



Checklist for Marriage Preparation

Responsibilities of the couple:

- ◇ To see that all meetings with priest, music minister and wedding coordinator are scheduled in a timely fashion.
- ◇ To participate in the designated marriage preparation program in good time.
- ◇ To assemble the necessary documents and submit them to the priest.
- ◇ All fees paid two weeks prior to the ceremony.

Bride and Groom:

- ◇ Baptism Certificate
- ◇ Affidavit of Freedom to Marry
- ◇ Church Annulment (if needed)

Couple:

- ◇ Marriage License
- ◇ Liturgy Selection, including music

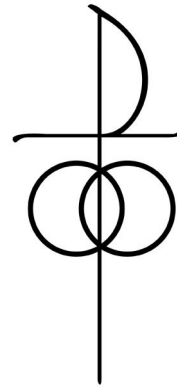
Important Phone Numbers

Christ the King Parish Office 308-436-2290

Director of Music: Jeri Revelle 308-631-2039

Wedding Coordinator: Jeri Revelle 308-631-2039

Christ the King Parish Wedding Guide



Congratulations on your decision to choose Christ the King Catholic Church for your wedding. Our commitment to the sacrament of marriage is to ensure that your Nuptial Mass or Wedding Ceremony is a most joyous and solemn occasion. Each marriage celebration is sacred in nature and follows the regulations set by the Catholic church and Christ the King Parish. Your wedding day is a beautiful and memorable occasion. May the Lord bless you abundantly on your journey together.





First Steps

The first step in your preparation is a meeting with the parish priest for the required pre-marriage interview. The purpose of this meeting is to help determine that both parties are free and ready to marry. This meeting is usually held four months prior to your wedding. You will need to contact the Wedding Coordinator after your wedding date is set with the church office and before your second meeting with the priest.

A **\$100 non-refundable deposit** (later credited to your church wedding offering) must be made to ensure your date and before you secure reception halls, caterers and other services surrounding your wedding!

Weddings are celebrated at Christ the King customarily on Friday evenings and Saturdays before 2 p.m. No weddings are held after the 5 p.m. Saturday evening Mass. Rehearsals are usually held on the evening before the wedding.

At your first meeting, the priest will explain the need for certain documents, which should be completed and returned to him as soon as possible:

Baptismal Certificate
Affidavits of Freedom to Marry
Required Promise in Interfaith Marriages
Marriage Preparation Requirements (FOCCUS,
Engaged Encounter, or Pre-Cana Program)

Your State of Nebraska marriage license should be given to the Priest no later than the rehearsal.

Photographers and videographers should be appropriately dressed for their work in this sacred place. To avoid misunderstandings, please deliver these guidelines to your photographer and videographer in plenty of time before the wedding. If they have questions you can direct them to the wedding coordinator or the priest.

Receiving Line

A receiving line may be in either the upper or lower gathering area but must not take so long as to interfere with any other liturgies or gatherings happening at the church.

Please be respectful of time following the ceremony as other sacraments are being held in the Chapel. It may be necessary to ask guests to move to the lower gathering area to prevent noise from interfering with prayer in the Chapel.

The Environment of the Church

Seating Capacity: 275 people comfortably; possibly up to 300

Center Aisle: 31' long and 6' wide (Baptismal Font to Altar steps)
11 rows of pews on center isle.

Basement Capacity: 120 people easily; 15 round tables seating 8 each

Photography

We understand that photographs are important reminders of your wedding. The two hours prior to your ceremony are reserved for photographs. Photography should be completed 20 minutes before and within 20 minutes after the ceremony. The officiant will be happy to pose with you in the first picture immediately after the ceremony; please understand that he will have many other weekend commitments, and may not be available if your pictures are delayed.

During the ceremony, the photographer may take pictures without flash from a place that is not visually distracting to the guests. Your photographer is free to photograph the wedding party as they come down the aisle but must not impede the procession.

After the ceremony begins, no pictures may be taken from anywhere in the sanctuary or from the pews by relatives or friends. Flashes of light, electronic camera noises, movement of camera equipment or the photographer create a very disturbing environment and destroy the solemnity of the worship.

The sanctuary is a sacred place in our Catholic tradition. The altar is consecrated as a symbol of Christ's presence. It is inappropriate to use the sanctuary as a studio for casual photographs.

Furnishings in the church are not to be moved.

The following additional guidelines are in effect for videography:

- Video equipment must be in place 30 minutes prior to the start of the ceremony.
- Videography is only permitted from the left side of the altar. Camera equipment must be on a stationary tripod.
- No additional lighting may be used.
- No wires may be laid across any aisles.
- Nothing may be affixed in any way to church walls or furnishings.



Wedding and Music Coordinator

Christ the King requires each couple to use the services of the parish Wedding Coordinator. The coordinator has been trained to assist you in every need related to your wedding in our church. You will need to contact the Wedding Coordinator after your wedding date is set with the church office. The Wedding Coordinator is responsible for the following in regard to your wedding at Christ the King Catholic Church.

