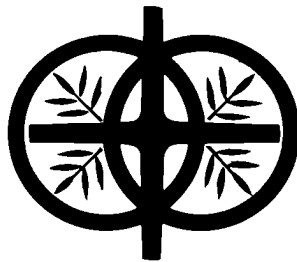


Wedding Guidelines



All Saints Catholic Church

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Dallas, TX 75248

(972) 661-9282

www.allsaintsdallas.org

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ!

You have received this booklet because you have expressed a desire to celebrate your marriage in the midst of the Roman Catholic Faith Community of All Saints Parish, Dallas, Texas. This booklet is a tool to help you make the best use of the resources of All Saints to prepare for your marriage, to plan the celebration of the Marriage Rites, and to nurture your relationship with a variety of support systems available to married couples at every stage of their married lives.

We congratulate you both, and we wish you every blessing in this exciting journey that you are making together. Please feel free to call on the various staff members and volunteers that are listed in the back of this booklet.

*The All Saints Pastoral Staff
January 6, 2011*

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THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

God's Creative Love

The Roman Catholic Church teaches that our God is very close to us. God chose to enter time and space and to be present to men and women as a completely human person, Jesus of Nazareth. The Church further teaches that the Resurrection of Jesus did not end the incarnate presence but extended it so that God can be materially present to the human family through every single person who believes in and follows the teachings of Jesus, and in various other material media that Jesus chose to represent His life and love. This belief is the basis of the entire sacramental system. We believe that in persons, things, and experiences, God is made truly present in order to help us become part of the Body of Christ and able to live forever in joy.

A Sacrament

A sacrament is an outward sign instituted by Christ to give grace. There are seven sacraments, which symbolize God's love and desire for our friendship and to touch us by grace in the key moments of our life. Through this community, the Catholic Church, Christ gives to the world seven specific ways of experiencing God. Each way is rooted in the human response of faith in God, and each is essentially a human experience.

Matrimony

Matrimony, or Christian marriage, is recognized as one of these seven forms of Divine Presence in human experience. Matrimony is a sacred covenant between a man and a woman; a union which is a source of holiness, and therefore happiness, not only to the couple, but through the couple for the whole Church and for the world beyond the Church.

Sacramental marriage does not exist in the abstract, but in the concrete relationship of a married man and woman. Just as baptized persons are to live out their commitment to be Christ to the world on a continuing basis, so married couples are to make a **life-long** commitment to witness to the power of God's love in the world. Matrimony has enduring significance for the whole Church. It is not a private matter having only to do with the couple's personal welfare. When a couple undertakes the sacrament of matrimony they receive the guarantee of God's perfect faithfulness, which is a real power within them to remain faithful **to** and forgiving **of** each other and hospitable to the world. In matrimony the husband and wife assume the responsibility of showing that God exists and loves creation. In their daily behaviors, in their sexual union, in their struggle to communicate, in their respect for each other, in all the ways people live out a healthy marriage, the couple shows the love of God to each other and to the world.

Freedom

Freedom is the basis of authentic love, and freedom is rooted in maturity and knowledge. The Church in the Diocese of Dallas, therefore, in supporting authentic, freely given love, requires both partners in a sacramental union to have completed their eighteenth years and to have known each other for at least six months prior to the wedding.

Place of Celebration

Since Sacraments belong to the whole Church, the proper place for a celebration of sacramental union is the home of the faith community, the parish church. Likewise, the ordinary official witness of the faith community is a priest or deacon of the Catholic Church. The Presider/Celebrant of the wedding ordinarily interviews and completes the paper work with the couple in preparation for the marriage.

Support for married life

Taking on a sacramental commitment, which is enduring, joyful, faithful, and life giving (because God is all of these attributes) is a great gift and a great challenge. The faith community of All Saints seeks to support the marital covenants in its membership as well as draw on the sacramental power of its married members. We desire to help couples understand as fully as possible both the joys and the responsibilities of sacramental marriage and we desire to help each couple celebrate the commitment they make to each other in as beautiful and complete way as possible. We invite you to read this entire booklet carefully to find the practical ways that All Saints is prepared to help you celebrate and live this very special sacramental union.

IN SUMMARY

- ◆ Marriage in the Roman Catholic Church is viewed as a sacrament, that is, one of seven unique channels of God's presence in the world. As such its celebration belongs to the whole church, not just the couple.

- ◆ Love requires freedom, freedom requires maturity and knowledge. Therefore, both parties must have completed their eighteenth year and have known each other for at least six months prior to the wedding.

Sacraments are ordinarily celebrated in the home of the faith community, the parish church. Only the Bishop can grant exceptions to this. The priest or deacon assisting the couple then ordinarily does the paper work.

