

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL
LATIN MASS COMMUNITY



Policy on Marriage

A. Weddings

Preparation:

1. There should be a period of at least six months between the first meeting of the couple with the priest and the wedding day. If the priest agrees to proceed on preparing the couple for marriage, all arrangements and communication will be between the priest and the couple only and not with parents or relatives of the couple.
2. The Archdiocese provides a number of classes to help the couple prepare for matrimony, such as Catholic Engaged Encounter, Catholic Marriage preparation, and classes on Natural Family Planning. Information on these will be provided by the priest.

Permissions and Dispensations:

1. A baptized Catholic man is expected to marry a baptized Catholic woman. Any deviation from this requires a permission or dispensation which cannot be given by the Pastor but only by the Archdiocesan Metropolitan Tribunal.
2. Mixed marriage, that is, between a baptized Catholic and a baptized non-Catholic, is possible but discouraged. The Nuptial Mass will be discouraged for a mixed marriage.
3. A marriage license from the State of Colorado must be obtained no later than the time of the wed-

Suggested Wedding Invitation Insert

To our guests at weddings performed at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Latin Mass Community:

If you are not familiar with this rite of Holy Mass, know that we firmly believe that Our Lord Jesus Christ is present in our church, and that the Mass is the real presentation of His sacrifice on the cross. Because of this belief, reverence and modesty is called for in the church, and to a lesser extent, in the parish hall. The following are guidelines to maintain reverence and modesty.

1. Silence: Silence is necessary for prayer, and the Mass is a prayer. "Be still and know that I am God," say the Psalms. The wedding rehearsal, the time before the wedding in the church, and after the wedding, should be times of silence. "My Father's house is a house of prayer," said Our Lord, and so our church is not a place for conversation or for clapping.
2. Dress: Please wear modest clothes. Modesty needs to be defined a little in our times, and to keep modesty we ask that no shorts or tee-shirts be worn. For the ladies in the bridal party, we ask that no strapless, low-cut, backless or sleeveless dresses be worn. Chapel veils are encouraged for ladies and girls because of their dignity. Men and boys should wear coats and ties.
4. Participation at the Mass: The responses to the invocations are made only by the altar boys on behalf of the congregation at the Low Mass (Mass without singing). At a High Mass (Mass with singing) the choir sings the responses, but the faithful are encouraged to sing as well.
5. Holy Communion: Catholics in a state of grace may receive Holy Communion at the communion rail, kneeling, and on the tongue only. Communion in the hand is not practiced in this rite of Mass.

Clean-up:

1. The couple to be married should assign someone to make sure all extra decorations in the church are removed, and that the church is clean before they leave.
2. They should also see to it that each room the wedding party uses should be clean and in good order.

B. Anniversaries:

1. Any registered couple in the parish is encouraged to celebrate publicly their 25th, or 50th (and higher) anniversaries. These are great accomplishments, important for our times.
2. At a daily Mass of their choosing, the renewal of their vows can take place in front of the altar, before the Mass begins, and the Mass will be offered for them in thanksgiving.
3. A reception afterwards in the parish hall is a fine thing to do, so that the brethren can offer their congratulations.

ding rehearsal, which is the evening before the wedding.

4. Couples who are cohabitating, or who are in a common-law marriage will be expected to separate for at least one month before the wedding. If this separation is not possible, marriage at OLMC is still possible, but only as a private wedding, without Mass, and immediate family only in attendance.

Date and Time:

1. The date and time of the wedding will not be set until the completion of the Pre-Nuptial Form. This form determines if the couple is truly free to marry. If there are dispensations or permissions which need to be obtained, then the date of the wedding will be set only after they are granted.
2. The date of the wedding will normally be on a Saturday, although other days of the week are possible. The choice of the time, morning, afternoon or evening, will be left to the couple.

Place:

1. Only the parish church will be used for weddings.
2. No outdoor weddings are permitted.

The Priest Officiating:

1. Any priest assigned to OLMC may witness a wedding here, and the couple may choose whom they wish.

2. A priest from outside the parish must receive delegation from the pastor to witness a wedding here at OLMC.

The Ceremony:

1. The 1962 Roman Ritual is normative for any weddings at OLMC.
2. The choice of a High Mass or a Low Mass is left to the couple, but having a High Mass will depend on whether a choir can be secured for the wedding.

Flowers:

1. Two arrangements of flowers may be used for the altar. They must not obscure the Reliquaries, or extend over the *mensa* of the altar.
2. Arrangements of flowers may also be placed by the statues of the saints.
3. Flowers or other decorations may be placed on the pews using string, but no tacks, tape, wire or clamps may be attached to any parish furniture. It is customary to leave the flowers in the church as a votive offering to Our Lord or the saints.

Candles:

1. Only the candles on the altar are used for a Nuptial Mass.
2. No other candle arrangements may be used in the church.

The Photographer:

1. He may take pictures in the church from any position but must remain stationary for the Consecration if there is a Mass. A non-flash camera should be used.
2. Pictures may be taken before and after the wedding at any location desired by the couple, including the sanctuary.

The Parish Hall:

1. The use of the parish hall is free for any registered parishioner who is married here.
2. A facility usage/indemnity agreement (a document drawn up by our insurance company) must be signed by the couple to be married one month before the hall's date of use.
3. Alcoholic beverages may be served at the reception for a period of one hour, but one hour only.
4. The couple to be married must assign someone to be in charge of the reception.

Stipends:

1. The amount of the stipend for the priest is up to the couple.
2. The altar boys should receive a \$10 stipend each.

tives that they wish to serve as altar boys, they should inform the priest at least one week before the wedding. Altar girls are not used at OLMC.

Holy Communion:

1. The Catholic Church does not practice open communion, so only Catholics in a state of grace are invited to receive Communion.
2. Holy Communion is distributed to the communicants who are kneeling, and on the tongue only; however, if there is some reason why a communicant cannot kneel, then he or she should stand at the communion rail. These two points could be included in the wedding invitations.

Music:

1. If the parish organist cannot play for the wedding, another organist may be secured by the couple to be married. At least one month before the wedding, the parish choir director will approve the hymns to be used.
2. Our parish also has the services of two excellent musicians who can play harp and violin for the wedding or the reception.
3. Stipends for all parish musicians are \$150 per musician, not including choir members. Their services should be secured at least one month in advance of the date of the wedding. Our musicians are open to accepting a lower stipend if necessary.

Attire and Conduct:

1. Bridal gowns and attendants' dresses must be kept in Christian modesty. This precludes backless, strapless, low-cut (i.e., more than three fingers width below the collar bone) and sleeveless dresses. The bride's maids should be veiled as well as the bride.
2. Invitations to guests should include an instruction on the Mass and comportment (see last page)

The Bride's Room:

1. The bride's room is located at the bottom of the stairs in the basement of the parish hall.
2. This room is for the bride and her attendants and will be secured for her at the rehearsal on the evening before the wedding.

The Groomsmen:

1. The groomsmen will assemble in the back portion of the parish hall and may use the parish office to store their belongings. This room can be locked if necessary.
2. This room will be available to the groomsmen at any time on the morning of the wedding.

Altar Boys:

1. The altar boys used for the wedding will be assigned by the priest officiating.
2. If the members of the wedding party have rela-