



Outdoor Weddings in the Diocese of Helena

The Diocese now allows outdoor weddings at specific locations and permission must be granted by using the following procedure:

The request from the priest/deacon includes:

1. A letter from the couple
 - Making the request and giving reasons for making the request
 - Include the name of the parish in which a Catholic party lives/is registered
 - and the name of the priest/deacon who is preparing you for marriage
 - Include the date of the proposed wedding
 - Include the specific location requested for the wedding
 - Include the indoor venue in case of inclement weather
 - Include the name of the priest/deacon who will officiate

2. A letter from the pastor/administrator of a Catholic party (or from the priest or deacon who will officiate)
 - Outlining the pastoral reasons for the request
 - Assuring that quality marriage preparation is being given
 - Indicating concurrence with the request
 - Making a recommendation regarding whether to grant the request
 - Giving permission for the wedding to take place outside the parish of a Catholic party (when this is the situation – this permission must be given by the pastor of the Catholic party).

3. When the location proposed for the wedding is outside the proper parish of a Catholic party, a letter from the parish priest/administrator of the parish in which the wedding is to take place, indicating concurrence with the request and giving permission/delegation for the wedding to take place in that parish (or a request that the Chancery obtain this permission/delegation).

Please speak with our Pastor before submitting your letter for permission for your outdoor wedding.

In lieu of our usual Use of Church fee, the fee for an outdoor wedding, not including music, a liturgy coordinator, or overnight accommodation for the presider (if applicable) are \$250 - \$500 depending on the distance traveled by the presider.

The usual six-month preparatory process requirements are the same as for a Church wedding.