PREPARING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Immediate Preparation

Although we recognize that all of your life has been preparing you for this new journey in faith, we believe that the seriousness of the marriage commitment requires an equally serious time of immediate preparation set aside before the sacramental celebration. **The preferred time frame to start the preparation is one year, and in no case less than six months prior to the wedding date.**

All Saints parish community and the Catholic Diocese of Dallas cooperate in providing several different programs and services to help you formulate the most beneficial preparation program for yourselves. To be married at All Saints you will be advised to participate in some combination of the programs described below:

FOCCUS

The parish offers a pre-marital inventory called the FOCCUS instrument (i.e. Facilitation Open Couple Communications, Understanding and Study), which identifies attitudes, values and behavior, which the couple needs to discuss in order to know each other adequately enough for marriage. These are topics crucial to the success of any marriage. The FOCCUS instrument becomes a basis of improved communication for the couple with the priest/deacon and/or the sponsor couple assisting them. The FOCCUS instrument is administered by a sponsor couple and is the initial step in your marriage preparation.

To register for the FOCCUS, contact Marie and Glen Abel, 972/233-1856.

After completion of the FOCCUS instrument at All Saints, the engaged couple may choose one of the following programs:

- 1) All Saints Parish Sponsor/Couple Program
- 2) Diocesan sponsored Engaged Encounter Weekend

When the FOCCUS results are completed they are sent to Elizabeth and Henry Dominguez, 972/381-0190. Elizabeth will coordinate with a Sponsor Couple at that time. The Sponsor couple will then contact the engaged couple to set up the meetings.

◆ The All Saints Parish Sponsor Couple Program

Using the FOCCUS instrument as well as their own training and experience, married couples specially selected from the parish, work with engaged couples to help them better understand the nature of sacramental marriage. The Sponsor Couples are trained by the Diocese and volunteer their time to support those desiring marriage in the Church. They help the couple investigate areas of traditional friction in marriage including family issues, money, sexuality, role expectations, self esteem, communication styles, etc.

The parish Sponsor Couple Program generally involves five meetings between the engaged couple and the sponsor couple at mutually convenient times. It is important that there be sufficient time to complete the program, so engaged couples should contact Marie and Glen Abel to schedule the FOCCUS within two weeks of the initial meeting with the priest/deacon.

The Engaged Encounter

The Engaged Encounter is a weekend retreat for couples planning marriage. It is designed to give couples an opportunity to dialogue honestly and intensively about their future life together. Interdenominational and interfaith couples, as well as those who are both Catholic, are most welcome.

A team of clergy and married couples trained in marriage ministry facilitates the weekend. Some of the topics covered are: lifestyle expectations, personality match, family background issues, marital sexuality, communications and conflict resolving skills, children, finances, faith issues and marriage covenant.

During this weekend, the facilitating team presents concepts and skills proven useful in creating lasting, fulfilling marriages. The engaged couple is then given time to examine these concepts in light of their relationship.

The format includes presentations, exercises, visuals and reflective handouts, with emphasis on private sharing time for each couple. Time is provided for questions, group interaction, recreation and Sunday liturgy.

An ideal time for couples to attend would be **at least six months prior to the wedding date**. It's important to register early (at least three months before preferred date) because of limited space on each weekend.

To make arrangements to participate in an Engaged Encounter, or to find out more about the experience and the dates for future weekends scheduled, contact the Department of Sacramental formation: **Marriage Ministry of the Diocese of Dallas (214 528-2360)**.

◆ **Called to New Life: For couples with prior marriages**

Called To New Life is taken in addition to one of the above programs. This is a two evening supplemental marriage preparation program for those considering marriage after death, or divorce of a spouse; entering marriage when one or both have been previously married; already married and seeking support in new relationship/blended family. To find out more about this program and future dates scheduled contact the Marriage Ministry Office of the Diocese (214/528-2360) or ask your priest or deacon.

IN SUMMARY: WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO?

- ◆ In order to take full advantage of this preparation time please make **your initial contact with a priest or deacon of All Saints at least six months before your intended WEDDING DATE.**
- ◆ Within two weeks of your initial meeting with the priest/deacon, contact the Coordinators of the FOCCUS for your interview. Glen and Marie Abel, 972/233-1856.
- ◆ The priest/deacon or Directors of Parish Engaged Couple Sponsor Program will assist you in making an informed choice of the programs in which you will participate.
- ◆ We strongly recommend that you complete your marriage preparation before you send invitations or at least two months prior to your wedding date.

