

**SAN PABLO CATHOLIC CHURCH
WEDDING INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES**

Dear Engaged Couple,

Our parish community is happy that you are planning on being married in our parish Church. Love is a beautiful thing. Marriage is a beautiful thing. You are about to embark on the most important journey of your lives. Marriage is a radical new way of life and so the Church wants to assist you in preparing well for your new life together.

These guidelines are written to avoid oral misunderstandings and mis-communications about your wedding arrangements. May the Holy Spirit be with you to help and guide you always.

Father Jerry Morris, Pastor

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Both parties must be at least 18 years of age.

Both parties must be free to marry.

At least one party must be Roman Catholic.

There must be no outside force influencing the marriage.

There must be a serious intention of a life long union and commitment.

The completion of all necessary documents, legal forms and dispensations.

The completion of Pre-Cana Preparations.

PRE-CANA PREPARATIONS

1. The couple should speak with the pastor of San Pablo Church, Fr. Jerry Morris at 305-289-0636, to discuss the date and time of their planned marriage.

2 The couple should make an appointment with their **HOME PARISH PRIEST OR DEACON** (bride or groom's parish) and ask to be prepared for the Sacrament of Marriage which will take place at San Pablo Catholic Church in Marathon, FL.

3. **YOUR HOME PARISH PRIEST OR DEACON** will provide the couple with the necessary instructions before marriage: this includes the completion of a pre-marital inventory (FOCCUS –A&B Forms) Engagement Encounter. Dates, times, places and other pertinent information about the Engagement Encounter Weekends will be provided. Simply attending an engaged couples weekend or two **does not fulfill** the necessary Church requirements. **Private meetings with your HOME PARISH PRIEST OR DEACON are required to prepare the necessary documents, legal forms and any dispensations which might be necessary. This documentation includes your statement of intention regarding marriage (A Forms); character references (B Forms); and recently obtained (within 6 months) baptismal certificates for Catholics. Please contact your Church of baptism and request a new certificate. This is to be submitted to your HOME PARISH PRIEST OR DEACON, who will prepare all required documents for your marriage. YOUR HOME PARISH PRIEST OR DEACON will mail all documents to either the Archdiocese of Miami Marriage Tribunal or to Fr. Jerry at San Pablo in Marathon. All necessary documents must be received at least four (4) weeks prior to your marriage date.**

MARRIAGE LICENSE

Must be a State of Florida License. There is a three day waiting period for Florida residents only.

To apply for one in Monroe County go to: Clerk of Court, 3117 Overseas Hwy. Marathon Fl 33050
305-289-6027

No blood test is required. The cost for a license is \$93.50. There is a discount for Pre-Cana certificate. The office is open from 8:30am - 5pm.

Both parties must appear with valid Driver's Licenses and social security numbers.

If divorced you must bring a paper with the exact date of your divorce.

CHURCH MUSIC, PHOTOGRAPHY, FLORIST, CAKE AND CATERING

We have a local lady, Linda Byars, who can play the piano and sing for you. Her number is 305-289-1219 at home and her office number is 305-743-4050.

Our parish photographer is Larry Benvenuti. His number is 305-743-7494. You may also choose your own photographer. Please inform the photographer that your wedding is taking place in a Church and not a hall or studio and that all furniture and other items are not to be moved. They should also exercise a reverent manner while in Church before, during and after the wedding. Photo and video cameras are permitted during the ceremony.

Two local florists are Marathon Florist @ 305-743-6900 and Flowers by J&J Inc. @ 305-743-5459. You may call to discuss your preferences and their fees. Please advise florist if you wish to use an aisle runner.

You must provide your own Unity of Candle if you choose to use one.

Wedding cakes can be ordered at Publix in Marathon @ 305-289-2920

Parish hall and gardens may be available for receptions. Check with the parish office for available dates. Catering provided by A Joy Wallace Catering and Design Team. Contact John Rudolph @johnrudolph@ajoywallace.com or phone 610-639-3905.

AVAILABILITY OF THE CHURCH

The church is open one hour before the beginning of the wedding. Floral deliveries and photography set-up should take place at this time. A Nuptial Mass runs about 1 hour. A wedding ceremony runs about 40 minutes. Couples are allowed up to ½ hour for pictures after the wedding. A RECEIVING LINE at church is possible provided that the wedding begins on time and would not interfere with other scheduled services. **PLEASE REMIND YOUR FLORIST THAT NO TAPE OR TACKS MAY BE USED TO HOLD BOWS OR RIBBONS ON PEWS. Also, throwing RICE, CONFETTI OR BIRDSEED is NOT PERMITTED. Please have someone designated to check the church, sacristy, vestibule, bathrooms and hall after the wedding. Items often get left behind.**

REHEARSAL

A rehearsal is usually set for the night before the wedding. If this is not possible, another time can be arranged. Everyone who has a part in the wedding should be part of the rehearsal. This includes the wedding party, parents, and readers. It is helpful if you have worked out before the rehearsal the seating arrangement for family and the walking order and matching of the bridal party. This could save time since most couples have a rehearsal dinner following the rehearsal. Rehearsals should not take more than 1 hour.

CHURCH FEES

The fee for the priest is \$150 and the Church fee is \$650. Contact the organist regarding her fees.

ALL FEES MUST BE PAID IN ADVANCE AT LEAST ONE MONTH BEFORE THE SERVICE

BRIDAL ROOM

The wedding party can use the parish hall if available. There is a bathroom and a phone available. **Please advise the parish office if you wish to use the parish hall.**

FURTHER INFORMATION AND ADDRESS OF CHURCH

If you have any questions during your preparations for the wedding, please contact the priest who will be most willing to assist you so that your special day will be a treasured memory for you and for all.

**SAN PABLO CATHOLIC CHURCH
550 122ND STREET-OCEAN
MARATHON, FL 33050 (MM53.5) 305-289-0636
Revised: June 29, 2010**

