

# Common Q&As Celebrating the Sacrament of Matrimony at St. Boniface

# Who can be married at St. Boniface?

At least one of the couple must be a practicing Catholic. Both must be free to receive the sacrament with no impediments and be in good standing with the Church.

# We are not parishioners. May we be married in your church?

Yes, if the date is available and you have your own priest or deacon prepare you and assist at the ceremony.

# When do you allow weddings to take place?

We allow weddings on Friday evenings after 5:00 p.m. or on Saturdays at 1:00 p.m. or earlier. If your wedding will be a service only and not a full Mass, then we allow weddings to take place at 1:30 p.m. on Saturdays. While it is rare, we do occasionally allow weddings on Sunday afternoons.

#### How much does it cost?

The fee is \$1,000, and that includes our organist/music director. He helps the couple choose their music, he plays the organ, and he will lead the singing. If a couple chooses to have their own soloist or other instrumentalists, our organist/music director may charge more if extra work is involved. All additional fees are the responsibility of the couple. Also, there will be an additional person on site for your rehearsal and wedding to assist you or your priest with anything that is needed.

#### May we provide our own organist?

Outside organists may not use our pipe organ. Outside musicians for our baby grand piano or regular organ must have permission from our music director.

#### May we use non-liturgical music?

For the liturgy itself, only liturgical music is allowed. Classical pieces are permitted as a prelude or postlude. All music must be approved by our music director.

#### Why do you want us to wait six months?

It takes about six months for a couple to satisfactorily fulfill all of the requirements of canon law (Church law). Some of these requirements are: meeting with a priest or deacon; completing

FOCCUS (a series of questions that help couples identify areas where they may need discussion before their marriage); and attending Pre-Cana or Catholic Engaged Encounter.

### Who sets the date?

Our business manager Jenni Lindgren will set the date with the priest or deacon who will assist at the rite of marriage. Please contact Jenni as soon as you are engaged to check on date availability.

## Is the date guaranteed?

We will not give the date to someone else after a couple has reserved it. However, if a couple does not fulfill the requirements set by canon law, if all the paperwork is not turned in, if fees are not paid, or if the priest or deacon has reservations about the validity of the marriage, then the marriage <u>cannot</u> take place.

# When is the fee due?

The fee must be paid in full one month prior to the wedding date.

# What if we are not parishioners and have trouble finding a priest or deacon to witness our marriage?

Generally, the priest or deacon (or his designee) of the parish where you are registered and regularly attend should witness your marriage. Your pastor may be able to help you find a priest or deacon if he is unable to witness himself. St. Boniface does not accept new parishioners only so that our pastor or deacon will witness their marriage.

# What happens after the date is set?

Our business manager Jenni Lindgren will meet with you in order to go over any questions that you have and to explain restrictions/liturgical requirements and expectations of the engaged couple.