THE WEDDING LITURGY IN THE ROMAN CATHOLIC TRADITION

I. MARRIAGE RITE WITHIN MASS

A. GATHERING RITES

- *Prælude Music*
- *Processional*
- *Optional Gathering Song*
- Welcome and Opening Prayer – The Penitential Rite and Gloria are usually omitted in wedding liturgies.

B. LITURGY OF THE WORD

- First Reading – This is usually a reading from the Old Testament.
- *Responsorial Psalm*
- Second Reading – This is usually a reading from the New Testament.
- Gospel
Acclamation – This is omitted if it is not sung.
Proclamation
- Homily

C. THE RITE OF MARRIAGE

- Question/ Affirmation
- Vows
- Blessing and Exchange of Rings
- *Optional Ceremonies – such as lighting unity candle, etc.
- Prayers of the Faithful for the couple

D. THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

- *Preparation of the gifts and the table*
- *Eucharistic Prayer with Acclamations*
- Communion Rites:
Our Father – said not sung by the community
Nuptial Blessing
Sign of Peace
Breaking of the Bread and Pouring of the Wine
Communion Procession
Optional Procession – i.e. flowers to Mary...
- *Dismissal*
- *Recessional*

*****The words which are italicized, indicate the places where music is most appropriate. The community (guests) should participate in certain parts of the liturgy, whether they are sung or spoken. The couple might take this into account as they make the final decisions.*****

II. LITURGY OF THE WORD & MARRIAGE RITE

(This is usually a wedding between a non-Catholic and a Catholic.)

A. GATHERING RITES

- *Prælude Music*
- *Processional*
- *Optional Gathering Song*
- Greeting by Priest/ Deacon, Opening Prayer

B. LITURGY OF THE WORD

- First Reading – This is usually a reading from the Old Testament
- *Responsorial Psalm*
- Second Reading – This is usually a reading from the New Testament
- Gospel
- *Acclamation*
Proclamation
- Homily

C. RITE OF MARRIAGE

- Questions/ Affirmations
- Exchange of Vows
- Exchange of Rings
- *Optional Rites – ceremonies such as unity candle, etc.
- Prayers of the community for the Bride and Groom
- Our Father – said not sung by the community
- Nuptial Blessing
- *Dismissal*
- *Recessional*

*****The words, which are italicized, indicate the places where music is most appropriate. The community (guests) should participate in certain parts of the liturgy, whether they are sung or spoken. The couple might take this into account as they make the final decisions.*****

PLANNING THE WEDDING CEREMONY

Liturgy

In the Roman Catholic tradition, liturgy is a word we use to name the various ways we ritually celebrate our sacramental life. We believe that liturgy is for us both a source of Divine Life and celebration of the life we have already been given. Liturgy belongs to the whole church, not just to those who are ministers, and an important aspect of all liturgy and ritual is a certain sameness or familiarity of the community with the pattern of action/prayer.

Liturgy is a powerful form of communication. The order in which events occur give particular meaning to the events. The placement of the marriage rite after the proclamation of God's Word, for example, shows that marriage is a response of the couple to a call or invitation from God.

Eucharistic Service or Word Service

If the couple are both practicing Catholics, the Church encourages them to be married within the context of Eucharist (the Mass). In this case a priest is the ordinary witness of the wedding and presider at the Eucharist. For a marriage between a Catholic and a partner of another faith traditionally the Liturgy of the Word followed by the Marriage Rite and concluded by the Lord's Prayer is the best articulation of the faith union (in the Word) that exists. In this case a deacon will often serve as the witness and ordinary minister of the Celebration of the Word.

Importance of Planning Details

Planning the ceremony as to the choices of Scripture, music, prayers and additional ritual should be done as carefully as possible because the wedding ceremony will announce to all who attend how the couple understands their relationship with each other, with God, and with God's people.

Staff Assistance

At All Saints parish the staff of the Liturgy Office, the Music Ministry, and a Wedding Coordinator along with your presider/ celebrant will assist you in your discussions, reflections, and choices for the best expressions of your love and faith. We would like to help you to construct a wedding ritual that is both reverent and truly beautiful.

