



# Basilica of Saint Adalbert

## Grand Rapids, Michigan

### **Marriage Policies and Guidelines**

(Revised: August 2010)

The celebration of the Sacrament of Matrimony in the Roman Catholic tradition is an action of faith. It presupposes a commitment to Christ and to life in the community of His church.

Religious preparation for Christian Matrimony demands at least as much time, thought, discussion, and certainly more prayer, than the material preparations for the wedding: dresses, tuxedos, reception hall, flowers, photographers, etc. While these latter things must be attended to with care, they are certainly incidental to the celebration of the sacrament of marriage.

A couple is expected to demonstrate evidence of our Catholic faith being present and practiced in their lives and must show a willingness to take the time and make the necessary effort for proper religious preparation for the reception of a sacrament. Only when there is evidence of this faith and care for the celebration of the sacrament will we celebrate marriage at the Basilica.

#### **General norms**

The Laws of the Roman Catholic Church require that marriages take place only between two Catholics who have not been previously married. The ceremony must be conducted in the Catholic Church of either the bride or the groom. The wedding ceremony must be conducted before an official of the Catholic Church and two other witnesses. The wedding may legally take place in the Catholic Church where either the bride or the groom is a member.

*Permission may usually be obtained from the local Bishop, through the pastor of the Catholic party, for inter-faith marriage. Such a marriage may take place in other than a Catholic Church and before other than a Catholic Clergyman. Prior approval of the Catholic Bishop must be obtained.*

Those wishing to marry who have been through any previous marriage ceremonies should consult with their Catholic pastor to see what special arrangements might be necessary in their specific cases.

### **Parish membership consideration**

For the purpose of weddings, persons 18 years of age and older are considered full, adult parish members if they meet **all** of these criteria:

- a) They have been registered under their own names for a minimum of six months prior to their first marriage preparation appointment with the pastor.
- b) They have been attending Mass here regularly on Sundays and Holy Days
- c) They have demonstrated a consistent pattern of contributing to the financial support of this parish.
- d) They are an immediate family member (son or daughter) of a member of the parish.

### **Age requirements**

Both the bride and the groom must be at least 18 years of age. If one or both are under 18 years, or if there is a pregnancy involved, there will be a longer and more careful assessment made which will minimally include professional counseling, parental interviews, and pastoral judgment.

### **Dates and times**

Weddings at the Basilica may take place during any regularly scheduled weekend Mass with the exception of certain solemnities and feasts, or privately on any weekday outside of the penitential season of Lent. Private celebrations of the sacrament are normally scheduled on Friday evenings or on Saturday afternoons no later than 1:30 p.m.

### **Required documents**

Both the bride and the groom must submit newly issued copies of their Baptism and Confirmation record if they did not receive those sacraments here at St. Adalbert Basilica Parish. The issue date must be no more than six months prior to the wedding date. The couple must procure and submit to the parish office, a State of Michigan Marriage License no later than three days prior to the wedding.

### **Marriage preparation**

The dioceses of Michigan require a minimum six months preparation time for all marriages. A couple wishing to celebrate marriage should contact the pastor with such intent at least one year prior to their anticipated date for the wedding. Each couple will participate in individual preparation with the pastor, will complete a Pre-Marital Inventory, and participate in a formal program such as Engaged Encounter or one of the pre-cana programs that are available. The preparation program will be tailored for each couple depending on their specific needs.

### **Inter-faith marriages**

The marriage of a Catholic to a non-Catholic may be permitted if certain requirements are fulfilled and the permission of the local bishop is obtained. An inter-faith couple who wish to have their marriage recognized by the Catholic Church should consult with the pastor of the Catholic party. The ceremony may normally take place in the church of either party, with permission. The pastor of the church at which the wedding is held presides at the service and receives the vows. When these weddings are conducted here, the Sacrament of Matrimony is celebrated within a Liturgy of the Word. The Liturgy of the Eucharist is permitted but not necessary at an interfaith ceremony.

