

Preparation for the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony



Marriage is an original gift from God to humanity. Although sin entered the world damaging the marital relationship (see Gen 3), this gift was not lost but redeemed by Christ and raised to a sacrament (see Eph. 5:28-32).

The Church has a long history of helping couples thoroughly prepare for the sacrament of marriage. As guardian of the sacraments entrusted to Her by Christ, the Church takes pains to ensure that couples are not only fully informed, but also fully understanding of what entering into the marriage covenant means. This is because the Church truly wants couples to form strong, lasting marriages that are an effective witness of the Gospel and Jesus Christ to the world.

In the light of the changing moral codes and values of our modern society, and the increasing difficulties and strain that marriages are constantly being put under, one can see how Marriage Preparation is especially necessary. If you are engaged, and looking forward to marriage, then there are a few basics that have to be followed:

- Contact and meet with Father Brett **as soon as you are engaged**.
- Take at least **six months to intensively prepare** for your marriage. It means using this time to delve more deeply into your relationship and approach this momentous day with prayer and reflection.

- Attend an approved **marriage preparation program**. There are many different formats for marriage preparation programs, one such popular course is the Engaged Encounter program. You can find more information about this resource at:
<http://www.engagedencounter.co.za/>

Things to remember as you prepare for your wedding day.

1. **Do not book your wedding date or venue BEFORE speaking to Father Brett.**
2. **You and your fiancé need to attend either the Parish Pre-marriage Course or the Engaged Encounter Course.**
3. **You must be prepared to meet with Father Brett regularly as you prepare for your marriage.**
4. **You must be a registered parishioner and attending the celebration of the Eucharist regularly.**
5. **Please supply copies of I.D. Documents as well as those of your two witnesses.**
6. **Nuptial Masses must take place no later than 2.30pm and Wedding Services no later than 3.00pm due to other commitments in the parish on a Saturday afternoon.**
7. **Music, flowers, photography/videography planning & organization is the responsibility of the couple, however approval must be obtained from celebrating priest/deacon.**
8. **No confetti allowed at all. Rose petals or bubbles only allowed outside the church.**
9. **Only ladies from the Parish Flower Ministry may prepare flowers in the church – you may not bring in flower arrangements prepared by outside florists.**
10. **Only Parish Music Ministers are allowed to play music in the church – if you wish to use musicians from outside the parish there will be an additional cost of R1000.00. No CD's may be played in the church.**
11. **If the main hall has been hired, wedding planners need to set up during office hours. (The hall is only available from 7.00pm on a Saturday evening due to Mass).**

CONTACT DETAILS

Flowers - Maureen Andre 031 564 7989/082 782 9751

Organist - Barbara Quinton 082 560 8898

Band - Lynton Duval 083 797 3722

SOME WEDDING COSTS YOU MIGHT INCUR

CHURCH (Stole Fees):	R250-00 (Minimum) (non-parishioner: R2000-00)
FLOWERS:	Cost as discussed and determined with the flower ministry.
ORGANIST:	R500-00
CAR GUARDS:	R25-00 per hour per monitor.
Hire of the St Joseph's Hall:	R6000-00(Includes tables and chairs only - no cutlery and crockery). Please speak to the Parish Secretary regarding the hire of the Hall.