A Wedding in the Catholic Church

The basic ritual structure is given to us by the Universal Church, but a wide range of requirements and pastoral options are suggested for you to personalize your ceremony. Here at All Saints we do have some requirements in the use of the Church and the planning of the ceremony that honor the whole community's need to use the church facilities. Attention to a few of these requirements from the beginning will facilitate your planning and make your ceremony a blessed and enjoyable experience.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS NEEDED FOR WEDDINGS

1. **PRESIDER:** Priest or Deacon who usually serves as the Church's official witness to the marriage as well as leading the liturgical prayer of the wedding rite.
2. **MASTERS OF CEREMONY:** Men or women trained to assist the Presider and the couple during the wedding ceremony. The Worship Office assigns the Master of Ceremony on a rotation basis, unless the couple requests a specific person.
3. **READERS:** Men or women who read the Scriptures and the General Intercessions (Prayers of the Faithful) should be good readers. The Readers may either be family members or friends of the couple, Catholic or non-Catholic.
4. **EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:** Men or women commissioned by the parish or diocese who assist in distributing the Eucharist when the wedding is celebrated at mass. Generally they are necessary only for a large group of guests who are Catholic. If family or friends are invited to serve, they must be commissioned for active service in their home diocese, and approved by the presiding priest or deacon.
5. **CANTOR:** Singer who leads the sung Scripture (Psalm, etc.), provides vocal solos, and invites the community to join in sung prayer. It is most appropriate to use a parish cantor who has been especially trained for this ministry. Other guest singers, however, are permitted to take part in the wedding liturgy provided their repertoire and skills conform to the standard set down for music at liturgies at All Saints, and is approved by the Director of Music Ministries.
6. **ORGANIST & MUSICIANS:** (guitarist, trumpeter, flutist, violinist), etc.: Musicians who accompany the principal actions, and sung prayers. The parish organist is the ordinary musician for all parish weddings. The parish maintains a roster of other qualified musicians that may be desired. Other guest instrumentalists, however, are permitted to take part in the wedding liturgy provided their repertoire and skills conform to the standard set down for music at liturgies at All Saints, and is approved by the Director of Music Ministries.
7. **ALTAR SERVERS:** Young people of the parish who are Altar Servers in good standing may be asked to assist at a Liturgy of the Eucharist. If family or friends are invited to serve, they must be invested for active service in their home diocese, and approved by the presiding priest or deacon.
8. **USHERS:** Usually family or friends who greet and seat the guests, distribute programs, and perform other tasks as needed.

MUSIC

As a Sacrament of the Church, the celebration and blessing of the marriage covenant calls for music, which will reflect the couple's understanding of their life within the context of the church. The selection of the wedding music should reflect the sacred nature and sense of joy that characterizes all Christian worship. The music and words chosen for the marriage ceremony must sustain and support the prayerful nature of the liturgical celebration and be an appropriate complement to the scriptural readings and other formal prayers of the rite. The following questions should be asked in music planning:

- ◆ Does the text (the words) express a Biblical view of love and marriage and a view consonant with Roman Catholic Theology? Are they prayerful?
- ◆ Does the musical score evoke a sense of sacred action and call the community to deeper and more prayerful joy?
- ◆ Does a particular selection emphasize and enhance that part of the liturgical celebration at which it occurs?
- ◆ Does the music promote the movement of the liturgy?
- ◆ Does the overall music selection allow for congregational participation?

A "yes" response to the above questions will assure that lyrics will celebrate not only the human love between two persons, but that love as a reflection of the God who is love, and that the wedding music will emphasize the theme of sacred celebration and faith community. Music can do this in a way, which is intensely gratifying to the senses and emotions but should avoid the extremes of mere sentimentality or nostalgia.

Careful application of the above considerations leads to the conclusion that some songs - even some sacred songs - even some which have been widely and regularly performed during and before weddings - are unsuitable.

Since music is one of the forms of prayer of the community, it must be live. Re-recorded music is not appropriate during a liturgical service any more than the couple's pre-recorded vows would be suitable.

MUSIC DURING THE WEDDING LITURGY

In making the commitment known to all your relatives and friends through this Sacrament, we encourage their response by their presence and their active participation in the Liturgy that day.

GATHERING HYMN - A hymn for the entire community may take the place of an instrumental processional or may immediately follow a processional. A hymn of praise or thanksgiving is appropriate and serves to involve the worshipping community and set the mood for the celebration.

PSALM - The psalm should be sung. The assembly should be encouraged to sing a responsorial refrain with a cantor singing the solo verses.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION - The Gospel Acclamation, or Alleluia, must be sung. It should be a familiar setting to the assembly. If it is not sung, it is omitted.

SPECIAL RITES - Following the Marriage rite itself, there is often a family or cultural ritual that can and should be accompanied by music. Short vocal solos, congregational acclamations, or instrumental music will be generally appropriate.

If The Eucharist Is Celebrated . . .

EUCHARISTIC ACCLAMATIONS – the congregation should sing the three Eucharistic Acclamations; Holy Memorial Acclamation and Great Amen in familiar musical settings. The Cantor/Soloist may lead the assembly

COMMUNION - Music during communion is most effectively provided by a congregational hymn. Vocal or instrumental solo music may be planned as an alternative.

HYMN OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING - After communion, to once again involve the participation of the people, a familiar hymn of praise or thanksgiving might be sung.

