



## Parish Policy on the Celebration of Weddings During Lent

St. Mary of the Assumption, Park City

St. Lawrence Mission, Heber

### Purpose

This policy provides pastoral and liturgical guidance regarding the celebration of the Sacrament of Matrimony during the season of Lent at **St. Mary of the Assumption, Park City**, and **St. Lawrence Mission, Heber**. It seeks to respect the penitential character of Lent while allowing for the dignified and reverent celebration of Christian marriage, avoiding excessive festivity or extravagance.

### I. General Liturgical Principles

1. The Catholic Church permits the celebration of the Sacrament of Matrimony during the season of Lent.
2. Lent is a sacred season marked by repentance, simplicity, and preparation for the Paschal Mystery; therefore, all liturgical celebrations during Lent must reflect this character.
3. When Marriage is celebrated **within Mass**, it is classified in Roman liturgical law as a **Ritual Mass**, even though Marriage itself is a sacrament. As such, it is governed by the norms of the liturgical calendar and the season (cf. *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* [GIRM], no. 372).
4. The **liturgical day and season take precedence** over the ritual celebration. When Marriage is celebrated on days with a penitential character, the liturgy must reflect that character (cf. *Order of Celebrating Matrimony* [OCM], nos. 32–34).

This policy is established in accord with the *Order of Celebrating Matrimony*, the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, and the authority granted to the diocesan bishop and pastor (cf. canon 838 §4).

### II. Days on Which Weddings Are Not Permitted

In accordance with universal Church law, weddings may **not** be celebrated on:

- **Good Friday**
- **Holy Saturday** (until after the Easter Vigil)

### III. Weddings Celebrated on Fridays During Lent

Fridays of Lent are penitential days in the Church's liturgical calendar. Weddings may be celebrated on these days, including within Mass; however, the celebration must clearly preserve the penitential character of the day.

Accordingly, the following norms apply:

#### 1. **Form of the Mass**

When a wedding is celebrated within Mass on a Friday of Lent, the liturgy follows the **Mass of the day**, with the rites of marriage inserted in their proper places, in accordance with the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* (cf. GIRM, no. 380).

#### 2. **Liturgical Texts and Elements**

- The **Gloria** is omitted.
- The **Alleluia** is omitted and replaced with the prescribed Lenten acclamation.
- Violet vestments are used.
- The nuptial blessing is given using texts appropriate to the season.

#### 3. **Music**

- Music, if used, must be sacred, restrained, and appropriate to Lent.
- Festive, theatrical, or secular-style music is not permitted.

#### 4. **Decorations**

- The church remains in Lenten simplicity.
- Flowers and elaborate decorations are not permitted.

#### 5. **Overall Tone**

- The celebration must be sober, prayerful, and reverent.
- Extravagant or overly festive elements that obscure the penitential nature of the day are not permitted.

#### 6. **Receptions and Social Celebrations**

- Any reception should be simple and mindful of the season.
- All Church norms regarding Friday abstinence from meat are to be observed.

#### **IV. Weddings on Other Weekdays or Saturdays of Lent**

Weddings celebrated on weekdays or Saturdays during Lent are permitted with greater flexibility; however:

- The penitential character of Lent must still be respected.
- Music, decorations, and the overall celebration must remain modest and restrained.
- Extravagant or excessive festivity inconsistent with the Lenten season is not permitted.

The pastor retains discretion regarding liturgical options to ensure harmony with the season.

#### **V. Pastoral Discernment and Catechesis**

Couples requesting a wedding during Lent are asked to understand that:

- Lent is a privileged time of conversion and preparation for Easter.
- A Lenten wedding invites the couple to unite their marriage with Christ's self-giving love and sacrifice.
- Couples desiring a more festive or elaborate celebration are strongly encouraged to select a date outside of Lent.

#### **VI. Authority and Application**

This policy is promulgated in accordance with:

- *Order of Celebrating Matrimony* (nos. 32–34)
- *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* (nos. 372, 380)
- Canon 838 §4 of the Code of Canon Law

The pastor retains the authority to interpret and apply this policy pastorally and consistently for the good of both parishes.

**Effective Date:** This policy is effective as of: December 16, 2025

#### **Approved by**

*Fr. Dass*

Pastor

St. Mary of the Assumption, Park City

St. Lawrence Mission, Heber