



Church of the
RESURRECTION
WICHITA · KS



Wedding Guidelines

Congratulations on your upcoming wedding!
This booklet has been prepared to assist you with your wedding plans. Please feel free to contact Hilary, our parish wedding coordinator, with any questions.

Hilary Langenfeld
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Marriage is a Sacrament

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says this about the dignity of the sacrament of marriage: "The matrimonial covenant, by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership of the whole of life, is by its nature ordered toward the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of offspring; this covenant between baptized persons has been raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a sacrament" (CCC 1601).

It is with that wisdom of the Church that we come to see why every Catholic is obligated to get married in a Catholic Church, by a priest (or a deacon or Bishop), with two witnesses - it is because the purpose and the goal of marriage is to get you and your spouse to heaven. God has brought the two of you together because you are each other's best path to heaven!

As you begin this journey towards the sacrament of marriage, here is some great wisdom from Pope Francis to ponder: "[In] marriage, prayer is important and it is necessary: he for her, she for him and both together. Ask Jesus to multiply your love. In the prayer of the *Our Father* we say: 'Give us this day our daily bread'. Spouses can also learn to pray like this: 'Lord, give us this day our daily love,' for the daily love of spouses is bread, the true bread of the soul, what sustains them in going forward... This is the prayer for engaged couples and spouses. Teach us to love one another, to will good to the other! The more you trust in him, the more your love will be 'forever', able to be renewed, and it will conquer every difficulty."

Who may marry at Church of the Resurrection?

The proper place for the sacrament of marriage is at the parish of the bride or groom. To be married at Church of the Resurrection, either the bride or the groom or the parents of the bride or groom must be a registered and active member of the parish. If you are not a parishioner at Church of the Resurrection and are interested in getting married at the parish, please contact Fr. Labenz.

Setting the Date & Time

Only the parish priest may set the date for the wedding. The wedding date will only become official after the priest has had a sufficient opportunity to meet the engaged couple, fill out diocesan paperwork, and to arrange for their participation in the parish's marriage preparation program. It is the responsibility of the engaged couple to secure the date for the church before making commitments with caterers, florists, reception halls, etc.

Weddings at Church of the Resurrection are celebrated on Friday evenings or on Saturdays between 11:00am and 1:30pm. Please note that wedding pictures in the Church are to be finished by 3:00pm on Saturdays to allow for the regularly scheduled parish confession time.

Church of the Resurrection - Wedding Guidelines

Updated: November 2025

Marriage Preparation

The Diocese of Wichita requires, at a minimum, six months of marriage preparation.

During this time the couple will:

1. Meet with the priest to discuss such topics as the sacrament of marriage, the spirituality of marriage, and the Prepare and Enrich Inventory.
2. Natural Family Planning Requirements:
 - a. Overview of NFP presentation with Rachel Roth, FCP
(no cost, offered by appointment)
 - b. Introductory session for NFP method of couple's choosing
(cost varies, offered through CDOWK or other certified NFP instructor)
 - c. Recommended: Full Session with a certified NFP instructor
3. Participate in an Engaged Essentials Weekend at the Spiritual Life Center.

The Wedding Ceremony

A wedding coordinator will be assigned to each couple to discuss the different parts of the marriage ceremony, and they will be present at the rehearsal and wedding to offer assistance as needed.

Music

The parish's Director of Music has jurisdiction over all music. Wedding music, whether vocal or instrumental, should be proper and fitting for the sacred occasion of the Sacrament of Matrimony. Our music director, David Dondlinger (316-652-7401 or ddondlinger@resurrectionwichita.com), is happy to help couples select both appropriate music & hymns and instrumentalists & vocalists. All guest musicians and singers must contact the music director prior to using church equipment and instruments.

Decorations

Floral pieces should be simple and should not detract from the altar or the tabernacle. Please speak with the priest or call the office before making any decisions regarding sanctuary, Church, or gathering space flower arrangements. No adhesives, tacks, or wire are to be used on the pews; rubber bands or ribbons are your best options for attaching flowers or bows. Aisle runners are not allowed. Flower girls are not allowed to throw real flower petals in the aisle. If fake flower petals are thrown, the wedding party will need to pick up all the fake petals following the ceremony.

Baptismal Certificates

The Catholic and/or Christian parties are required to provide a baptismal certificate to their priest. Catholic baptismal certificates can be obtained by calling the Church office where the baptism occurred.

Holy Communion

All Catholics in good-standing with the Church are able to receive Holy Communion during the Nuptial Mass. Non-Catholics and Catholics who are not in good-standing with the Church are asked to either remain in the pew or to cross their arms for a blessing.

Respect in the Church and on Church Property

Respectful silence is expected in the main body of the Church. Members of the wedding party should conduct themselves with dignity and reverence around the Church before, during, and after the wedding. No food, gum, or drinks are allowed in the main body of the church, and no alcoholic beverages are allowed in the parking lot or in the Church facilities.

Attire

Bridal gowns and attendants' dresses should be in accord with Christian modesty. All in attendance are also asked to dress in their "Sunday Best" so as to respect the dignity of the Church, the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, and the special occasion.

Guest Book and Receiving Lines

Guests will be able to sign the guest book in the Gathering Space up until five minutes before the ceremony begins. Receiving lines are not permitted in the Church. After the wedding party processes out of the Church, they will go through the basement, up the backstairs, and to the altar to pose for pictures with the priest.

Photographs

Photographers may take pictures without flash in the body of the Church or from the balcony before, during, and after the ceremony. It is ideal to have a plan for the order of pictures; please plan on having the picture with the priest(s) first (immediately following the liturgy). Pictures need to be finished in the Church by 4pm on Saturdays. The use of video equipment is permissible if it is not a distraction to the congregation.

Wedding Stipends and Fees

It is a thoughtful gesture of gratitude for the bride and groom to offer honorariums to the officiating priest and the altar servers. We would recommend offering a \$10+ stipend to the servers. Please check with the musicians for their fees or requested honorariums.

Lectors and Servers

There can be two to three altar servers and one to three lectors at the wedding. Relatives and/or friends of the couple are welcome to serve and lector, so long as they are trained to do so at their home parish. If you are in need of either servers or lectors, the parish will help provide them for you.

Bride's Room

The Church's Cry Room doubles as our bride's room. Please remember to leave the room in the same condition as you found it.

Rehearsal

The wedding rehearsal will take place the night before the wedding and will last around an hour. It is ideal for the wedding party, the parents, grandparents, servers, and any outside musicians to be present at the rehearsal. Proper attire and conduct in the Church is expected.

Other Information

The throwing of rice, birdseed, and confetti on the Church property are not permitted, as it is hazardous and difficult to clean up. Fireworks are prohibited by the City of Bel Aire, as well as by Church of the Resurrection. The wedding party is responsible for any damage in the church or on the church grounds.

Rehearsal Dinner and Wedding Reception Information

Please contact the parish office for more information on reserving rooms at the parish for either the rehearsal dinner or wedding reception.



Church of the Resurrection

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