PROCESSIONALS - Instrumental or sung music appropriate to accompany the beginning and ending processions.

SUMMARY: WEDDING MUSIC AT ALL SAINTS

Well in advance of the wedding, minimally six weeks, the couple should make an appointment with the Coordinator of Music Ministries. At that time the couple will discuss musical considerations and develop a program of suitable music for their wedding. During this appointment the couple can determine what musicians they want to assist and the fees for the musical services to be rendered can also be clarified. The music office offers tapes of appropriate musical selections as examples of music the couple may choose for their celebration.

All Saints endorses the commonly observed rule that no one but the regular organist of the church shall play at weddings. An engaged couple may have their own guest organist at their wedding only with the full consent of the Director of Music. **In such cases the professional practice is that the parish organist will receive the regular fee of \$200.** It is then the responsibility of the parish organist to provide orientation for the guest regarding the instrument, the ceremony, and any other details necessary to the guest.

All Saints maintains a list of competent and qualified cantors and instrumentalists from whom the couple may choose. Other guest singers and instrumentalists, however, are permitted to take part in the wedding liturgy provided their repertoire and skills conform to the standard set down for music at liturgies at All Saints, and is approved by the Director of Music Ministries. All musicians should be competent and knowledgeable in the proper procedure to be followed for the Rite of Marriage in the Catholic Church.

It is the purpose of these guidelines to indicate the dignity and importance of music in the liturgical prayer setting provided by the marriage rite. They will apply whether the ceremony is within Eucharist or not. The Director of Music Ministries has the responsibility in making final judgments regarding the suitability of music to be played in the marriage ceremony.

Printed programs are very appropriate for a wedding liturgy and encourage congregational singing and response.

SCHEDULING YOUR CEREMONY

Saturday

Weddings are ordinarily planned on Saturdays. In order to insure that wedding parties have use of the facilities for an adequate amount of time, no wedding may be scheduled closer than three hours to another wedding or two hours from a regular parish liturgy.

Times

Hours for weddings are: 11:00 A.M., 2:00 P.M., or 7:00 P.M., Saturday. According to the universal law of the Church, no weddings may be scheduled on All Soul's Day (November 2nd), Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. At All Saints we also do not schedule weddings on the Saturday before Palm Sunday, the Saturday between Christmas and New Year, or the Saturday of the parish bazaar (3rd Saturday of October).

Seasons

Weddings held during the seasons of Advent and Lent should reflect the restraint of such liturgical seasons. (To know the dates for these seasons consult the priest or deacon with whom you are working). If a wedding is scheduled during Advent or Lent, it is to be understood that somber decor and symbols reflecting these seasons will remain in place during all weddings. Please note: Décor denoting the season of Christmas such as poinsettias may not be used until after December 24th. Likewise, during the Christmas and Easter Seasons, the more elaborate environmental arrangements are to be left in place. Even during the Ordinary Time of the Church year, the general Sanctuary decor for the parish's liturgical life will remain in place for weddings.

Required Coordination

All weddings scheduled in our church must be supervised and coordinated by the Parish Wedding Coordinator. The service of the Wedding Coordinator is not optional, as she represents the Parish to every couple planning to marry in All Saints Church. **You may bring your own coordinator, however, the parish coordinator will still be present and will receive the normal fee of \$300.** Her services include appointment time with her to discuss details of florists, photographers and Sanctuary arrangements. One appointment with the coordinator is sufficient to plan these details. Should you wish other family members to participate in the planning, please arrange for them to attend the initial meeting. Use and set-up of our candelabra and unity candle are also provided as part of the coordinator's services. The Wedding Coordinator will also be present to conduct the rehearsal and will be available before, during and after the ceremony to oversee all the many details of your wedding. **All fees must be paid no later than one (1) week prior to the wedding.** *(Please refer to Page 22 for fee schedule.)*

THE USE OF THE CHURCH

GENERAL - All Saints is our parish home. We ask that you treat the facilities with the respect that you would treat your own treasured home and possessions. We ask the wedding couple and their friends to clean up any areas used for preparation for the wedding (bride's room, groom's gathering room, rest-rooms, etc.). There is to be **no smoking, eating, recreational drugs or alcoholic beverages in the Sanctuary, bride's room, groom's gathering room, rest-rooms or on church grounds**, at or before rehearsal or ceremony.

DRESSING ROOMS - The All Saints bride's room is also used as a room for very small children. It is generally available for bride's use for ninety minutes before and for thirty minutes after the ceremony. The Wedding Coordinator will automatically reserve additional space in a classroom, if needed. We ask the bridal party to be cautious when taking pins out of dresses and suits. These are very hard to remove from the carpet and are dangerous to small children who gather in both places on Sundays.

