



Parish of the Resurrection

Wedding Policy

Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist are sacraments of Christian initiation. They ground the common vocation of all Christ's disciples, a vocation to holiness and to the mission of evangelizing the world. They confer the graces needed for the life according to the Spirit during this life as pilgrims on the march towards the homeland. Two other sacraments, Holy Orders and Matrimony, are directed towards the salvation of others; they contribute as well to personal salvation, it is through service to others that they do so. They confer a particular mission in the Church and serve to build up the People of God.

-Catechism of the Catholic Church

Effective December 8, 2021, subject to change.

**Congratulations on the decision to celebrate a commitment of life with each other in
the Sacrament of Marriage.**

This is truly a major decision for you and your future. Weddings are a special time of joy and promise for you, your families and the entire parish community. Our Catholic faith tradition tells us that as the bride and groom administer the sacrament to each other, before the official witness of the Church, it is a time which foreshadows the great Marriage feast of the Lord in the Resurrection and eternal life. In view of this religious significance, above and beyond the legality of marriage, it is understandable that celebrating this sacrament in a faith context and church setting must be entered into with prayerful planning. As a Christian community, we want to provide you with the direction necessary to help you attain your goal ... not only a wonderful wedding day, but a happy and fulfilling life-long sacramental marriage. Therefore, these policies have been prepared in order to help you solemnize your marriage at the Parish of the Resurrection.

Celebrating a Wedding in Our Parish:

The Bride or Groom must meet one of the following conditions:

1. Be a registered parishioner for a minimum of one year.
2. Have received other sacraments at the parish.
3. Have a family member who is a parishioner.
4. Be sponsored by a parish member (See Wedding Sponsorship Form)

Please note: By Canon Law, non-registered Catholic bridal parties must obtain a "letter of permission" from their own parish.

Marriage Preparation Requirements:

1. The prospective bride and groom will meet with the parish priest or deacon a minimum of six months prior to the intended wedding date. All wedding ceremony activity held at the Parish of the Resurrection will be coordinated in collaboration with the priest, deacon, and/or designated parish staff member.
2. The priest or deacon will determine whether the ceremony will be a Liturgy of the Mass (if Bride and Groom are both Catholic), or a Liturgy of the Word (if one person of the bridal party is not Catholic).
3. With the priest or deacon, the couple will complete the Pre-Nuptial Questionnaire. This questionnaire includes testimony of their intention to enter into a Christian Marriage according to the teaching of the Church.
4. Participate in the *Toward Marriage* Program.
5. Meet with the priest, deacon, or designated couple to discuss the marriage preparation tool; *Facilitation Open Couple Communication Understanding and Study (FOCCUS)*.

Please note: The intent to celebrate a wedding through the Sacrament of Marriage represents a spiritual commitment, and the bride and groom are encouraged to attend mass regularly during their wedding preparation journey as a demonstration of this spiritual commitment.

Documents Required:

1. An original baptismal certificate, dated within the past six months. Both the Catholic and non-Catholic parties need this documentation whenever there has been baptism celebrated. You may obtain it directly from the church of your baptism.
2. Proof of previous marriage and legal divorce, as needed. In the case of a second marriage, please bring this to the attention of the priest or deacon. This applies to Catholic or non-Catholic equally. In many cases an Annulment will be required when a previous marriage has been celebrated. A Formal Decree of Nullity is needed to set a wedding date. The parish will assist you if such a decree is needed.
3. A civil license. This license is valid for 90 days and can be submitted no later than the time of rehearsal.

Parish Available for a Wedding Ceremony:

1. Dates, times and locations are on a first-come, first-served basis. Dates may not be available due to civic holidays, parish activities, or the priest's/deacon's schedule.
2. Fridays anytime.
3. Saturdays ceremonies can begin anytime between 9am-1pm, or 5:30pm or later.
4. Times available Monday-Thursday, or Sundays, are subject to mass schedule.
5. A minimum of 3-hours is required between wedding start times when more than one is celebrated on the same day.
6. All weddings will be celebrated in the Church building, and not at any off-site locations. This is a Diocese of Manchester policy, and the Parish of the Resurrection is not able to make exceptions. The practice of having a wedding take place in a Church is in keeping with our understanding of Christian community, our faith home, and the practice of "coming home" for the important and major events of our lives.
7. Weddings are typically not celebrated during the Lenten Season; Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday. While exceptions can be made, the nature of the Lenten Season will be in purple and is not removed for the wedding, and music and flowers are kept at a minimum during this season. Please consult the calendar in making your preparations as the dates of these seasons change each year.

