

Congratulations on this exciting time in your life as you prepare for your future together as a married couple. These next months will be busy ones for you as you make preparations for your wedding day. But even more importantly, these next months are an ideal time for the two of you to prepare yourselves spiritually for your lives together. Hopefully you will be able to find the balance between the planning for the day and the preparation for your married life.

To help you make plans for your wedding at St Francis Xavier Church, you will find included with this letter guidelines for preparing the environment for your wedding and for planning your wedding ceremony as well as information about the fees applicable for weddings at our parish. You will notice that there are two different building use fees, one for registered members of the parish and one for non-registered or recent members. We consider people who have been members of the parish for six months prior to their initial interview to be in the first category. The fees are to cover staff time, energy, and expenditure on the parish.

If these fees cause you undue hardship, please discuss this with me. *I do not want any couple not to have their wedding at St Francis Xavier because of financial considerations.* Please be aware that these fees are consistent with the other Catholic churches in Missoula and are in line with the other expenses of your wedding. Your willingness to provide these fees reflects your commitment to the life and ministry of the parish as well as demonstrating your willingness to be a part of the church's ministry of service. Thank you for your understanding.

Finally, I want to welcome you warmly and wholeheartedly to St Francis Xavier Parish for this most important day in your life. It is wonderful that you have chosen to become part of our parish through your marriage preparation with our staff and volunteers and having your ceremony in our community. My staff and I will do everything we can to make the beginning of your married life as joyful and easy as possible. I hope that, for your part, you continue to worship with us and be involved in your parish as you live your married life together.

May God bless these days of preparation with peace, calmness, and the realization of what is truly important as you move toward married life together. Know of my promise to pray for you both.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "C. Hightower, SJ". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

C. Hightower, SJ, Pastor