FLOWERS - Large cylinders are provided for fresh floral arrangements or greenery. Customarily fresh flower arrangements are left in the sanctuary as an offering of thanksgiving for the sacrament. The liturgy calls for authentic decor, therefore the use of artificial flowers is not allowed at the altar. Silk flowers may be used for bouquets, corsages and boutonnieres. Flowers or greenery may be placed in front of the altar or the ambo (pulpit) if it is kept simple and proper care is given to protect the floor. Sharing the cost of flowers and décor with other couples marrying on the same day is encouraged. The wedding coordinator will help you to contact the couples that share your same wedding date.

DECORATIONS - Two candelabras and the Unity Candle are provided by All Saints. Pew decorations may not be attached with tape, pins, thumb tacks or any metal device that may harm the wood finish. **The use of aisle runners of any materials (including natural or silk flower petals) is forbidden.**

PLEASE DO NOT throw rice, birdseed, flower petals, confetti or any other material anywhere on the Church premises before, during or after the ceremony. This is dangerous underfoot and creates serious liability for the Church and those using it.

PHOTOGRAPHERS - Flash photographs may be taken only during the processional and recessional. **NO flash photographs may be taken during the ceremony.** There are never exceptions to this policy. Your official photographer will be able to get appropriate pictures without flash. Please inform family and close friends that flashing cameras are not appropriate any time during the liturgy. The photographer must avoid distracting movement during the ceremony and is **strictly prohibited from entering the altar area during the ceremony.** We ask that photographs in our Sanctuary, except for the wedding ceremony itself, take no longer than a total of thirty minutes. Such photos must be completed either thirty minutes before the ceremony starts or **within thirty minutes after the ceremony is finished.** Photographs taken in the church, the atrium, or on the church lawns and gardens must reflect reverence and be suitable in composition to a sacred space. "Fun" or "joke" photographs should never be taken on the Church grounds.

VIDEOTAPING - is permitted from discrete positions at the entrance to the sanctuary or in a stationary position on the Blessed Mother side of the Sanctuary. They must not use the musician's area and must avoid being a distraction from the holy occasion. They are also strictly forbidden from entering the altar steps during the ceremony. No extra lighting is ever allowed with video cameras.

REHEARSAL - One rehearsal is planned for your ceremony and is ordinarily scheduled the day before your wedding. **Rehearsals are allotted no more than 60 minutes and therefore must begin promptly at the time scheduled.** Normally, your rehearsal will be Friday evening, so participants who do not know the area should be informed of this and directed how to be at the church in plenty of time to begin the rehearsal at the correct time, especially for the 5:30pm time. **No alcohol, or recreational drug use is tolerated in or around the church during, before, or after the rehearsal and/or ceremony.** Cigarette smoking is permitted outdoors only. Rehearsals are scheduled by the Church secretary at 5:30, 6:30 or 7:30 p.m. on Friday before the wedding except during Lent, when a 7:30 PM rehearsal is not available. The Church secretary will send you a letter confirming your rehearsal and wedding times.

PLEASE NOTE: Traffic in the North Dallas area is especially heavy and difficult on Friday. Remind the wedding participants to keep this in mind so that there will not be rehearsal delays.

YOUR MARRIAGE LICENSE: The locations to obtain a marriage license are the County of Dallas, Records Building, 500 Main Street, Room 305, the North Dallas Government Center at 10056 Marsh Lane, Suite 137, just north of Walnut Hill, hours 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, or in Collin County at the Collin County Government Center, Independence and Spring Creek, in Plano. A license issued from any county in Texas is valid; all counties must follow the same guidelines, although costs will vary from county to county. There is a 72-hour waiting period after issuance of a license and the license must be used within 30 days. The license fee in Dallas County is \$30, cash. Licensing agencies often change locations, fees, or hours, and may possibly require you to bring a witness with you to sign. Therefore, we strongly recommend a phone call to the office before your visit. **Your marriage license must be given to the wedding coordinator of your marriage no later than the rehearsal.**

AFTER THE WEDDING BELLS HAVE RUNG!

The pastoral staff at All Saints wants you to know that we care about you, not just as you prepare to get married, but also after you are married. If you should decide to make our parish your spiritual home, we extend a warm welcome to you in whatever way we can.

Please Note: Having your wedding at All Saints does not automatically make you a member of our parish. To become a member, you must fill out a registration form, which is available in the pastoral office.

APPENDIX A: CHECKLIST FOR WEDDING PLANNING

Twelve to six months before:

_____Contact the parish to arrange an appointment with a priest or a deacon and set a wedding date. No date can be set firmly on the calendar until you have met with a priest or deacon, returned your signed contract and paid the Sanctuary fee (Appendix F).