Visiting Clergy Procedures:

1. A couple may wish to invite a guest priest or deacon to perform their wedding.
2. The visiting celebrant will adhere to the protocols and policies of the Parish of the Resurrection and will be present at the wedding rehearsal.
3. If the visiting celebrant is from out of state, he must obtain the written permission from the Secretary of State of New Hampshire to preside over the witness of vows. The visiting priest or deacon must also present a letter of suitability from either his bishop or superior.

Registration Cost and Donations:

There is no fee for celebrating the Sacrament of Marriage, but there are costs associated with Church preparation, which also includes the cost of marriage preparation materials.

1. The date/time of the wedding ceremony will be reserved upon the receipt of a \$300 non-refundable registration.
2. The organist and cantor receive a stipend of \$150 each, which is paid to them directly at the rehearsal.
3. Personal donation offerings to the priest, deacon, or altar servers presiding at the wedding are at the discretion of the couple. Donations should be brought to the rehearsal.

Considerations for Music:

Our parish musicians will work with you in choosing your music. We take great pride in capturing the sacredness of the event by celebrating a liturgy that is not only suited to your personal desires, but is consistent and in keeping with Catholic Tradition and the celebration of the Sacrament. Music is an integral part of that tradition, whether you are having a Liturgy of Mass or Liturgy of Word service. Some parts of the Ceremony are, by tradition, sung.

1. A list of potential organist and cantors will be provided. Guest musicians must be approved during the planning process.
2. Music will be chosen from the pre-selected options provided during marriage preparation.
3. Pre-recorded music is not permitted.
6. If you choose to forego choosing any music selections, the organist will provide music in the appropriate places with classical organ music.
7. Any music choice that you are not sure of should be discussed with the parish musicians during the planning process.

Rehearsals

The rehearsal is usually scheduled for the evening before the wedding, and is normally forty-five minutes to an hour in length. It is important that everyone arrive on time, because the parish might have multiple rehearsals scheduled on the same day.

Ceremony/Church Protocols:

1. Aisle runners are not permitted.
2. Pew bows cannot be attached with adhesive material. Elastic bands or non-marking craft wires are acceptable.
3. No flower petals, rice, birdseed, or confetti are to be thrown in or around the church. It is your responsibility to inform your guests of this policy. Although not required, you are welcome to leave the flowers from your wedding at the Church to provide the whole parish

community the opportunity to share in the celebration of your wedding.

4. Flash photography is discouraged during the ceremony. Photographers are also asked to remain out of the sanctuary and away from the tabernacle. It is your responsibility to inform the photographer and guests of this policy.

5. A reception line after the ceremony may be formed in the gathering space of the church or outside in the courtyard.

Congratulations again on your commitment to enter into the Sacrament of Marriage. You have our prayers and best wishes to you for your future. Please feel free to contact the Parish Office with any questions you might have.

Parish of the Resurrection
449 Broad Street
Nashua NH 03063
(603) 882-0925

Parish of the Resurrection Wedding Sponsorship Form

I _____ (Printed Name of Parish Sponsor) _____ have agreed to support
_____ (Printed Name of Bride and Groom) _____ for their wedding ceremony at
the Parish of the Resurrection. As a parishioner, I attest to their sincere desire and
spiritual intent to celebrate their wedding through the celebration of the Sacrament of
Marriage. I will also encourage them to continue their spiritual journey as a couple
through membership in a parish family of their choosing.

Printed Name of Parish Member

Signature of Parish Member

Date

Printed Name of Bride or Groom

Signature of Bride or Groom

Date