



# St. Michael's Catholic Church

75-5769 Alii Drive • Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740 • Tel: 808-326-7771 • Fax: 808-326-7096

Aloha, Friends!

Thank you for your interest in being married at St. Michael's Church here on the Big Island. In the name of our parish faith community, we congratulate you.

It is very important you receive your marriage preparation at your *home parish*, and that **ALL PAPERWORK** (dispensations, if needed, and a letter of recommendation from your pastor, priest or deacon who prepared you) **MUST BE SEND DIRECTLY TO THE HONOLULU CHANCERY OFFICE** at least one month before your wedding. All official records are to be recent and have a raised seal on them. Please **hand-carry a copy** of these documents to the islands, in the event they do not arrive in sufficient time, and **mail the originals to:**

*The Diocese of Honolulu  
Office of the Judicial Vicar  
6301 Pali Highway  
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744*

When you arrive, you must obtain a marriage license and bring it to the office at least a day or two before the wedding date. Marriage licenses cost **\$60 cash**. Contact one of the marriage license agents listed below not more than 30 days before your wedding to make an appointment.

<b>Governor's Office - 75-5706 Kuakini Highway, #112 - Kona</b>	<b>327-4953</b>
<b>Carol Lightner - Kona Village Resort, Queen K Highway</b>	<b>325-5555</b>

One of our priests must meet with you to help you with the liturgical readings and marriage vows. The donation for the use of St. Michael's Church is **\$500.00**; for the use of Immaculate Conception Church or Holy Rosary Church is **\$200.00**; and for the use of St. Peter's Church is **\$550.00**. Checks for the appropriate amount should be made payable to "St. Michael's Church." A monetary gift to the person performing your marriage is also appropriate. If you would like to have music for the wedding ceremony/ Mass, please contact our office so we can give you the name and phone number of our Music Director. The fee for the music is a separate cost and must be paid directly to our Music Director. God bless you, and *aloha from Hawaii!*

*Fr. Lio Faletoi, Pastor*

Enclosures

**Wedding Reservation Request for: St. Michael's Church /  
Immaculate Conception Church / Holy Rosary Church / St. Peter's Church**  
(circle one)

Name of Couple: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
(Groom) (Bride)

PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ / CELL: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Date Requested: \_\_\_\_\_ Time Requested: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please check one) This is a \_\_\_\_ Catholic / \_\_\_\_ non-Catholic (at St. Peter's only) wedding.

I have enclosed the reservation fee of **\$500.00 (St. Michael's Church) / \$200.00 (Immaculate Conception Church or Holy Rosary Church) / \$550.00 (St. Peter's Church)**, payable to *St. Michael's Church* along with this form, and have mailed it to: *St. Michael's Church - Attention: Susan - 75-5769 Alii Drive - Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740.*

I understand that our reservation will not be placed on the calendar until payment for the Church has been received. I have the option to call about one week from the mailing date to confirm that the check was received. I also understand that I am responsible for picking up the Church key from the parish office during office hours.

# **A Statement of the Policy Concerning Marriage In the Diocese of Honolulu.**

*"Married Christians, in virtue of the sacrament of matrimony, signify and share in the mystery of that unity and fruitful love which exists between Christ and His Church; they help each other to obtain holiness in their married life and in the rearing and education of their children; and they have their own special gift among the people of God." (Rite of Marriage, Instruction, nn.1,7)*

## **I. Marriage Preparation:**

The sacred nature of a Church wedding demands that the couple have an understanding and acceptance of the spiritual aspects of their mutual commitment. In addition, a marriage in a Catholic Church presumes that at least one of the parties to the marriage intends to practice the Catholic faith. Primary responsibility for helping the couple to such understanding belongs to the officiating priest.

"Since the marriages of two baptized persons are sacraments, they are not merely private or familial celebrations but ecclesial events. The spouses declare their consent 'before God and the Church' and live out that commitment in and with the support of the ecclesial community. It is, therefore, fitting that this celebration should take place in a church. It is here that the community is 'gathered together by the preaching of the Gospel of Christ, and the mystery of the Lord's supper is celebrated, 'so that the whole fellowship is joined together by the flesh and blood of the Lord's body.'" (Beal, John P., Coriden, James a., Green, Thomas J., ed., New Commentary on the Code of Canon Law, New York, Paulist Press, 2000.)

