

*Dear Couples,*

On the day of your wedding you will say to each other:

*"I promise to be true to you in good times and  
in bad, in sickness and in health.  
I will love you and honor you all the days  
of my life."*

The promises of marriage, once made, are to be lived out faithfully. This booklet will help you understand Christian marriage as a total commitment of your love and life to each other in the power of the Holy Spirit.

It also anticipates many of your questions and gives practical suggestions so that your wedding day will be joyful and memorable for you, your family and your friends.

The most important aspect of Christian marriage is that it is a sacrament and that Jesus Christ is intimately involved in your married life. Sacraments are opportunities given by Christ to come to a deeper knowledge and love of Him. They are a source of strength to live beyond the limits of our human nature. They are gifts of God's love for each of you, similar to the lives you give each other.

It is through the sacrament of marriage and as a married person that each of you comes closer to Christ and grows in your life with God, individually and as a Christian couple. The basic Christian vocation is to be Christ for others and to communicate Christ's love to all. Marriage is a specific way to live your Christian life rooted in your baptism. Marriage is a life of constant love and self-giving.

*Church of the Gesu Parish Staff*

*Revised April 2017*

## **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY NOW**

Because you intend to be married in the Catholic Church, and because marriage in the Church is a sacrament, and because Jesus Christ is the center and model of Christian marriage, we encourage you to take time to reflect on your relationship with Christ, alone and together. Keeping this in mind, Catholics who wish to marry should practice their faith in these ways:

Practice a regular routine of personal prayer.

Participate at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.

Receive the sacraments regularly.

## **PREPARATION FOR MARRIAGE**

### ***Completion of the PREPARE-ENRICH Marriage Preparation Inventory:***

Good communication is key in a successful marriage. Communication is the total effort that a couple makes in conveying to each other who they are, how they feel about things in their lives, and what they need and expect.

A PREPARE-ENRICH premarital inventory is a **mandatory** tool used in the diocese to help couples improve their communication skills. The on-line inventory contains brief statements to which people respond individually. Each one's responses enable both people to discover different and similar attitudes, values and beliefs regarding married life so that they can build a solid life together.

PREPARE-ENRICH arranges responses in "content areas" to assist the priest or pastoral minister to frame three or four conversations with the couple.

A PREPARE-ENRICH inventory is not a test. It assists your growth in understanding each other and it helps you determine where you might need to grow individually and as a couple. It assists both your discussions together and those with the pastoral minister or priest helping you prepare for the sacrament of Marriage.

Your church fee (*see page 7*) covers the cost of processing the PREPARE-ENRICH inventory.

**PLEASE NOTE:** For those who choose to do Marriage Preparation outside of the Diocese of Cleveland, the premarital inventory (which is known by various names depending on the particular Diocese) is **STILL MANDATORY**. The completed paperwork **MUST** be sent to Gesu Parish prior to the ceremony.

### ***Attendance at one of the following instructional sessions is required:***

**Pre-Cana Day:** The Jesuit Retreat House in Parma, Loyola of the Lakes in Clinton, Ohio, and several parishes throughout the diocese offer a one day program which satisfies the requirements for marriage preparation as stipulated by the Diocese of Cleveland. The website for the Jesuit Retreat House is <http://jrhcleveand.org/precana.html>. The website for Loyola of the Lakes is [www.loyolaretreathouse.com](http://www.loyolaretreathouse.com).

**Cana II:** The Diocesan Department for Marriage & Family Ministry offers this for couples entering a second marriage. The website is [www.clevelandcatholiccharities.org/mfm/marrprep.htm](http://www.clevelandcatholiccharities.org/mfm/marrprep.htm)

**Catholic Engaged Encounter:** The Diocese of Cleveland offers a weekend program during which an engaged couple is helped to develop skills in dialogue, shares experiences with other couples and learns about married life from experienced married couples. The website is: [www.clevelandcatholiccharities.org/mfm/marrprep.htm](http://www.clevelandcatholiccharities.org/mfm/marrprep.htm)

**Diocesan Pre-Cana Conferences:** The Department for Marriage & Family Ministry usually offers a series of conferences several times a year. Information regarding any of these programs may be obtained from the priest or pastoral minister preparing you.

