



Preparing for the
SACRAMENT OF
MATRIMONY
at Blessed Sacrament Parish

The staff at Blessed Sacrament wants to help you make the best possible preparation for your marriage. In order for your wedding day to be fully integrated into the rich traditions of the Catholic Church, we ask you to consider the following information before you make your plans definite. Please share this information with your florist, photographer and others who may need it and keep this brochure with your wedding papers to refer to as you prepare for your wedding.

1. Who can be married at Blessed Sacrament?

Blessed Sacrament welcomes all engaged couples who wish to celebrate their wedding here as long as either the bride or groom is a baptized Catholic.

2. What are the steps for arranging a wedding?

Contact: Br. Simon Kim, O.P.

email: skim@bspwa.org Phone: 206-732-7376

- **Initial Contact:** Please contact the parish office as far in advance of your intended wedding date as possible. During this initial contact, a parish staff member will welcome you and make inquiries of a general nature to confirm that you meet the minimum requirements to be married at Blessed Sacrament. Your preferred wedding dates can also be verified at this point.
- **Initial Meeting with Priest:** Next, your inquiry will be forwarded to one of our priests who will schedule an initial meeting with you in order to discuss your interest in being married here, make certain that you are free to marry, determine the most appropriate type of ceremony, and address any specific concerns you might have.
- **Appointment with Parish Representative:** After that initial meeting has taken place, your contact information will be given to a representative of the parish who will make an appointment with you to begin the marriage preparation process. Printing invitations, securing a reception hall, and finalizing

other plans should not be done until these initial discussions occur.

- **Wedding Times:** Weddings are celebrated on Saturdays at 10:00am, 12:30pm, 3:00pm, or 6:30pm and later. The 3:00pm time is the most popular and tends to book early. Weddings can also be celebrated on Sundays at 2:30pm, or on weekdays (typically Friday) at 3:00pm or 6:30pm; wedding times on weekdays are more flexible, depending upon Church availability.

3. What documents are needed?

- **Baptismal or Rite of Acceptance Certificates:** If you have been confirmed and/or baptized Catholic, we will need a recently issued copy of your baptismal certificate or Rite of Acceptance certificate from the church at which the sacrament took place.

Baptized Christians of other denominations are asked to present a copy of their baptismal certificate, if available.

- **Freedom to Marry Forms:** These forms will be provided by the parish staff as well as instructions on how to complete them.
- **Documentation for Previously Married Couples:** If either party has been previously married, written evidence must be presented that the previous spouse has died or that the previously married partner is now free to marry according to the norms of the Catholic Church.
- **Marriage License:** A valid marriage license from the state of Washington must be brought to the rehearsal. The wedding cannot take place without this document.

4. What kind of preparation is needed?

The Archdiocese requires adequate preparation for a marriage, that is, a minimum of six months. Exceptions to this rule can be made for extra-ordinary reasons.

- **Evenings for the Engaged:** The Evenings for the Engaged is a five-week series of classes that facilitates an understanding of the Sacrament of Matrimony and pre-
-

pares couples for the joys and challenges of married life. If you are unable to attend a five-week series, it is possible to make other arrangements.

- **Introduction to Natural Family Planning:** Our Intro to NFP is a two hour course and is presented by trained and knowledgeable married couples of the parish.
- **FOCCUS Marriage Inventory:** The FOCCUS inventory is a written questionnaire that is designed to foster open couple communication. After you take the FOCCUS inventory, there is a follow-up meeting with an experienced mentor couple that will review the results of your FOCCUS with you.

5. What about planning the ceremony?

Contact: Jesson Mata, Director of Liturgy and Music
 Email: jmata@bspwa.org Phone: 206-732-7343

- **Together for Life Seminar:** Before meeting with Jesson Mata to plan the liturgy and music, couples are required to attend the Together for Life seminar held every first Sunday of the month at 4 PM. Please call Jesson to RSVP for the seminar. You will receive planning materials at the seminar. Jesson and a Dominican priest will assist and guide you through the planning process.
- **Planning the Liturgy and Music:** After the seminar, Jesson will contact you to plan the details of the ceremony, including the music. Instrumentalists are an additional fee. Jesson will provide himself and other vocalists without additional fees. Only trained professional musicians are contracted for weddings. If you choose to bring your own musicians, you must confer with Jesson. Guest vocalists and ensembles unknown to us must go through an audition process to ensure quality for your ceremony.
- **Wedding Coordinator:** There is normally an additional fee for a Wedding Coordinator, but at the present moment Jesson will be your Wedding Coordinator without additional fees. He has worked extensively with wedding planners and other vendors, so feel free to have them contact him directly should they have any questions.

- **Photography, Floral decorations, and other considerations:** We work with vendors to ensure that the details are addressed for your ceremony. Jesson will review these details with you during your planning session. Your vendors may contact him directly should they have any immediate questions. FYI: We permit real rose petals to be strewn on the aisle for the bridal procession. However, we do not permit birdseed, rice, or confetti.

9. What do we need to know about financial arrangements with the Church?

The Church never charges for sacraments or services. However, offerings are needed to cover the costs of operating and maintaining the church. (See the marriage fee schedule to the right.)

Blessed Sacrament does not want the lack of money to prevent you from celebrating your wedding liturgy. Please feel free to talk with the priest if you are concerned about finances.

Membership status:	Active parishioners of 18 or more months.	New parishioners	Non-parishioners
Wedding Ceremony	\$600.00	\$900.00	\$1,500.00
Wedding Preparation Program: (Note that if you opt for an approved alternative to Evenings for the Engaged, this fee will be adjusted)	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
Wedding Coordinator Normally \$200	Waived	Waived	Waived
Total <i>*subject to change and negotiable</i>	\$900.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,800.00

PLEASE NOTE: Costs associated with music and flowers are additional and paid directly to person offering the services.