## **II. Procedures Regarding Marriage:**

### **A. Place of Marriage**

Marriages ordinarily are celebrated in a parish church (c.1115).

#### **1. Marriage of Two Catholics**

- (a) In the Diocese, under no circumstances is the marriage of two Catholics permitted out-of-doors, in catering establishments, country clubs, restaurants, hotels, or marine vessels of any kind.
- (b) Permission may be sought for marriage in the home only when one of the members of the wedding party or a close relative is an invalid or otherwise confined to the home.
- (a) Permission may be sought for marriage in an approved Catholic chapel if one of the parties has a close affiliation with the institution where the chapel is located.

2. ***Marriage of a Catholic to a Baptized Non-Catholic***

Permission may be granted by the Chancellor for the marriage to take place in a non-Catholic church if sufficient reason exists. All other situations are covered by the same rules as for marriage of two Catholics.

3. ***Non-Christian-Catholic Marriages***

- (a) Marriages ordinarily should take place in the parish church of the Catholic or in another sacred place.
- (b) If difficulties arise because the persons are reluctant to have the ceremony in a Catholic Church, the priest or deacon may seek permission from the Chancellor of the Diocese to celebrate the marriage in another appropriate place after reviewing the reasons offered by the couple and investigating the place suggested for the wedding. If possible, the ceremony should be celebrated in a chapel-like arrangement or in a room apart from the place where the meal or reception will take place.

**B. Other Considerations for a Mixed Marriage**

1. ***Marriages Witnessed by a Priest or Deacon***

- (a) Permission should be sought from the vicar of the appropriate vicariate or the Chancellor.
- (b) The parish responsible for preparing documentation that the marriage is properly recorded is that in which the marriage would ordinarily take place, e.g., the parish of the Catholic.
- (c) The usual pre-matrimonial investigation must be completed to ensure the adequate preparation, instruction and freedom of the couple.
- (d) The priest or deacon must be the sole witness to the marriage.
- (e) In the case where the marriage would take place in the Catholic Church, a non-Catholic minister may be present and may offer prayers and ask a blessing on the couple.
- (f) In view of this restriction of participation by the non-Catholic minister, this must be discussed with him/her and be agreeable to him/her and his/her ecclesiastical superiors, if necessary.
- (g) The priest or deacon witnessing the marriage requires canonical delegation from the territorial parish in which the celebration of the marriage takes place, if the place is outside his own parish.
- (h) Notation of the marriage must be made in the register of the territorial parish within which the marriage actually takes place and the usual documentation is to<sup>be</sup> retained in the files of that parish.
- (i) It is the obligation of the priest/deacon witness to ensure that the usual notation is made in the proper baptismal register.

2. ***Marriages witnessed by a non-Catholic Minister with Dispensation from Canonical Form.***

- (a) The parish priest or deacon of the Catholic party is to prepare the couple and to procure the proper documentation.
- (b) directed to the Chancellor of the Catholic party. Reasons for the request should be stated in a letter to the Chancellor.

- (c) There can be only one ceremony. The priest or deacon may be present to offer a prayer and blessing.
- (d) All records of the marriage are to be placed in the parish files of the territorial parish in which the marriage took place.. The priest arranging the marriage is responsible for making sure this is done and for notifying the Church where the Catholic was baptized.
- (e) Ordinarily, a non-Catholic minister may not witness a marriage in a Catholic Church. Should a special case arise, please consult the Vicar General.
- (f) Similarly, outside of special cases, a Catholic priest may not witness a marriage in a non-Catholic church, a non-sacred place.

**C. Marriage of Catechumens**

When a Catholic marries a catechumen, a dispensation for disparity of worship is necessary for validity. The marriages of catechumens whether with other catechumens or with baptized Christians or even non-Christians, should be celebrated at a Liturgy of the Word and never at a Liturgy of the Eucharist.

**D. Nuptial Masses**

1. A Nuptial Mass is subject to the usual liturgical regulations. Holy Communion may not be distributed to a non-Catholic participant with the exception of Orthodox Christians, and then only with the permission of their own pastor.
2. In a marriage between a Catholic and a non-Baptized person, a Nuptial Mass may not be celebrated.
3. A Nuptial Mass on Saturday would satisfy the Sunday obligation provided that the celebration begins after 4 p.m. and the readings for that Sunday are used.
4. A Nuptial Mass is not permitted on Sundays of Advent, Lent, and after the Easter season, on solemnities, on All Souls Day, on Ash Wednesday, and during Holy Week.