- Pre-wedding meeting with the prospective bride and groom to discuss the guidelines for weddings and music planning.
- Assisting with necessary preparation before the wedding.

The Wedding Coordinator receives a fee for services. Please be mindful of the fact they give many hours of service in planning each wedding and should be given the proper respect as church staff members.



Music

Your wedding is a sacred moment; sacred music is appropriate. Popular (secular) music is not acceptable. Recorded music is not acceptable during the ceremony. At least **three months** in advance of your wedding date, please contact the Director of Music/Wedding Coordinator to schedule a consultation regarding the music for your celebration. She can provide you with a list of qualified musicians from the parish. However, you may have any qualified musician or soloist for your wedding, but you must have approval and they must understand the structure of the Mass. If using parish musicians, **two months** before the wedding date, all music must have been selected, approved and **provided** to the musicians, especially for music that is not in the church hymnal. If using a musician outside the parish you will need to have a parish musician to operate the sound system.



Wedding Liturgy

The model for any liturgical celebration in the Catholic tradition is the Sunday Liturgy; it is the heart of our worship life.

Liturgy is communal prayer. The wedding ceremony is community-oriented as well as prayerful, personal, beautiful, and memorable both for the couple and for their assembled relatives and friends.

This community focus does not mean that you, as a couple, will be unable to make this celebration your own. In addition to choosing members of your wedding party, you are encouraged to select from among the options provided by Catholic tradition: readings from Sacred Scripture, prayers and music, and to decide who will participate as ministers in the celebration.

- ◆ **Introductory Rites:** While guests are assembling, instrumentalists or a vocal soloist may perform appropriate music. The purpose of the prelude music is to gather and unite the thoughts of all who are present and to prepare them for the celebration of Christian marriage.
- ◆ **Liturgy of the Word:** You may invite readers from among your family and friends to proclaim the first and second readings you have chosen - from the Old and New Testaments, respectively. These readers should be selected for their devotion to the Word of God and for their ability to speak clearly in public. Do not include the actual text of these readings and other prayers in programs or worship aids. The assembly benefits more from listening actively to well prepared and well proclaimed readings and prayers. The Responsorial Psalm and Gospel Acclamation should be sung. The cantor will sing the verses of each, with the assembly singing a simple response after the verses. The Priest will proclaim the Gospel, which is followed by the homily.
- ◆ **Rite of Marriage:** The Marriage Rite includes the statement of the couple's intentions, the exchange of vows, the blessing and exchange of rings, and the general intercessions.

Church Basement

This room is the only area where food or drinks are allowed. **NO alcoholic beverages are permitted anywhere on church property.** A light snack with beverages is suggested before the ceremony. Please designate someone to ensure that all trash is removed from the basement, bride's room, and church. Place trash in the dumpster at the west side of the church parking lot before you leave the premises.

Gratuities

It is customary to make an offering to the church on the occasion of marriage. The offering is requested to cover the cost of heating, air conditioning, and maintenance of the church as well as a stipend for the presider. Any other gift you would like to make to the priest, please do so on your own. **The \$100 must be made at the time your wedding date is set, and all other fees must be paid two weeks before your wedding date. All payments are to be made at the parish office.** Any gifts for other musicians that you choose will be the couple's responsibility. Whether or not you choose to use our musicians as for your wedding, you must have your music approved with the wedding coordinator to ensure music selections meet diocesan rules.

Church Offering Members (nonrefundable)	\$100.00
Church Offering Non-Members (nonrefundable)	\$150.00
Wedding Coordinator	\$100.00
Church Accompanist (if also sings)	\$250.00 (\$350.00)
Church Singers/Cantor	\$200.00 per person
Sound System Operator (if not using a church musician)	\$200.00

Rehearsal

Rehearsals are usually held the evening before the wedding. You must call the Parish Office (308-436-2290) to set your rehearsal time after you have set your wedding date with the priest.

Rehearsal must start on time: There may be two rehearsals on one evening. Members of the wedding party should arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the scheduled rehearsal time.

Rehearsals will proceed in a quiet, dignified manner: Members of the wedding party should be reminded that they are in a holy place. They should dress appropriately. The use of alcohol/drugs before or during the rehearsal or before the wedding is absolutely prohibited. Smoking is not permitted on church property.

The Wedding Coordinator assists at rehearsals: Depending on the schedule of the priest, he may or may not attend the rehearsal. If he is unable to attend, the Wedding Coordinator will take charge. It is recommended that only the wedding party members attend the rehearsal. The rehearsal will take approximately an hour, with one walk-through rehearsal. Please inform your Wedding Coordinator of any special circumstances or arrangements you have discussed with the priest. No changes in the ceremony will be approved at the last minute.

