

CONGRATULATIONS!

You've decided to get married! We are delighted that your relationship has progressed to the point that you are ready to make a lifetime commitment. Here you will find information concerning the marriage rites through **Holy Spirit Ecumenical Catholic Church**. We hope this information answers many of your questions. Should you have any further questions, please feel free to contact us.

The parish community of **Holy Spirit Ecumenical Catholic Church** is committed to helping make your special day something to remember. We will do whatever we can to provide quality and helpful services to you during this process.

Although celebrating marriages are very important to us, please keep in mind that the facilities of **Holy Spirit Ecumenical Catholic Church** are used for our different ministries and events. It is a good idea to plan your ceremony well in advance to ensure the parish facility and the priest are available. Also, we are pleased to celebrate your marriage in another location of your choice. Again, congratulations on your decision. Let us be among the first to wish you joy as you take this next step on your life together.



SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Holy Spirit Ecumenical Catholic Church celebrates the Sacrament of Marriage for any couple ready to embrace each other in spousal commitment and enduring faithfulness to reflect the love of Christ for the Body of Christ, the Church. All of the marriages that we celebrate are sacraments that have deep religious significance and we consider them to be marriages that are blessed by a loving and caring God and supported by our Catholic community. Some of these marriages (those between a woman and a man) are recognized by the State of Florida and have legal rights (such as joint filing of income tax and property ownership). Currently, same gender marriages are not accorded equal recognition by the State of Florida or the federal government, but that does not preclude us from treating them with equal respect and dignity as the superior law of Christ demands. We celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage for all people and it is our hope that one day our civil government will equally recognize all marriages.

Marriage is . . .

- A Catholic Sacrament celebrating spousal commitment of two people as a manifestation of Divine Love. The Sacrament of Marriage is a sign through which the Church manifests and celebrates its faith and communicates the saving grace of God. More simply stated, God wants us to enter into a deep relationship and this is a milepost along that lifelong journey that provides us with special opportunities to receive God's grace and love.
- A spiritual and temporal joining of two persons and their lives at all levels.
- A covenant whereby public, life-long vows are made proclaiming the total and faithful gift of oneself to another and the Christian community pledges its support of the couple.

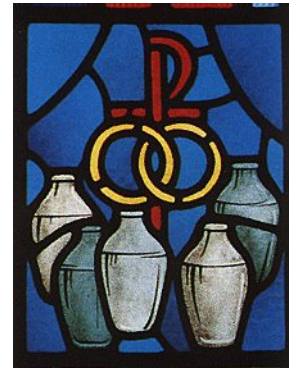
Marriage is not . . .

- A quick fix for a broken relationship. If your relationship is already in trouble, marriage is **not** appropriate. Since you will be asked to make a significant life-long commitment, you will need to be certain that this is a healthy, mature relationship that is intended to last. We expect you to have been in a committed singular relationship together for a period of one year or more before beginning the process of seeking to be married.

MARRIAGE PROCESS

1. Review this information thoroughly.
2. Complete the *Marriage Forms* and return them to:

Holy Spirit Ecumenical Catholic Church
6152 126th Avenue Suite 500
Largo, FL 33773-1848



3. Within one week of our receiving your completed forms, arrangements will be made by our priest/deacon to officiate at your ceremony. The priest/deacon will contact you directly to confirm your ceremony date and to begin planning your ceremony.
4. Do not print or mail invitations before your date is confirmed with our parish priest/deacon. Your date is not confirmed until your completed Marriage Forms, copies of your Baptism certificates and \$200 non-refundable deposit* have been received.
5. Your officiating priest/deacon will schedule a meeting with you to discuss your proposed marriage and the details of your wedding ceremony.

MARRIAGE FEE SCHEDULE

Registered active parishioners of Holy Spirit, please, contact the parish for your particular fee schedule.

Those who are not currently parishioners of the community, your fee schedule is:

*Clergy Honorarium - \$400 USD cash or check. (50%, \$200 USD, due with your Marriage Forms, the balance due at the rehearsal.) Please, make your check **payable to the priest/deacon** presiding at your marriage rite.

*Deposits are non-refundable. Thirty (30) days notice must be given for the balance to be refunded, irregardless of circumstance.

MARRIAGE CEREMONY ARRANGEMENTS



Today's Date: _____

Your **Full Legal** Names:

Do you have a preference for which priest or deacon presides at your Marriage ceremony? Yes No

If yes, please specify clergy in order of preference:

1. _____ 2. _____

Please specify dates you desire in order of preference:

1. _____ 2. _____

Time of the Ceremony: _____ a.m. / p.m.

Where will your ceremony take place? _____

How many people do you expect to attend? _____

Names of the witnesses (traditionally members of your wedding party) for your marriage:

If there is a rehearsal for the ceremony, please, indicate the date and time of the rehearsal:

*A minimum 50% deposit of \$200.00 USD (non-refundable) is due when you return these forms. The balance of \$200.00 USD is due no later than the date of your wedding rehearsal. All checks are to be made **payable to the priest/deacon** celebrating your ceremony. Thank you for your attention to this.*



PERSONAL INFORMATION FORM FOR SPOUSE 1:

Please print legibly.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____ Zip + 4: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Gender: _____ Parishioner of Holy Spirit? Yes No

Names of your birth parents (with mother's maiden name): _____

If different, names of your present parents: _____

Date of and Church of your Baptism: _____

(Please provide a recent copy of your baptismal certificate or an affidavit statement.)

How long have you been in this relationship? _____

Are you living together now? Yes No For how long? _____

Have you had a prior Marriage or Holy Union? Yes No Date of Dissolution: _____

Why are you choosing to be married?

Why have you chosen to celebrate your Marriage as a Sacrament in a Catholic rite?

I am in accord that Marriage is a Sacrament offered through the Church for the blessing, holiness and grace of our relationship before God and the Catholic Christian community, which I freely and consciously undertake without reservation or coercion or impediment.

Signature: _____



PERSONAL INFORMATION FORM FOR SPOUSE 2:

Please print legibly.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____ Zip + 4: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Gender: _____ Parishioner of Holy Spirit? Yes No

Names of your birth parents (with mother's maiden name): _____

If different, names of your present parents: _____

Date of and Church of your Baptism: _____

(Please provide a recent copy of your baptismal certificate or an affidavit statement.)

How long have you been in this relationship? _____

Are you living together now? Yes No For how long? _____

Have you had a prior Marriage or Holy Union? Yes No Date of Dissolution: _____

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Signature: _____