

Saints Cyril & Methodius Catholic Church
Shiner, Texas

WEDDING GUIDELINES

Please understand that all of the details in the guidelines are intended as a means to do everything possible to assure that your celebration will be a truly religious experience.

PRELIMINARY:

1. A couple wishing to marry is expected to make an appointment with a parish priest or deacon at least six (6) months in advance of the proposed date.
2. At this time you should discuss your proposed wedding date, presider, religious backgrounds, or any other questions you may have.
3. Arrangements must have been made with your parish priest or deacon to complete the Pre-Nuptial Inquiry, obtaining all dispensations if needed; Baptismal certificates issued within the last six (6) months—not copies—are presented at this time. Completion of a prescribed *Catholic Marriage Preparation* program (Engaged Encounter or www.CatholicMarriagePrep.com) and FOCCUS are also required.
4. You are entering into a holy Sacrament, and as with all Sacraments, proper preparation must be undertaken. In addition to the prescribed *Catholic Marriage Preparation* program and FOCCUS, the couple will meet with the priest or deacon.
5. It is the policy of our parish that couples who are living together separate before entering into Christian marriage. A state of GRACE is necessary for participation in any Sacrament. **Catholics should arrange with the priest for a time to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession) before celebrating the Sacrament of Matrimony.**

PRESIDER: We welcome and recommend that your parish priest or deacon officiate at your wedding. If you are inviting clergy from another parish or diocese to participate in the ceremony, it must be discussed and approved by the pastor during the initial meeting.

WEDDINGS SCHEDULED: Normally wedding preparation with the presider is scheduled on a Saturday. Weddings are never scheduled on Holy Days or on major civil holidays. No weddings are scheduled later than 2:30 p.m. on Saturday. Weddings during Lent are discouraged, however, **weddings scheduled during the Lenten season must keep in mind the penitential nature of the liturgical season** and must be in keeping with the season.

CONFIRMATION OF DATE: In order that the wedding date be confirmed and entered into the appointment book, you must speak to your parish priest, or the presider must call or write confirming that he will be officiating, completing the Pre-Nuptial Inquiry and seeing that the preparation requirements are done. No date will be given over the phone.

STIPEND: Couples are asked to remember that electricity and air conditioning are on almost the whole day of the wedding so as to accommodate decorators, florists, photographers, etc. Please consider an adequate stipend to the church to cover this cost.

REHEARSAL: The rehearsal normally takes place the evening before the wedding day beginning at 6:00 p.m. or 6:30 p.m. No rehearsals will be conducted on the Fridays of Lent. Sometimes Father cannot be available to conduct the rehearsal. In this case, someone familiar with weddings at Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church will conduct the rehearsal. Normally, Father does not attend rehearsal dinners.

CIVIL LICENSE: A Marriage License issued by the State of Texas must be obtained. The license must be obtained no earlier than ninety (90) days and no later than three (3) days prior to the wedding date. The license may be issued by any county in Texas.

CHURCH DOCUMENTS: All required church documents must be in the office at least two weeks prior to your celebration. The documents are your Pre-Nuptial Inquiry along with any dispensations if needed and the certificate from Engaged Encounter or the online *Catholic Marriage Preparation* program.

“HOUSE OF GOD”: It is imperative that an atmosphere of prayer be maintained before and following the wedding celebration. Boisterous conduct is out of place; so are food/drink and the use of any tobacco products. The more that you leave the doors open, the warmer it will be in church. Please keep all doors closed before, during and after the ceremony.

BRIDE’S & BRIDESMAIDS’ DRESSES: Unfortunately, many contemporary fashions in bride’s and bridesmaids’ dresses are not suitable to Catholic Christian sensibilities; and certainly not appropriate for use in a Catholic Church where our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, is present in the Most Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. **Discretion must be used when choosing dresses for a wedding at SS. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church.** Bare shoulders and strapless dresses are **NOT** acceptable in church. Likewise, décolletage which reveals any amount of cleavage is **NOT** acceptable in church. Jackets or shawls **must** be worn in church with dresses that are designed to be strapless. **Failure to adhere to these guidelines may result in the cancellation of the wedding.**

PHOTOS, VIDEO, FLOWERS, ETC.: Photos and video cameras are welcome; however, **photographers and videographers are NOT allowed in the sanctuary.** Please be sure you communicate this information to your photographer and/or videographer. If you are planning for a unity candle, you will need to furnish a stand for it. Please be careful not to damage the pews or church furnishings when attaching flowers, etc. Rice, sand, flower petals (real or otherwise), confetti, bird seed, etc. are **PROHIBITED** for safety and maintenance reasons. Remove all floral arrangements, photography equipment, clothing, etc. from the church immediately following the celebration. Any candles brought into church **must be dripless and have a plastic or Plexiglas sheet underneath them** to protect the carpet from any spilled wax.

DRESSING ROOMS: SS. Cyril & Methodius Church does not have dressing room facilities, per se. However, wedding parties may rent the **Parish Activity Center (for bride/bridesmaids)** prior to the Nuptial Mass for a period of time **not to exceed three hours** for a fee of \$50.00, and/or the Meeting Room (for groom/groomsman) for a fee of \$25.00 (with an additional \$50.00 charged if the rooms are not left clean and orderly and/or air conditioning is left running). **Payment must be made in advance and the lock combinations must be picked up from the rectory on the Thursday before the wedding sometime between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.** Arrangements can be made by calling the Parish Office at 594-3836. Any items left in the Parish Activity Center, Meeting Room and/or church will be disposed.

MUSICIANS, ALTAR SERVERS, EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS, READERS: These arrangements are the responsibility of the couple and should be made well in advance, and should be approved by the presider. You may call the rectory for assistance if needed.

MUSIC: Not all music is suitable for the Nuptial Mass. Only religious music may be used. All music selections must be pre-approved by the pastor prior to the wedding.

ALCOHOL: No alcohol whatsoever may be consumed on the day of the wedding prior to the ceremony. Neither should alcohol be consumed prior to the rehearsal. At no time is alcohol ever allowed anywhere on church property. Weddings **will be cancelled** should alcohol be discovered on church property.

CHURCH CLEAN-UP: Someone from the wedding party (e.g., ushers) is to be assigned the responsibility of cleaning up the church after the ceremony. Programs, flower boxes, tissues, etc. should be picked up off the floor, removed from pews, or be disposed of from the foyer of the church.

ANIMALS: No animals of any kind (except for dogs specifically trained to assist the disabled) may be brought into church before, during, or after the wedding ceremony.

*NON-PARISHIONERS: A “non-parishioner” is defined as someone who has neither been registered in the parish at least one year prior to the wedding date nor has parents who have been registered in the parish for at least one year prior to the wedding date. Non-Parishioners will be charged \$1000.00 for the use of the church. A wedding date reservation will not be considered “confirmed” until full payment of the \$1000.00 has been made. Non-parishioners must bring their own priest or deacon to conduct the rehearsal and ceremony and who will complete all of the pre-nuptial preparation as required by the Catholic Bishops of the State of Texas.