## **CHURCH DOCUMENTS**

Catholics are required to present a recent copy of their baptismal certificates. These certificates must be issued within six months of the date of the marriage. A recent copy of your baptismal certificate can be obtained from the parish at which you were baptized. Those baptized in another Christian faith must also submit a letter or certificate from their church attesting to their baptism.

For the marriage of two Catholics, at least one partner of the couple must be a registered member of a Catholic Parish. If neither is registered at Gesu, then 1) at least one of them must be registered in a Catholic Parish; and 2) we will need a letter of permission from that Pastor. For a marriage of a Catholic to a member of a non-Christian faith or someone who is unchurched, this must be discussed with the priest who is handling the case.

### **PERMISSION FOR INTERFAITH MARRIAGES**

A permission is obtained as follows: The Catholic party signs a form asking for a dispensation to marry a non-Catholic. The minister preparing the couple for marriage forwards the petition to the bishop's office. Notification of approval is sent back to the parish and recorded.

### **WEDDING BANNES**

Wedding banns are official notices of proposed weddings published in the bulletins at the parishes where the parties are registered. Brides or grooms from parishes other than Gesu should notify their parish of the wedding so they can publish the banns there as well. For those from Gesu we will publish the banns automatically in the Gesu Church Bulletin.

### **CIVIL DOCUMENTS**

**Ohio Residents:** State law requires that the marriage license be obtained from the Marriage License Bureau of any Ohio county in which at least one person of the couple has a residence. Once granted, the license permits the marriage to be held in any county of Ohio.

**Non-Residents:** If both are residing out of Ohio, then the couple must obtain the license in the county where the ceremony will be held. (Gesu is in Cuyahoga County.)

**Application:** Parties seeking a marriage license must make application for it not less than five nor more than 30 days before a license can be issued. Both parties applying for a marriage license must appear in person in the probate court. Both of them must have with them their social security numbers. For information regarding Cuyahoga County's other requirements call 216-443-8920 or check [www.probate.cuyahogacounty.us/marriage.html](http://www.probate.cuyahogacounty.us/marriage.html). An Ohio marriage license is valid for up to sixty (60) days from its date of issue. The couple must submit this license to Gesu Parish no later than the night of the wedding rehearsal.

### **RECORD OF MARRIAGE**

You will receive a certificate from Gesu Church as well as a document from the State of Ohio indicating you have been married. Inform your best man to pick up these documents from the officiating minister at the end of the ceremony.

### **PLACES FOR WEDDINGS**

Gesu has a chapel that seats approximately 170 people. For a wedding of this size or smaller, you may prefer this to the Church. Please visit both church and chapel, discuss with the priest who is helping you prepare for the wedding and choose which you prefer. If you rearrange chairs in the chapel, you are responsible for returning them to their original positions.

### **SCHEDULING YOUR WEDDING**

Weddings are only scheduled after the couple has met with the priest, deacon or pastoral minister, and it has been determined that the couple is free to marry. **Preparation for marriage should begin at least six months before the wedding.**

In order to accommodate our schedule for daily Masses, Saturday Vigil Masses, confessions and other sacramental celebrations, we limit weddings to the following times:

***Saturday afternoons: 12:00 pm, 2:00 pm and 6:30 pm***  
***Friday evenings: 4:30 pm and 6:30 pm***

All events (such as receiving lines and family photographs) must be completed in a timely manner out of consideration for those attending the Saturday 4:30 pm liturgy. Weekday weddings may be scheduled with the presider.