## **Photography**

All photography before, during, or after the ceremony must respect the sacredness of the ceremony and of the church. The Blessed Sacrament is reserved at the main altar of the Basilica, therefore a reverential quiet must be observed at all times. Please note that the Basilica is a sacred place, not a studio. The couple should make this point very clear to the photographer. No cameras may be placed or operated from within the sanctuary during the service. Photography must be concluded not later than 3:15 p.m. on Saturdays.

## **Flowers/Decorations**

- ◆ No decorations may be so large that they obstruct the view of the altar, the ambo, or the sanctuary furnishings from the congregation. NOTHING may be placed on the altar.
- ◆ Removable pew bows or decorations only. Nothing may be attached with any type of adhesive.

## **Attendants**

Two witnesses are required to be present for the legality of the wedding according to the law of the State of Michigan and by the law of the Catholic Church.

## **Restrictions**

- ◆ The throwing of rice, confetti, flowers, or any other material in or about the Basilica Church grounds is not permitted.
- ◆ The use of an aisle runner is not allowed as it poses a significant trip hazard to our guests.
- ◆ The use of rented candelabras is not permitted in the sanctuary of the Basilica Church.

## **Basilica fee schedule**

Donation to the Basilica	\$1,000 – for non-parishioner. (\$700 down payment due to secure wedding date)
Music Minister	\$200 – for a parishioner \$250 - for a non parishioner
Wedding Coordinator	\$200
Marriage Preparation, PMI, etc.	\$100
Cantor/Soloist	\$150

## **Wedding music**

Consult the Basilica Music Director regarding all musical selections for the wedding ceremony/Mass. His decision is final. He can also provide a list of approved soloists and other musicians should you desire to contract their services. An additional fee for the Music Director is incurred should you choose to employ him for the rehearsal.

## **Contacts**

Pastor	Rev. R. Louis Stasker	<a href="mailto:stasker@basilicagr.org">stasker@basilicagr.org</a>	616.458-3065, ext 40
Office Manager	Aina Oatley	<a href="mailto:aoatley@basilicagr.org">aoatley@basilicagr.org</a>	616.458.3065, ext 42
Wedding Coordinator	Kate Davis	<a href="mailto:belcronie@sbcglobal.net">belcronie@sbcglobal.net</a>	616.318.5082
Music Director/Organist	Peter Kurdziel	<a href="mailto:musicdirector@basilicagr.org">musicdirector@basilicagr.org</a>	616.458.3065, ext 43

## **Checklist**

*Please use the following check-list to insure that all preparations flow smoothly when planning your Basilica wedding.*

### **Documents submitted**

Bride \_\_\_ Baptism Certificate with  
      \_\_\_ Annotation of Confirmation  
      \_\_\_ Annotation of Marriages  
Groom \_\_\_ Baptism Certificate with  
      \_\_\_ Annotation of Confirmation  
      \_\_\_ Annotation of Marriages  
Both \_\_\_ State of Michigan Wedding License

### **Marriage preparation program**

\_\_\_ Pre-Marital Inventory (PMI)  
\_\_\_ Pre-Cana or Engaged Encounter  
\_\_\_ Completion of Counseling with Priest

### **Wedding planning**

\_\_\_ Wedding paperwork finished at church  
\_\_\_ Scripture Readings selected  
\_\_\_ Wedding ceremony prepared with priest  
\_\_\_ Read and understood all Basilica wedding policies  
\_\_\_ Informed photographer of Basilica wedding photography policies  
\_\_\_ Informed florist of Basilica wedding floral policies  
\_\_\_ Consulted with the Basilica Wedding Coordinator  
\_\_\_ Consulted with the Basilica Music Director regarding all matters dealing with music and/or the use of soloist or other musicians  
\_\_\_ Paid the Basilica Wedding Fees  
(These must be paid in full at the Parish Office one month before the wedding.)

### **Parish Office Address**

701 Fourth St NW  
Grand Rapids MI, 49504.5104  
Phone - 616.458.3065  
Fax – 616.458.0563  
Office hours – Monday – Friday  
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.