

Catholic Wedding Checklist

Checklist · 32 items · 8 sections

Plan your Catholic wedding from Pre-Cana to Nuptial Mass, all church requirements covered.

Open the editable, AI-powered version online:

<https://genechecklist.com/checklist/catholic-wedding-checklist>

12+ MONTHS BEFORE

- Contact your parish priest or deacon to begin Catholic marriage preparation as early as possible
HIGH
- Book your Catholic church for the wedding: popular churches book 12-18 months ahead
HIGH
- Confirm your chosen date is available and not during Lent or Advent (typically discouraged)
HIGH

9-12 MONTHS BEFORE

- Begin the Pre-Cana (marriage preparation) program: required for all Catholic weddings
HIGH
- Attend Pre-Cana sessions (weekend retreat, series of classes, or online program)
HIGH
- Obtain your baptismal certificate (issued within the last 6 months) for the church
HIGH
- Obtain your confirmation certificate
HIGH
- If non-Catholic partner: discuss Catholic marriage requirements with priest
HIGH
- Complete any required dispensations if one party is not Catholic
HIGH
- If either party was previously married, discuss annulment status with priest
HIGH

6-9 MONTHS BEFORE

- Arrange for banns to be announced: typically read at Mass for 3 consecutive Sundays
HIGH
- Meet with priest to plan ceremony: Nuptial Mass or wedding ceremony without Mass
HIGH

HIGH

- Choose Scripture readings for the ceremony (Old Testament, Psalm, New Testament, Gospel)

HIGH

- Choose readers for each Scripture reading: assign to family or friends
- Choose sacred music for the ceremony: approved Catholic hymns and processional music

HIGH

- Book church choir, cantor, or organist for the ceremony

HIGH

- Book a reception venue near the church for guest convenience

HIGH

4-6 MONTHS BEFORE

- Choose and ask sponsors (godparents) if a unity ceremony is planned
- Plan unity ceremony: unity candle, lazo (lasso), arras (coins) if desired
- Plan Marian devotion: if including a visit to a statue of Mary during the Mass
- Design ceremony programme with all Mass responses and hymn lyrics for guests
- Confirm church photographer and videographer restrictions (some churches restrict movement or flash)

HIGH

- Ask church about confetti, flower petals, and decorations policy inside and outside
- Arrange altar flowers and church decoration within the parish guidelines

2-4 MONTHS BEFORE

- Pay church ceremony fee, priest stipend, and musicians' honorarium
- Confirm civil marriage licence requirement in addition to church ceremony

HIGH

HIGH

- Apply for civil marriage licence from your local authority

HIGH

WEEK OF

- Attend church rehearsal (usually the evening before the wedding)
- Confirm all logistics with priest, church coordinator, and musicians

HIGH

HIGH

WEDDING DAY

- Exchange vows within the Nuptial Mass or ceremony and sign the marriage register

HIGH

AFTER WEDDING

- Receive signed church marriage record from parish (in addition to civil certificate)

HIGH

- Register marriage with civil authority to receive legal marriage certificate

HIGH