_____Begin marriage preparation program: Take the FOCCUS Instrument and then in cooperation with the priest/deacon or Program Director assisting you decide on a combination of these programs that suits your needs and time schedule:

- a. Sponsor/Couple Program
- b. Engaged Encounter Weekend
- c. Called to New Life

_____Secure new Baptismal certificate with notations dated within six months of the wedding. (Required for Catholics and recommended for Non-Catholics)

_____Schedule necessary conferences with the priest/deacon handling the wedding.

_____Contact the coordinator of the Kamel Life Center regarding arrangements if reception is to be held at All Saints.

_____Prayer and reflection on Scripture options for the wedding. (Refer to booklet Together for Life you received from the Presider)

Two - Four months before:

_____Bring affidavits of freedom to marry completed for each partner from parents, family members or knowledgeable friends, signed in the presence of a priest or deacon and give to your priest/deacon.

_____Bring recent copy of Baptismal certificates to priest/deacon.

_____Contact All Saints Wedding coordinator for an appointment to discuss order of service, flowers, decorations, arrangements of seating, candelabra, etc.

_____Contact Music Associate to set up appointment with the Music Director to help you plan the wedding ceremony. Please bring your notes from the wedding music tapes to assist in the planning.

One month - two months before:

_____Pre-nuptial questionnaire to be completed with priest or deacon who is assisting you. Any other papers needed for your marriage should also be completed at this time.

_____Have program of your wedding ceremony printed if you are having one.

_____Have completed the Sponsor/Couple or Engaged Encounter program.

Two weeks and counting:

_____Secure a Marriage License (*see page 16 for information*).

_____Deliver all applicable fees and stipends to the Parish office at least one week prior to wedding day.

Spiritual Preparation

___ Take some time to reflect upon and pray together about the vows you will make to each other.

___ If Catholic, celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation at All Saints on Saturdays from 3:30-4:30 P.M., or by appointment.

___ If the wedding does not include the Liturgy of the Eucharist, it is a common practice among Catholics to attend Mass and receive the Eucharist at another time on the wedding day.

Rehearsal (usually the day before)

___ Arrive on time with everyone in the wedding party. (Rehearsals are allotted sixty minutes each).

___ Bring the marriage license to the Wedding Coordinator.

Wedding Day

___ Arrive at least one hour before the wedding. You may arrive 90 minutes prior to the wedding if you wish to dress at the church. You **must** be at the church **one hour prior to the wedding**.

___ Photographs in church outside of ceremony time are limited to thirty minutes. Photos prior to the wedding **MUST CEASE** thirty minutes before ceremony time. Photos must be finished within thirty minutes after the ceremony ends.

RELAX AND REJOICE IN ONE OF THE GREAT EVENTS OF YOUR LIFE!

APPENDIX B: PEOPLE TO CONTACT

MINISTERS OF MARRIAGE

Bishop Mark Seitz, Pastor	972/661-9282
Fr. Peter Chinnappan, Parochial Vicar	972/661-9282
Fr. Paul Nguyen, Parochial Vicar	972/661-9282
Deacon Vince Bathea	972/661-9282
Deacon John Costello	972/661-9282
Deacon Denis Simon	972/661-9282

FAMILY LIFE OFFICE:

Sponsor/Couple Program Coordinators	972/381-0190
Diocesan Office of Sacramental Life & Marriage Ministries <i>Engaged Encounter Weekend</i>	214/528-2360

LITURGY OFFICE:

Wedding Coordinator	972/778-0356
Coordinator of Liturgy	972/778-0310
Director of Music	972/778-0332
Music Associate	972/778-0351

MSGR. KAMEL CATHOLIC LIFE CENTER:

(Planning a Reception)	
KLC Director	972/778-0344

APPENDIX C: IN SUMMARY

1. Preparation program and pre-marriage conferences are offered by the parish.
2. Correct Sanctuary arrangement for ceremony is arranged by the wedding coordinator.
3. The Wedding Coordinator will be present at the rehearsal.

NOTE: Musicians - including organist do not attend wedding rehearsals.

4. A 30 - 60 minute conference to plan your ceremony is offered by our Wedding Coordinator.
5. Rehearsal is required. It is scheduled for sixty minutes the day before your wedding for the entire wedding party.
6. Wedding coordinator will be present 60 - 90 minutes before your wedding to assist in any way possible, up to and including getting the ceremony started. She will also be available immediately after the ceremony to help in any way that seems necessary.

