

First Considerations

In planning a wedding, there are many considerations and decisions to be made through the entire process. To assist you in your thoughtful planning and perhaps to anticipate some questions, consider the following:

- The rite of marriage may be celebrated within Mass (with the distribution of communion) or within a liturgy of the Word.
- Two practicing Catholics ordinarily exchange marriage vows during a wedding Mass.
- If either the bride or groom is not Catholic or if one or both are Catholic but not practicing their faith, the rite of marriage may be celebrated during a liturgy of the Word (without the distribution of communion). Likewise, when the distribution of communion would exclude a significant number of those in the assembly (because they are not Catholic or are not practicing Catholics), it may be an appropriate choice to celebrate the rite of marriage during a liturgy of the Word.
- Marriages that take place within a liturgy of the Word are full, complete and legal marriages and may be the preferred choice when the distribution of communion would exclude the bride or groom, family members or a number of your guests.

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