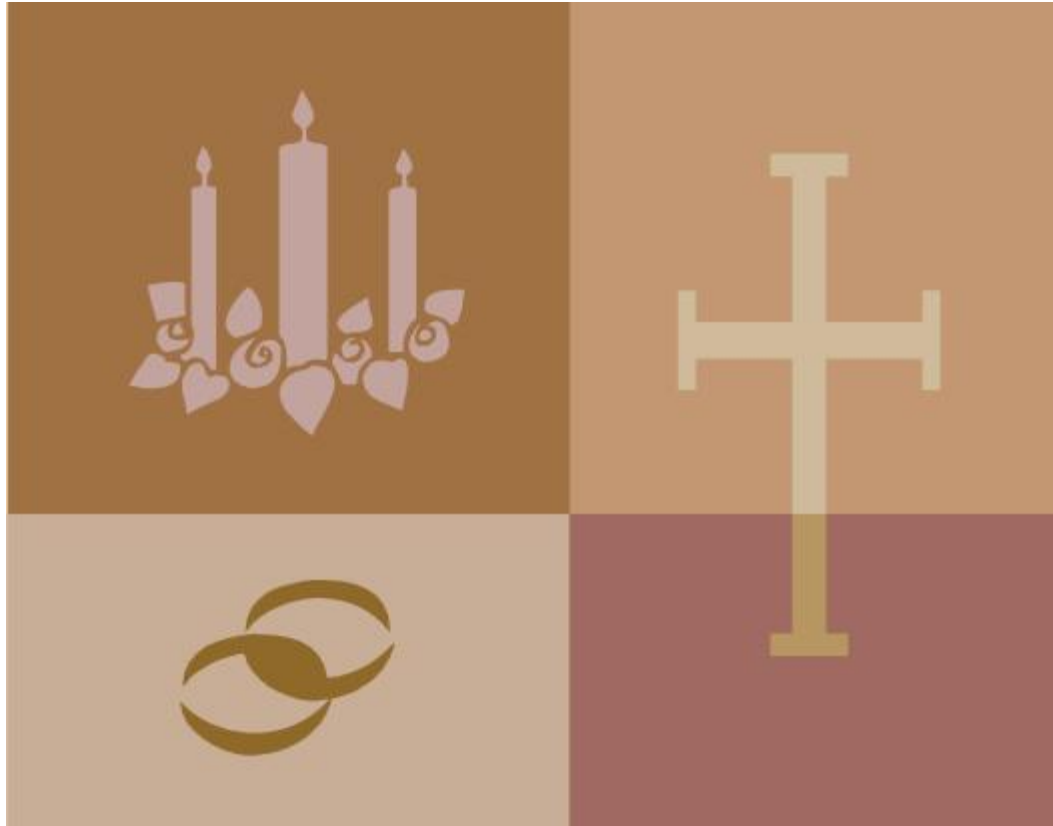


A WEDDING
IS A DAY



A MARRIAGE IS A
LIFETIME

Blessed Trinity Catholic Church

4020 Curtiss Parkway
Virginia Gardens, Florida 33166
(305) 871-5780
www.blessed-trinity.org

CONGRATULATIONS!

This booklet has been made available by the Blessed Trinity Parish Family to help answer some of the questions you may have concerning your up-coming marriage.

"A fully sacramental marriage is one in which the partners believe in Christ and his Gospel so deeply that faith shapes their values, influences their attitudes, and motivates their behavior. A fully sacramental marriage helps you fill each other's needs and call forth the best in each other."

-- John L. Thomas, S.J.
Beginning Your Marriage

Love is patient; love is kind. Love is not jealous, it does not put on airs, it is not snobbish. Love is never rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not prone to anger; neither does it brood over injuries. Love does not rejoice in what is wrong, but rejoices in the truth. There is no limit to love's forbearance, to its trust, its hope, its power to endure.

-- **1 Corinthians 13:4-7**

PRE-MARITAL PREPARATION

When you become engaged, your first point of contact should be your parish, your home of faith. The priest is the one who will guide you through the entire marriage preparation process, whether or not you are being married at your home parish.

