

Dear Bride and Groom,

We gladly welcome you and your family!

It is our great privilege to share in the joy of celebrating the sacrament of holy matrimony with you. Whether you are parishioner, student, alumni or you have some relationship with St. Catherine of Siena parish community, we are glad that you have made inquiries into possibly celebrating the sacrament of marriage at our church or assisting you with your marriage preparation.

“The matrimonial covenant, by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership of the whole of life and which is ordered by its nature to the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of offspring, has been raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a sacrament between the baptized (Can. 1055 §1).”

God is the author of marriage and He expresses the matrimony as an illustration of the bond of love between Jesus Christ and His Church on earth. You will become “one flesh” through matrimony. Since marriage forms the basis of the Christian family, we would like to do everything possible to help you in your preparation, celebration and life of lifelong deepening commitment to each other.

These policies and guidelines will help you as you prepare for the celebration of this beautiful sacrament.

We wish you every blessing as you prepare for the sacrament of Holy Matrimony.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Mark Owusu

Pastor

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA CATHOLIC CHURCH AND STUDENT CENTER

DRAKE NEWMAN COMMUNITY

Wedding Policies and Guidelines

St. Catherine's welcomes you to our marriage preparation process. We are pleased that you want to celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony in the Catholic Church and in the presence of the family of God who will support you in deepening matrimonial commitment.

The sacramental celebration of marriage is a public act of worship. Thus, the wedding liturgy must be in accordance with the liturgical guidelines set down by the universal church and Diocese of Des Moines.

We reverence and respect your wedding as a holy and sacred celebration.

The wedding liturgy reflects the norms of the Catholic Church and the holiness of this Holy matrimony. The whole family of God (the church) rejoices and celebrates with you since your wedding liturgy is the sacramental celebration of your union and commitment.

We understand that since our core mission is student ministry there may be some of you who will participate in our wedding preparation procedure and celebrate your wedding in your home churches. Our office manager will assist you in planning for your wedding liturgy or preparation. We require that you contact our office manager 6-8 months prior to your intended wedding date.

Parish Office: 515-271-4747 or office@stcatherinedrake.org

This preparation process includes:

- ❖ **Initial interview with the priest or deacon**
 - ❖ **FOCCUS Inventory process**
 - ❖ **Natural Family Planning (NFP) Sessions**
 - ❖ **Marriage Preparation Course – Check Diocese of Des Moines website for registering for retreat <http://www.dmdiocese.org/diocese-calendar.cfm>**
 - ❖ **Additional meeting(s) with office manager if ceremony at St Catherine's**
 - ❖ **Planning the wedding liturgy – if ceremony at St Catherine's**
 - ❖ **Planning the wedding music – if ceremony at St Catherine's**
 - ❖ **Final meeting with priest or deacon to review all necessary paperwork**
- Weddings are scheduled on Saturdays between 10am and 3:00pm unless other reasons require another day or time.
 - It is essential that weddings and rehearsals begin on time.
 - Generally, rehearsals take place the evening before the wedding and need to be scheduled early in the planning process.

Parking: Per our fraternal agreement with Drake University there will be available parking space for your guests. We will assist in notifying Drake Security of your ceremony.

Fees: Our parish will spend a considerable amount of time and money helping you prepare for your marriage. Since our ministry is to college students, we encourage you to prayerfully consider the ministry at St. Catherine's when designing and planning your wedding budget. We encourage you to make donations to us before your wedding day or we submit your documents to your designated wedding church.

Celebration of Wedding

Please contact the office manager for dates and meeting with the pastor or deacon.

Donation Request for Weddings

A. When the wedding is celebrated at St. Catherine's

Parishioners - \$300.00

Students and Alumni of college/university within the Diocese of Des Moines - \$300.00

Non-Parishioners - \$500.00

Students of other college/university outside Des Moines Diocese - \$500.00

B. When the wedding is celebrated at a different parish but St. Catherine's does the preparation

Parishioners - \$150.00

Students and Alumni - \$200.00

Non-Parishioners - \$200.00

******A parishioner/student is defined as one who is registered with St. Catherine of Siena and offering tithes/contributions on a regular basis for at least one year before the first contact regarding the wedding is made with anyone on the staff.***

C. Musicians from St. Catherine's

Pianist – \$100.00

Cantor(s) - \$50.00 each

**You may arrange for your own musicians, in which you would need to negotiate a stipend directly with them. Music must be approved by our Music Director.

documents Needed Prior to Wedding

It is your responsibility to acquire these documents.

A. Complete sacramental records for both the bride and groom.

For Catholics, the complete baptismal certificate should have notations on your first communion and confirmation.

B. Confirmation certificates for non-Catholics

For those who have been previously married

A. Former marriage certificate

B. Divorce decree

C. If applicable, documentation or proof of annulment

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Marriage Preparation Agreement Form

Groom _____ Bride _____

Who wish to be married, on _____ at _____
(Date) (Parish)

Understand that by signing this agreement form, we promise to abide by the policies and guidelines set forth by St. Catherine's and Diocese of Des Moines.

We understand that half of the donation to the church agreed upon for this wedding preparation will be paid before we begin the process and the second half will be paid before the final documents are sent to the parish where the celebration of this Holy matrimony will be held, if it is not occurring at St. Catherine's.

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Contact information:

PLEASE PRINT

Bride email _____ Phone Number _____

Groom email _____ Phone Number _____