APPENDIX D: SCHEDULE OF FEES*

- | | | | |
|--|------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| • Use of the Church | Reservation & Cleaning | Parishioner** | \$350.00 ____ |
| | | Non-Parishioner | \$500.00 ____ |
| Includes the fee for the FOCCUS. This fee payable upon reservation of wedding date and time. | | | |
| • Organist | | | \$200.00 ____ |
| Includes 30-60 minute planning consultation, one music rehearsal of thirty minutes with singer/instrumentalist. Additional rehearsal available at \$50/hr. | | | |
| • Cantor | | | \$125.00 - \$150.00 ____ |
| • Instrumentalist | | | \$150.00 - \$250.00 ____ |
| Fee depends upon instrument - Please inquire | | | |
| • Vocal & Instrumental Ensembles | | | Variable ____ |
| Fee depends upon vocalist & ensemble - Please inquire | | | |
| • Wedding Coordinator | | | \$300.00 ____ |
| • Wedding Programs | | | Variable ____ |
| Depends on size and copies required - Please inquire | | | |
| • Fellowship Hall Rental for Reception | | | \$750.00 ____ |
| For more information about use of the hall call 972/ 778-0344. | | | |

***NOTE: All fees must be paid in full, one (1) week prior to the date of the wedding. Since prices are subject to change, please confirm the current pricing with the Parish Secretary when your wedding date is secured.**

****Parishioner - Active member of Parish for twelve (12) months prior to the date you schedule your wedding, i.e. involved in organization, ministry, contribute to Parish Stewardship, Capital Campaign.**

SUGGESTED DONATIONS

- | | | |
|---|---|--------------------------|
| • Priest/Deacon | Amount commensurate with the size and expense of the wedding. | \$100.00 - \$200.00 ____ |
| • Master of Ceremony | | \$50.00 - \$75.00 ____ |
| • Wedding altar flowers or commensurate donation | | ____ |

I have reviewed, and agree to stated fees:

I have reviewed, and agree to stated fees:

Signature _____ Date _____

APPENDIX E

CONTRACT OF AGREEMENT

Between

All Saints Catholic Church and the Undersigned Party(s) to this Agreement

At the request of the undersigned Bride and/or Groom [hereinafter referred to as “Party(s)”], All Saints Catholic Church (hereinafter “All Saints”), at 5231 Meadowcreek Drive, Dallas, Texas 75248, has made non-binding calendar notations for the Wedding and Rehearsal dates and times, set forth below, for use of the Church sanctuary and other rooms made available for the purpose of the wedding preparation and ceremony.

The parish secretary will send you a letter confirming the dates and times of your wedding and rehearsal.

The undersigned Party(s) acknowledges and accepts, by way of signature affixed below, that the \$350.00 (parishioner) or \$500.00 (non-parishioner) Sanctuary fee is refundable only within the first seven (7) days (“grace period”), following receipt of the fee by All Saints. After the seven (7) day grace period has elapsed, **THE FEE AMOUNT OF \$350.00 (parishioner) or \$500.00 (non-parishioner) WILL NOT BE REFUNDED, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES** prior to the wedding ceremony. The Party(s) confirm that they have received and read “All Saints Wedding Guidelines” booklet, and agree to adhere to the terms and conditions set forth therein. The Party(s) agree to hold All Saints harmless, in the event that the wedding is interrupted, delayed or cancelled due to a natural disaster, systems or equipment failure, or any other circumstances beyond its control, and further agrees to indemnify and hold harmless All Saints, its agents and its employees from any and all liability including, but not limited to damages, attorneys fees, court costs and costs of discovery for all injury and damage claims by the Party(s) and their guests and vendors. The Party(s) agree to make full restitution for any damages to All Saints property occasioned by the Party(s) and/or their guests’ and vendors’ negligent use thereof within ten (10) days of any such occurrence.

Please note: Your wedding and rehearsal times will be confirmed when we have received your signed agreement, sanctuary rental fee and your letter of confirmation from the church. Please deliver all documents and applicable fees to the parish office.

Received Wedding Guidelines

Signatures of Acceptance of the Terms and Conditions stated herein:

Bride _____ Date

Groom _____ Date

APPENDIX E (Church Copy)

CONTRACT OF AGREEMENT

Between

All Saints Catholic Church and the Undersigned Party(s) to this Agreement

At the request of the undersigned Bride and/or Groom [hereinafter referred to as “Party(s)”], All Saints Catholic Church (hereinafter “All Saints”), at 5231 Meadowcreek Drive, Dallas, Texas 75248, has made non-binding calendar notations for the Wedding and Rehearsal dates and times, set forth below, for use of the Church sanctuary and other rooms made available for the purpose of the wedding preparation and ceremony.

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Groom _____ Date _____