**E. Dispensations and Permissions**

1. In requesting marriage dispensations and permissions, it is useful to keep in mind that the Catholic party must reside in the Diocese, otherwise the dispensations or permissions are granted by the Ordinary in whose diocese the Catholic party resides.
2. Requests for marriage dispensations or permissions can be sought from the priest or deacon preparing the couple.
  - (a) There must always be sufficient reason for granting a dispensation or permission and must include the spiritual welfare of the parties.
  - (b) Dispensation from canonical form should be requested only for a serious pastoral concern when there are grave difficulties in observing the Catholic form and the spiritual welfare of the parties is involved.

## F. Ecumenical Considerations

1. Members of other churches, as well as non-Christians, may be witnesses in the celebration of marriage in the Catholic Church.
2. A Catholic may be best man or maid of honor or attendant at a marriage properly celebrated among non-Catholics.

## G. Inter-Ritual Marriages

### 1. *Eastern Rite and Latin Rite Catholics*

The marriage may take place in either the rite of the man or woman, provided that; at least one party to the marriage is a member of the Latin Rite (c.1109). The presider must be a priest or bishop.

### 2. *Latin Rite Catholic and Orthodox*

Ordinarily marriage takes place in the Latin Rite by a priest or bishop. The Vicar General may grant a dispensation from canonical form so that the marriage may take place in an Orthodox Church by an Orthodox Priest.

### 3. *Eastern Rite Catholics and Non-Catholics*

The Eastern Rite priest must witness the marriage.

## H. Civil Law Requirements

1. A priest is not permitted to witness a marriage of two-Catholics, nor may he presume to witness any marriage in a merely civil capacity or for civil effects alone.
2. In all marriages, whoever receives the vows must sign the license. Priests or ministers of other religions who are present should not sign the license, nor should they "co-officiate" by sharing the nuptial ceremony.

## I. Faculties and Delegation for Marriage

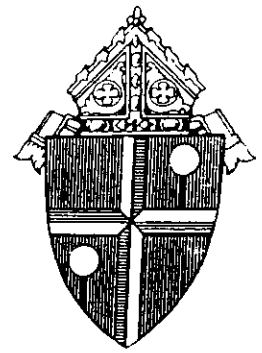
Pastors, by virtue of their office, have ordinary jurisdiction to officiate at marriages in their own parishes. Only a priest canonically assigned to a parish by the Ordinary as a pastor, or parochial vicar or a deacon who is assigned to that parish is delegated to witness marriages in that parish. Such a priest or deacon cannot validly witness a marriage outside his parish unless he has the specific delegation of the pastor of the parish in which the wedding takes place, or of the Ordinary himself.

Visiting priests from other dioceses and religious priests, who are not appointed by the Ordinary as parochial vicars, need specific and individual delegation from the proper authority for each marriage they witness.

Note: Refer to Marriage Guidelines for the Diocese of Honolulu (Revised: September 1994)

# ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE STATE OF HAWAII

Chancery Office of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Honolulu  
1184 Bishop St., Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-2858 • Phone: (808) 533-1791 / Fax: (808) 521-8428



## REQUIREMENTS FOR COUPLES FROM OUTSIDE THE DIOCESE REQUESTING TO BE MARRIED IN THE DIOCESE OF HONOLULU

1. If you have not already done so, please contact your parish priest regarding marriage preparation. He is responsible for your marriage preparation and instruction.
  - a) He will assist you with obtaining the necessary documents, permissions and dispensations (if needed). In the Diocese of Honolulu, attendance at the Engaged Encounter Weekend followed by sessions with the priest/deacon preparing the couple for marriage is required as part of the marriage preparation. We hope your diocese has something similar.
  - b) He is responsible for forwarding the following information and documents to the chancellor of your diocese for review:
    - a letter of recommendation stating that:
      - a) you have been prepared according to the marriage preparation guidelines of your diocese;
      - b) permission has been granted for the marriage to be celebrated in Hawai'i (Canon 1115).
    - a current copy of the Baptismal certificate of the Catholic party.
    - an Affidavit of Freedom to Marry for each party signed by a competent person (e.g. parent, relative or close friend) and the signature witnessed by a pastor/priest/cleric of the person vouching for your freedom to marry.
    - the completed Pre-nuptial Investigation form used in your diocese.
    - if applicable,
      - a dispensation for disparity of worship
      - a dispensation from canonical form
      - permission for mixed religion
      - decree of nullity of a former marriage  
(n.b. In the event of a previous marriage of either party, a declaration of nullity for a lack of form or formal annulment must be obtained.)