### **GUEST PRIESTS OR DEACONS**

If you decide to have a priest or deacon from outside the parish witness your marriage vows, he is asked to prepare you for marriage, plan the liturgy with you, complete all necessary paperwork and **be present at the rehearsal**. If he is unable to do any of these, please notify him that he must contact one of the Gesu priests. If a visiting priest or deacon is from out of state, the State of Ohio requires him to have an Ohio license to witness weddings. He also needs *delegation* from one of the priests of the Church of the Gesu. All visiting clergy who preside at weddings at Gesu are to abide by the Gesu Parish Wedding Guidelines.

## PLANNING YOUR WEDDING CEREMONY

Each couple receives a preparation booklet that describes possible selections of Scripture readings, prayers, and blessings for the wedding ceremony. The priest or pastoral minister will be happy to help you in this planning.

Those who are to read the *Scriptures* and the *General Intercessions* should be present at the rehearsal. Readers should be chosen for their ability to proclaim Scriptures clearly and with understanding because they are performing a liturgical ministry.

### BRIDE'S ROOM

There is a special room for the bride and her bridesmaids located at the left side of the narthex (main vestibule) of the church. Due to space constraints, we encourage the bridal party (and bride if possible) to come to the church dressed in their attire for the wedding.

### THE REHEARSAL

Wedding rehearsals are held on Thursday or Friday evening at 4:00, 4:30, or 6:00 pm. *Please arrive 15 minutes early so that your rehearsal can begin on time*, as another rehearsal or service may follow your rehearsal. While in church, the wedding party is asked to conduct itself in a manner appropriate to the sacred task and place. Wedding rehearsals may be conducted by the presiding minister or the Gesu wedding coordinators.

### WEDDING CEREMONY PROGRAMS

Some couples print a ceremony program to help their guests participate. If you have questions about program content or format, you may discuss your concerns with the priest or deacon officiating at your ceremony.

*All music and lyrics that appear in your ceremony program must list copyright permissions. Contact Mark Ehrbar, Gesu's Director of Music Ministries to obtain copyright permissions.*

### PHOTOGRAPHS AND VIDEO TAPING

Photographers and videographers are asked to see the priest, deacon, or wedding coordinator at least fifteen minutes before the wedding begins. Taking photographs should not distract from the worship service.

Photographs may be taken at any time during the service. Photographers and videographers may not go beyond the sanctuary railing during the service. We presume that they will exercise restraint and common sense while they are photographing the ceremony. Please convey our expectations to them personally when you hire them.

## WEDDING FEES

Many individuals help make your wedding day a special one. Please take note of the following fees for people involved in the ceremony: *(Not all fees are tax-deductible.)*

\$15.00 for each altar server (*Gesu will arrange for 3 servers, payable in cash in separate envelopes*)

Fee for use of the church, instructional materials, coordinator for rehearsal and wedding, and other services: \$300.00 for parishioners  
\$500.00 for non-parishioners

\$200.00 for principal musician (organist)

\$150.00 for cantor

If additional instrumentalists are requested, fees are arranged individually.

Please consult the music director.

\$150.00 suggested for presiding clergy

*Checks for Gesu priests should be made out to the "John Carroll Jesuit Community"*

**All fees will be collected by the wedding coordinator at the time of your rehearsal.**

### FLOWERS

When ordering flowers, please keep in mind that it is customary to have arrangements on each side of the altar. Please note that taking flowers to the statue of Mary is not a part of the marriage ritual, but is certainly optional. If large plants are rented just for the wedding celebration and are placed in the sanctuary, they are to be removed immediately following the wedding. Please remember to advise florists that they may not set up for the wedding until 30 minutes prior to the service if there is another wedding on that day. Pew decorations are to be removed from the church after the ceremony.

If more than one couple is marrying on a weekend, you are encouraged to plan your floral arrangements together and share the expense of the flowers. Please check with the person preparing you. **Gesu offers beautiful pre-designed silk flower altar arrangements that you may rent for \$100. This fee should also be paid to the wedding rehearsal coordinator.** Contact Laura Bertsch, Marriage Secretary at the parish office for more information.

