



BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH – 1201 MISSOURI – GRANDVIEW, WA 98930  
(509) 882 -1657  
Wedding Policy

As pastor of the Catholic community of Grandview, I offer my prayers to God so that you, following the commandment of love, live life to the fullest as spouses. I ask you to carefully read this document which includes in detail the documentation and marriage preparation required for the realization of your wedding.

**Documents:**

1. **Pre-marital investigation (document M1):** This form must be completed by the couple in the presence of the priest before setting the wedding date. It is necessary that this document be completed at least four months before the marriage.
2. **Baptism Certificate:** Each party is required to give a recent copy of their Baptismal Certificate (dated within a year of the wedding date) to the priest.
3. **Affidavit of Freedom to Marry (document M2):** Each of the intending spouses must present two witnesses who, under oath, sign a document stating that you are free to marry in the Catholic Church. (Please call the parish office to make an appointment.)
4. **Premarital classes:** If a couple attends premarital classes somewhere other than here at Blessed Sacrament, they must submit a letter or Certificate of Completion from said parish where classes were taken. It is very important that both future bride and bridegroom attend marriage preparation classes together. A marriage cannot take place if said classes are not completed.
5. **Marriage License:** It is asked that the couple purchase their Marriage License at least 3 to 4 weeks before the wedding date and bring said license packet to the priest immediately after purchasing the same. This license will give the marriage the civil effects also. In the State of Washington it is required to have a Marriage License to perform a religious ceremony.
6. **Civil Marriage Certificate, only for said couples who are already married by civil law:** Couples are who already married by civil law and are convalidating their marriage in the Catholic Church need not to purchase a new license but instead give a copy of their original Marriage Certificate to the priest.

**Steps to take in order to prepare for the celebration:**

1. **Set the wedding date.** Make a deposit of \$100.00 to set the date of your wedding in coordination with the parish priest and the parish secretary. A “Parish Deposit and Stipend” form will be filled out and a copy will be given to the couple. Wedding celebrations are held on Saturdays at 2:00 p.m. Wedding celebrations cannot be held on Sundays or Christmas Day. Said deposit of \$100.00 will be returned only if the church is left clean, decorations are collected and if no unpleasantness caused by the invitees or family of the couple did not occur.
2. **Attend Marriage Preparation classes.** Due to the importance of the Sacrament of Marriage and as a commitment toward your married life, the couple is required to attend and complete said marriage preparation. Without compliance of this requirement a marriage cannot take place, **which is why we ask that you make arrangements to contact the priest and set up the first appointment six months before the intended wedding date.** It is the couple’s responsibility to call the parish office to make the appointment.
3. **Purchase the Marriage License 2 to 3 weeks before your scheduled wedding date.** The nearest place to purchase said license is at the County Auditor’s office at the Benton County Courthouse located at 620 Market Street in Prosser.
4. **Two weeks before wedding date,** deliver the Marriage License packet to the parish priest.
5. **Two weeks before the wedding date,** the suggested stipend of \$300.00 for parish members and \$350.00 for non-parish members is due. Please bring stipend to the parish office.
6. **Sacrament of Reconciliation** – It is recommended the couple receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation before the wedding (not the day of the ceremony) so the couple can participate in the communion of the Eucharist at their wedding ceremony.
7. **Decoration of church can begin at 12:30 p.m.** If you need to decorate sooner, please contact the priest a week ahead to see if this is possible. Avoid placing large floral arrangements that can obstruct the view of the Altar, the Pulpit (where the Word of God is proclaimed) or the wedding couple. Do not place anything on the Altar. Also, do not place

decorations that can obstruct the aisle or entrance to the pews. Please be sure to have someone responsible for collecting all decorations from the church immediately after the ceremony (before 3:30 p.m.)

8. **Photography and Video** – Photos or videos taken during the ceremony should not interfere with said ceremony. The photographer/videographer should talk to the priest before Mass begins so as to be informed as to where in the church photographs/video can be taken. It is not recommended to use several people to take photos, this creates disorder and that is why it is highly recommended to hire a professional who knows how to maintain discretion and respect while taking photographs.
9. **Music** – It is the responsibility of the couple to hire the choir for the wedding ceremony and the music/songs should be liturgical. The music director is asked to speak to the priest before the ceremony to go over the music that will be performed. **Pre-recorded music is not permissible for the ceremony.**
10. **Ring Bearer/Flower girls** – it is insisted upon that the children should not be under the age of 6 as to avoid confusion or disorder.
11. **The Wedding Band/Ring** is symbol very important to the marriage/ceremony; other symbols are important but not necessary, which you may choose or not choose to have presented during your ceremony such as the Arras, Bible and rosary, Unity Candle, natural bouquet of flowers and although not necessary, the cushions. No other objects can be added to the celebration.
12. **The use of Rice/Bird Seed/Confetti AND natural rose petals is prohibited** inside and outside of the church. These items can cause a person to slip and fall onto the ground. **If it is found that these items have been used, the deposit will be forfeited.** Artificial rose petals can be used by the flower girls; it is asked that these petals be collected from the aisle immediately after the ceremony. **Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of deposit.**
13. **To maintain the dignity and respect of the religious ceremony** and to the wedding couple, it is requested that all pagers, cell phones, etc. be turned off during the ceremony; please do not bring food or drinks within the church, and please do not chew gum. Smoking is not allowed in the surrounding areas of the church, nor is the consumption of alcohol allowed. **The bride and groom should avoid the consumption of alcohol before the marriage ceremony; consumption by the couple can cause a serious impediment to the validity of the marriage and this can result in the cancellation of the wedding ceremony by the priest.**
14. **It is asked that the bride and groom as well as everyone in the wedding party (godparents, groomsmen/bridesmaids, etc.) maintain discretion and decorum in their wedding attire.** By faith, we value decency as a virtue to maintain the respect and dignity to the human body; therefore, avoid low-plunging necklines or strapless dresses, see-through fabric or very tight fitting attire. We reiterate this request has no other reason but to maintain the dignity and respect of the guests and to promote this virtue as a sign of Christian life and to avoid unpleasant situations for attendees.

**PLEASE BE PUNCTUAL – ARRIVE 20 MINUTES BEFORE THE CELEBRATION:** If the bride and/or groom arrive late to the church, the ceremony may not include the Holy Mass and if in the case that the wedding ceremony is delayed by a great amount of time, the entire celebration can be canceled if there is no valid reason for said delay.

The rules and processes contained in this polity are to ensure the successful development of a future marriage and wedding celebration. The Christian community of Blessed Sacrament joins in the joy of your wedding day and marriage, through prayer and best wishes and that the joy of your memorable day extends throughout your married life.

If both parties are in agreement with the above requirements, please sign below. Please be advised that failure to follow the above requirements can result in the cancellation of the wedding ceremony and forfeiture of deposit.

Signatures: \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_