1. Schedule to meet with a priest at least 8-10 months prior to the expected wedding date, so that you can begin walking together as a couple on this joyous journey. The priest will give you the guidance and assistance you will need in order to complete the marriage process. PLEASE NOTE: your marriage date will not be set until all required paperwork (Pre-Nuptial Questionnaire [Form A], Baptismal Certificates, and 4 Witness forms [Form B]) have been returned to the priest AND your *Fully Engaged* appointment has been made.
2. Register for a Marriage Preparation Course. Go to www.miamifamilylife.org or call 305-762-1140. All couples should register to do a “live” course. Only in the event of special circumstances which genuinely impede the couple from completing a live course is permission granted to do the course “online.” If this is the case, please speak with your priest.
3. Within two weeks after your interview with the priest, you will be contacted to set a date to begin the *Fully Engaged* Process.* *Fully Engaged* is a premarital inventory which helps couples get to know each other even more deeply. It is intended to encourage communication, reveal relationship strengths and areas of growth. After you’ve taken the questionnaire a facilitating couple will meet with you a few times to go over the results. Please note that all your responses and this entire process adhere to the highest norms of confidentiality.
4. Please note:
 - No Friday weddings after 8:00 pm
 - Saturday weddings: 10:00 AM, NOON, 2:00 PM, and 7:00 PM
 - No weddings on Sunday
 - No weddings during Holy Week
5. Discuss your wedding liturgy (vows, readings, prayers, etc.) with your priest or liturgy director and set up the time for the rehearsal.
6. Other expectations
 - It is expected that you both attend Sunday Mass
 - Both of you should have received the Sacrament of Confirmation prior to the wedding
 - Receive the sacrament of confession before the wedding
 - The priest, at his discretion, may ask that you both to attend a Spiritual Retreat

* If you have gotten the approval to do the Marriage Preparation Course online this step does not apply because a different inventory is used. You will still need to meet with a facilitating couple to review the results of the online inventory.

PLANS AND DECISIONS

1. Arrange for music. All music is to be arranged through the music director (call the Church Office to set up an appointment). You may discuss music selections and fees with him. It is a requirement that the musicians of Blessed Trinity Church be used. Music fees must be paid a week before the wedding, otherwise, there will be no music.
2. Arrange time to obtain marriage license. Allow a maximum of two weeks. Marriage licenses are valid for only 30-60 days. This license must be given to the priest prior to the wedding.
3. At the time of the rehearsal, the priest or liturgy director will explain the wedding procession and celebration. If a priest has been invited by the family to concelebrate, or a couple wishes special consideration, the priest at Blessed Trinity must be consulted at least a month prior to the rehearsal.
4. Be sure all members of the wedding party (no one else, please) are in the church at least 15 minutes prior to the scheduled time of rehearsal. Musicians are not required to attend.
5. Arrange for dressing prior to arrival to church. (There are no facilities for dressing available at the church).
6. Arrange transportation to church.
7. Plan for flowers. The same flowers used on the Altar may be used at the reception, if the Bridal party wishes.
8. Plan for caterer and photographer. Photographers are not permitted in the Sanctuary area or near the Altar during the ceremony. These pictures can be taken after the wedding. Photo shoot after the ceremony must be completed within 30 minutes.
9. Arrange for place for reception.
10. Send invitations and/or announcements.

THE WEDDING

1. In the Catholic Church there is no charge for sacraments. Couples are expected to make a donation to the church as their gift to God on their wedding day. The gift should reflect a fair percentage of the total money cost of the wedding (10% is the traditional biblical tithe). The suggested donation is \$600 for parishioners and \$750 for non-parishioners in order to cover all the church expenses. The fee covers marriage preparation program, electricity, air conditioning, the priest and all the setting up and cleaning up. This fee must be paid before the wedding date is set. A suggested fee for Convalidations (couples married civilly seeking to get married in the Church) is anywhere between \$100-\$250.
2. The wedding party must include a best man and a maid/matron of honor to act as witnesses to the marriage.
3. Decide on the number of pews to be reserved. (Groom's family on the right, Bride's on the left).
4. On the wedding day, the wedding party should arrive at the church at least 30 minutes prior to the scheduled time, the groom and best man should arrive 20 minutes before the scheduled time, and the bride and her father or the one who gives the bride away, should arrive at the church a minimum of 5 minutes prior to the scheduled time.
5. NO RICE, BIRDSEED, CONFETTI, ETC. may be thrown inside or outside the church or on the church grounds.
6. The bride's mother should be seated last, and then the white aisle runner is put down by the ushers (this runner is optional). The runner is furnished by the florist. The aisle at Blessed Trinity is 90 feet long from the church entrance to the altar.
7. If there are altar boys, a donation is suggested (usually \$20.00/altar boy).
8. In consideration for the parishioners of Blessed Trinity, the florist should pick up all flowers.

**DON'T FORGET TO BRING
THE WEDDING RINGS!**

DISCLAIMER

Should the Bridal Party arrive to the church more than fifteen minutes late, the priest has the prerogative to cancel the Mass.

The priest will simply do the Scripture Readings and Vows outside of the Mass.

Groom's Signature

Bride's Signature