room is located on the lower level of the Cathedral accessible via the elevator to the base of the bell tower. It is a large room with mirrors and a restroom. The room will be available thirty (30) minutes prior to the start of the ceremony for assembly, touch-ups, and photographs. Please do not plan to use the room for a dressing room.

No personal possessions may be left in the Bride's Room after the bride leaves the room to begin the wedding. All coats, purses, make-up, and garment bags must be removed. The room should be left tidy for the next bride and her attendants. When your wedding begins, the Bride's room is no longer yours.

Holy Name Cathedral is not responsible for any item left in the Bride's Room when the bride and her party have gone upstairs to the ceremony.

EXPRESSIONS OF CONGRATULATIONS

RECEIVING LINES ARE NOT ALLOWED INSIDE THE Cathedral, in the Vestibule, OR ON THE FRONT STEPS. You are welcome to use the courtyard on the north side of the Cathedral for greeting and pictures. Confetti, rice, birdseed, rose petals and other objects may not be thrown inside or outside of the cathedral, nor can balloons, doves, or butterflies be released. Bubbles or bells are allowed. No alcoholic beverages, champagne included, are to be brought onto the Cathedral property.

WEDDING CONSULTANTS/PLANNERS

If a private Wedding Consultant/Planner is retained, please duplicate this information for that person's information. Keep in mind that the priest or deacon of the Cathedral will conduct the rehearsal and officiate at the marriage liturgy in consultation with the bride and groom only.

PARKING

Parking is available at our One Chicago Square parking garage, located at 14 W. Superior Street (northside between State and Dearborn). You may park on Lower Level One or Lower Level Two for a maximum of two hours. Your parking ticket must be validated inside the church. For more details and a map, please visit our website at <https://holynamecathedral.org/directions-parking/>