When all the required information is received by the Diocese of Honolulu, a **Nihil Obstat** will be granted and sent to the priest officiating at your wedding along with all pertinent documentation.

2. Contact the priest who will officiate at your wedding to reserve the church for the rehearsal and wedding. It would be helpful for him to have the following information:
  - 1) your name and the name of your fiancé (fiancée), addresses, and home and work phone numbers.
  - 2) the name of the priest responsible for the marriage preparation church, address, phone and fax numbers.

**Other Helpful Information:**

1. The sacred nature of marriage demands that a couple have an understanding and acceptance of the spiritual aspects of their mutual commitment. Having been duly prepared for this commitment, the couple welcomes the opportunity to marry according to the prescribed laws of the Church. Therefore, the marriage of TWO CATHOLICS is to take place in a sacred place (a Catholic church or officially recognized Catholic chapel).

When a CATHOLIC plans to marry a person who is CHRISTIAN but not CATHOLIC, the couple, if there is a *good* reason, may send a request in writing to the Office of the Chancellor, Diocese of Honolulu, to obtain the permission of the bishop to grant a dispensation for the marriage to take place in the church of the non-Catholic partner.

When a CATHOLIC is going to marry a person who is NON-CHRISTIAN, the couple may send a request in writing to the Office of the Chancellor, Diocese of Honolulu, to obtain the permission of the bishop to grant a dispensation for the marriage to take place at a neutral site.

When one of the partners is NOT CATHOLIC, the couple may send a request in writing to the Office of the Chancellor, Diocese of Honolulu, to obtain the permission of the bishop to grant a dispensation to delegate the authority to either the non-Catholic minister or to a civil official to witness the marriage.

2. Marriage License: Cost - \$50.00 (subject to change) **cash only**  
For information contact:

Hawaii State Department of Health  
Office of Health Status Monitoring  
1250 Punchbowl Street  
Honolulu, O`ahu, HI 96813  
Mailing address: P. O. Box 3378, Honolulu, O`ahu, HI 96801  
Phone numbers

O`ahu: [808]586-4544

Neighbor Islands:

Hawai`i	[808] 974-6008
Kaua`i	[808] 241-3498
Maui	[808] 984-8210
Moloka`i	[808] 553-3663
Lana`i	[808] 565-6411

3. If you are inviting a priest from outside the Diocese of Honolulu to officiate at your wedding, call or write for information on requirements of the State of Hawai`i and the Diocese of Honolulu.

## IN PREPARATION OF A COUPLE FOR MARRIAGE

- 1) The couple should receive appropriate education and pastoral preparation through participation in a marriage preparation program approved by the Diocesan Bishop. Here in the Diocese of Honolulu, this includes **Engaged Encounter** and **an interview with the priest or deacon of the parish.**
- 2) Parties should be questioned as to their freedom to marry. Where applicable, both parents must sign an “Affidavit of Freedom to Marry” form.
- 3) Baptized Catholics should present a recently issued annotated baptismal certificate (must be issued within the last 6 months from the Church of Baptism).
- 4) Where necessary, additional documentation (such as Affidavits of parents) attesting to a Catholic party’s freedom to marry should be presented.
- 5) Baptized non-Catholics should present satisfactory proof of Baptism and freedom to marry.
- 6) Unbaptized persons should present satisfactory proof of freedom to marry.
- 7) Preparation for marriage should be in conformity with the prescriptions of Canon 1063 (regarding what must precede marriage) and Canons 1064, 1071, 1072, 1086§2 and 1125, which entrust certain situations to the special care of local ordinaries.
- 8) Preparation for marriage should be in compliance with appropriate civil laws. Be sure to get your Marriage License from the State of Hawaii within one month from the date of your marriage.