

# Immaculate Conception Marriage Guidelines

Congratulations on your engagement! The content below includes requirements for getting married in the Catholic Church, this parish, and rules for the wedding ceremony.

## **The requirements for marriage**

- Your first step is to contact the priest/deacon. Before a date can be set the couple must meet with him. If there is nothing impeding either person from being married they will be allowed to set a date that is at least six months from their first meeting with the priest.
  - Anyone who has been previously married in any way (Catholic or not) will not be able to set a date until that previous marriage is declared invalid by the Church.
- Couples must be registered in a parish.
  - Register as a parishioner at ICC if you live within the boundaries.
  - If not get permission from that pastor of the parish where you live.
- Recently issued certified baptism certificates are required.
- Inquiry and inventories are done with the priest/deacon.
- Set dates for the wedding and rehearsal with parish calendar and the priest/deacon.
- The fees for weddings in the parish:
  - \$400 for parishioner - \$450 for non-parishioner
  - Use of Activity Center is \$350 for parishioners - \$500 for non-parishioners
- Complete Marriage Program (i.e. *Engaged Encounter*)
- Complete marriage preparations with priest/deacon.
- Wedding "Order and Procession" sheet completed.
- Music, Décor, Photography discussed and arranged.
- Marriage license obtained from the State of Louisiana (A 72 hour waiting period between time of issuance of the Marriage License and the ceremony applies. Marriage Licenses are valid for thirty days from the date of issuance)

## **The rules and regulations for the marriage ceremony at ICC**

- There is a dress code. Brides and the wedding party are expected to dress with modesty. This means that strapless and low cut dresses are not appropriate. The groom and his men should be dressed appropriate, not looking for a laugh.

- Nothing in the church can be moved. Any decoration added to the church must be removed immediately after the wedding.
- Nothing may be changed or added to the sanctuary or altar area.
- No flower pedals
- No aisle runners
- No unity candles or unity sand
- Bows/flower pew markers must not be fixed to pews by tape or wire. Try to use ribbons or special hanger to attach them.
- All items brought to the wedding by the florist or families must be removed immediately.
- Extra flowers and programs must be picked up and removed immediately after the wedding.
- No food or drinks are allowed in the church.
- Anyone in the wedding party under the influence of alcohol at the rehearsal or wedding, including bride and groom, will not be allowed to participate in the wedding.
- No one is allowed in the sanctuary, altar area, during the wedding including photographers.
- Bride and bridesmaids have access to room 2 in the parish hall. Everything has to be removed immediately after the wedding.
- The *only* wedding coordinator is the person provided by the parish ó no exceptions.

Visit [www.catholicweddinghelp.com](http://www.catholicweddinghelp.com) for answers to other common questions and helpful tips.

For more information or to schedule a meeting call 225-627-5124.