Bride's Waiting Room

The preferred plan for the wedding day is that the bride, her attendants, and her family arrive at the church ready to walk down the aisle. Otherwise, you are welcome to use the bridal room of the church for the bride's dressing room. Smoking is not permitted anywhere in the church. All valuables should be left in cars or at home. A friend/family member should be designated to clear the bride's room directly after the end of the ceremony. Please leave the room in an orderly condition, including removal of pins etc.

- ◆ **Liturgy of the Eucharist:** when celebrated in a Nuptial Mass, the gifts of bread and wine are brought to the Altar by two of your family members or friends who will be participating in Holy Communion. There may be a need for Extraordinary Ministers of Communion. In that case, please contact the Priest for a list of approved ministers.
- ◆ **Concluding Rites:** The blessing and dismissal are followed immediately by strong, joyous recessional music, which can be a hymn sung by the assembly or an instrumental selection.
- ◆ **Interfaith Weddings:** It is usually preferable to celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage in the context of Liturgy of the Word rather than in a Eucharistic Celebration.

Other Considerations

Attendants: The Church requires you to be married in the presence of an ordained minister and two witnesses. You may choose to have honorary witnesses (bridesmaids and groomsmen).

Attire: Marriage is a religious ceremony, therefore all participants are expected to dress appropriately and modestly. We suggest that dress lengths for the bridesmaids should be church appropriate. Dress lengths should not expose thighs when a woman sits down. Excessive amounts of cleavage or high leg slits are not appropriate. If you have questions, please contact the Wedding Coordinator.

Environment: At weddings, flowers are often used for their beauty, freshness, and promise of abundant life. Flower arrangements and plants should be modest, and must not visually overwhelm the primary symbols of the Altar, Ambo, the Presider's chair, and the couple. All decorative ideas must be approved by the parish wedding coordinator.

Aisle Runners are not permitted. Runners are a liability if someone were to trip and injure themselves.

Tacks, nails, tape or other damaging means of securing decorations to the walls, pews, furniture, or fixtures may not be used.

Flowers: Wedding flowers and other decorations must be removed from the church immediately following your picture sessions, unless other arrangements have been made. We invite you to take your flowers with you to your receptions where you may continue to enjoy them.

Seasonal Decorations: During the Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter seasons, as well as at other times during the year, the church and sanctuary are already decorated in an appropriate manner with or without flowers and/or other installations. Under no circumstances may these be removed for weddings.

Lay Ministers: You are offered a great deal of freedom in the selection of lay ministers for your wedding: readers, altar servers, greeters, ushers, presenters of gifts, and ministers of the Eucharist. We suggest you think of the skill needed in performing these ministerial responsibilities as you select members of your family and/or friends.

Added Ceremonies: In its reform of the Liturgy, the Second Vatican Council mandated that the primary liturgical symbols be allowed to “speak” and that there be a noble simplicity in the rituals used.

In preparing your wedding liturgy, any elements that do not add to the communal prayer of the liturgy should be treated cautiously, and perhaps omitted. These might include:

- **Very young children:** Those below the age of five are often uneasy about being in front of large groups and might detract from the solemn occasion of your wedding.
- **The presentation of flowers to the Blessed Mother** is not actually a part of the rite. It is best done privately, immediately following the liturgy, before or after the rehearsal, but not during it.
- **Unity Candle/Sand/Cross:** This is not part of Catholic tradition and is not recommended as part of your ceremony.

- **Throwing Rice, Seeds, or Flower Petals:** This is a pagan fertility custom that has little or no Christian meaning. We have no staff on duty to perform clean up; therefore, the throwing of these things is **not** permitted on church grounds.
- **Use of chewing gum is not permitted** in the church. Please do not allow your wedding party to chew gum during rehearsal or at the wedding.
- **Food and drink** should be kept in the basement of the church. Please do not bring any food or drinks into the main body of the church.

Pastors of Other Faiths: In the case of an interfaith marriage, the non-Roman Catholic party may invite his/her pastor to participate in the ceremony. In the context of the Liturgy of the Word, the visiting pastor may vest, proclaim one of the readings before the Gospel, and offer a message. At the conclusion of the ceremony he/she may offer an additional prayer and blessing. If an interfaith wedding is celebrated during a Mass (which is not recommended), the visiting pastor may come from the assembly at the end of the ceremony to offer additional prayers, an exhortation and a blessing. This should be discussed with the parish priest who is assisting you.

Worship Aids: You may want to consider preparing a special booklet or program for your wedding. This would help your guests follow the Catholic rite and encourage the congregation to participate, particularly in the singing of hymns, responses, and acclamations.

Map to Christ the King: Please include with your wedding invitations a detailed map to guide your wedding party and guests to the church. The parish office is not open on Friday nights or Saturdays to respond to your guests' last minute calls for directions. The church's official address is: 18th & N St. • P.O. Box 33 Gering, Nebraska.