**No rice, birdseed, balloons, flower petals or bubbles will be permitted inside or outside of the church.** The parish's insurance company asks that there be no aisle runner due to liability.

There may be restrictions on wedding decorations because of the liturgical seasons of Advent, Christmas, Easter, Pentecost or other holy days. If you have any questions regarding altar décor or liturgical environment, contact the parish office or the person conducting your ceremony.

## MUSIC ELEMENTS OF A WEDDING

### UNITY CANDLE

The Unity Candle is not a part of the Catholic Marriage Ritual. If you wish to have a Unity Candle, we recommend that you include one at the reception. It could be placed on the table with the wedding cake or at the table where the bridal couple will be seated. Making it part of a prayer before the meal, or in some other way, would be appropriate for this ritual.

(\* It is an option at a wedding that is not taking place within a Mass.)

### MUSIC

The music and songs in a wedding help people enter into a prayerful atmosphere to celebrate a Sacrament of the Church. Remember that your wedding is a service of worship and prayer. Your music selections should be of a religious nature and help all join with you in giving praise to God for the sacred gift of married life. Therefore, secular music is not permitted during the wedding ceremony.

You should contact Gesu's Director of Music Ministries, Mark Ehrbar (216.932.0617 or mehrbar@churchofthegesu.org) as soon as possible when you begin to plan your wedding. Arrangements for music selections, vocalists, and instrumentalists must be approved by and coordinated with him.

### ***People involved***

Cantor: The person who will lead the singing and also sing solos if selected. The cantor must be very familiar with Catholic worship and music. Several excellent cantors are available for weddings at Gesu, and they are comfortable working in this space.

Accompanist: The organist or pianist who accompanies the singing. Usually the accompanist is one of the organists who plays regularly at Gesu.

Other musicians such as trumpeters or violinists are often included in weddings.

**\* Any musician involved in your ceremony must be coordinated with Gesu's Music Director.**

### Prelude Music:

Before the service begins it is customary to set a prayerful mood with music as people are gathering and waiting. Music appropriate for worship may be used. Most commonly this is left to the musician to choose instrumental music.

### Entrance Processional:

This is music used to accompany the procession that begins the wedding. Dignified instrumental music may be used. *The Trumpet Tune*, *Trumpet Voluntary*, *Canon in D*, and *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* are pieces frequently requested for this procession. Your organist will be able to recommend other pieces.

### Gloria: (sung):

### Responsorial Psalm:

The cantor sings this with the congregation participating in the response. Choose this with the help of your Music Director. The first section of our blue "Gather" hymnal has many selections.

### Gospel Acclamation: (sung)

### Music during the presentation of gifts:

Any worship song may be used at this point. It may be either sung or instrumental.

### The Lamb of God and Eucharistic Acclamations: (sung)

### Communion Song:

Several psalms or a Eucharistic song is most appropriate here. The only music prohibited would be devotional songs to a saint, such as an Ave Maria.

### Song of Praise after Communion: (optional)

Any type of religious music or song may be here, including an Ave Maria or other Marian song.

### Recessional Music:

This is music played during the final procession. Any dignified music as in the entrance procession may be used. Your organist can help you make this selection.

## PERSONAL NOTES

*As you continue to plan your wedding, we hope that you have found this booklet informative and helpful. If you have any questions, please speak with the priest, deacon, or those assisting you in your wedding preparations. You may also call the parish office if you need additional information.*

*May Christ's peace and joy be with you as you prepare to celebrate His love in the Sacrament of Marriage.*

***The Pastoral Staff at Gesu***

### CHURCH of the GESU

Parish Office: 216.932.0617

Director of Music Ministries: Mark Ehrbar  
mehrbar@churchofthegesu.org

Marriage Secretary: Laura Bertsch  
lbertsch@churchofthegesu.org

Rehearsal Coordinators:  
Sue Devers  
Colleen Hogan

