



# CATHOLIC NACOGDOCHES

## WEDDING GUIDELINES

*Congratulations on your Engagement! We are happy to assist you in receiving the Sacrament of Matrimony!*

*Scheduling the date of the wedding:*

1. Please contact the Office to request a date for a wedding preferably one year before the desired date.
  - a. Weddings are generally not permitted during the Lenten Season unless there is an emergency and approval is given by the priest.
2. At the meeting with the priest:
  - a. Please bring a Certificate of Baptism issued by the church of baptism with all Sacraments ie. Confirmation and First Eucharist dates noted. This certificate must be dated within six months of the request for marriage at Sacred Heart.
  - b. If previously married: 1) a Death Certificate or Catholic Decree of Nullity, 2) a copy of the civil Marriage Certificate, and 3) a copy of the Divorce Decree, if applicable, are to be presented to be included in the wedding packet.
  - c. The priest explains the marriage formation process to the couple (see booklet).
3. If a priest or deacon other than one of the Catholic Nacogdoches priests or deacons will be officiating at the wedding, permission and delegation must be obtained from the Pastor.
4. The marriage formation process must be finished and all forms must be turned into the Office one month prior to the wedding ceremony. It is also asked to make your donation for the wedding at this time. The suggested donation for weddings is 10% of the total cost of the wedding (rehearsal dinner, dress, rings, reception, etc.). The cost for musicians is separate.

*Instructions for the wedding ceremony:*

1. If you wish to use pew bows or other decorations, you will be responsible for putting them on the pews and removing them after the wedding ceremony. No tape or tacks may be used.

2. Only the candles on the altar are permitted to be lit in the church at the ceremony.
3. Two flower arrangements may be placed: one in front of the altar, one in front of the ambo (lectern). The flowers should be natural (not artificial), and it is requested that the flowers be left for the weekend liturgies. Only artificial flower petals are permitted for scattering.
4.
  - a. At Sacred Heart: The wedding party, excluding the bride, should be in wedding attire upon arrival at the church. The bride's room may be used up to 90 minutes prior to the wedding ceremony.
  - b. At Our Lady of Guadalupe: The wedding party, including the bride, should be in wedding attire upon arrival at the church.
  - c. At Immaculate Conception: The wedding party, including the bride, is welcome to use the Hall to prepare themselves.
5. The church will not be responsible for valuables left anywhere on the church property. All personal items must be removed immediately after the ceremony.
6. Photographs on the church property should be taken in good taste. The photographer may not stand within the marbled area of the sanctuary. Flash photography is not permitted during the marriage ceremony. Please remember this is a church and reverence must be maintained at all times. Photographers should be considerate of standing in front of the families and guests.
7. Please leave the church building as you found it, including picking up any flower petals, within one hour after the ceremony.
8. Modesty: The church is a sacred space. If dresses are too revealing, please cover yourself with a shawl or sweater. The clergy or staff may ask you to do so.
9. No food, drinks, gum, or tobacco in the church. Men are to remove their hats.
10. Wedding families will be billed for any damage to the church property.
11. The pastor will need to approve any exceptions to this policy. Guidelines subject to change as needs arise.

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*(sign and return to Parish Office)*

I have read, understand, and agree to the Wedding Guidelines for Catholic Nacogdoches.

Printed Name of Groom: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Groom: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name of Bride: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Bride: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_