

# Wedding at Immaculate Conception

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Thank you for considering the possibility of celebrating your Catholic wedding here at Immaculate. We want to support and assist you in the best way possible as you begin this important commitment in your lives.

In order that the process runs smoothly; please allow at least six months for preparing for your marriage. Saturday is the usual day for weddings to be celebrated. To accommodate 5 PM Mass on Saturday, weddings must commence no later than 2 PM. Before setting a date, it should be noted that for people who have been married before and want to celebrate a marriage in a Catholic Church nothing should stand in the way of this valid or licit celebration. Please discuss this matter with a priest or deacon as soon as possible.

Due to the solemn nature of the season of Lent, celebrating a wedding during this season is discouraged. Also, our church is not available for weddings on Sunday.

## Parishioners

If for six (6) months or longer, you have been an active registered member of Immaculate Conception, Barbara Connor, our parish staff will work with you to prepare for your wedding. In particular, there are certain steps in the process.

1. Testimonies for your freedom to marry
  - Each member of the couple will be interviewed.
  - One person who has known each member of the couple for 5 or more years will be interviewed.
  - Each Christian member of the couple will provide a copy of their baptismal record produced by the parish of their baptism within 6 months of the wedding date. A copy of your original certificate will not suffice.
2. Theological Preparation
  - Fr Maurice holds a two session class that examines the church's teachings on marriage.
  - Barbara Connor will conduct an Engaged Couple Assessment, titled FOCCUS.
3. Communication Preparation
  - Couples will participate in an Engaged Encounter (EE). The EE is a weekend long opportunity to explore the typical issues experienced by married couples and to assist you in beginning your marriage having the ability to work through these or other issues. Here is a link to their website. <https://www.ceeseattle.org/?content=3> or check the calendar at <http://palisadesretreatcenter.org/upcoming-retreats/> for other dates and times.
4. Liturgical Preparation
  - The priest or deacon who will be witnessing your vows will work with you on planning your ceremony. This preparation will consist of at least two meetings where your ceremony will be discussed, readings chosen, and music reviewed.
  - Roughly 4 weeks prior to your ceremony you will be contacted by the **Immaculate Wedding Coordinator** who will serve as your host for the ceremony.
  - A rehearsal will take place on **Thursday** evening in advance of the ceremony; the **time** to be determined by the Wedding Coordinator please be prompt.
  - We will share with you contact information for local musicians who may be contracted to assist you with music during your wedding ceremony.

5. If the **parishioner** is to wed outside of the Archdiocese of Seattle, the preparation **will** be completed by the Immaculate Conception staff. All documentation will be sent to the Archdiocese of Seattle, then to the diocese where the wedding is to take place, then to the Church of choice.

6. Fees

- For a parishioner the fee is \$600.00. It can be paid electronically, see the Immaculate website. It is customary to offer the presider a gift or stipend for their service.

## Non Parishioner

If you are not a part of the Immaculate Conception community, you may still hold your wedding at Immaculate. However the **preparation** will need to take place at your home parish AND you **must** provide your own presider (priest or deacon). You may request a priest or deacon from Immaculate however; this must be done six (6) months prior to the wedding.

- Your home parish is often the parish closest to you, or the one you attend most frequently. Each parish and diocese may have different requirements for marriage preparation. The details above may serve as a comparison for what your parish may ask of you.
- The parish preparing you will need to send documentation of their preparation to Immaculate Conception prior to the ceremony. If your parish is **not** in the Archdiocese of Seattle, the documentation is sent first to their diocesan office, then to our diocesan office\*, and then to Immaculate. It is important to allow 3-4 weeks for the transfer of paperwork to take place.

1. Liturgical Preparation

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2. Fee

- The fee for a wedding at Immaculate is \$1500. It can be paid electronically, see the Immaculate website.

## Witness (Presider)

Any Catholic priest or deacon may witness your vows. If they are currently serving in the Seattle Archdiocese the process is relatively simple: Fr Maurice will grant them permission to do the ceremony. **If they are serving in another diocese** they will need to provide a letter of good standing prior to the ceremony. This letter is sent from their bishop or provincial to Archbishop Sartain\* and should be sent at least 6 weeks prior to the ceremony. It is customary to offer the presider a gift or stipend for their service. If you are asking them to travel to Seattle, you should consider paying for their travel expenses.

To hold a date and time for your wedding complete this **form**, email to [bconnor@icseattle.org](mailto:bconnor@icseattle.org). To discuss your plans for a wedding, contact Barbara Connor at 206 322 5970, Ext 607.

Note: \* Attention: Wedding Documents- Archdiocese of Seattle, 710 9th Ave, Seattle, WA 98104