

*Father,  
you have made the bond of marriage  
a holy mystery,  
a symbol of your Son's love for his Church.  
Hear our prayers for ...  
With faith in you and in each other  
they pledge their love today;  
may their lives always bear witness  
to the reality of that love.*

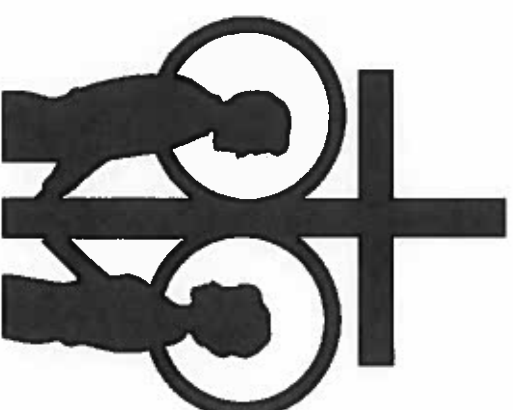
*Father,  
you created us in love to share your divine life.*

*We see this high destiny  
in the love of husband and wife,  
which bears the imprint  
of your own divine love.*

*Love is our origin;  
love is our constant calling;  
love is our fulfillment in heaven.*

*In the Sacrament of Marriage  
the love of man and woman is made holy  
and becomes the mirror of your  
everlasting love.*

*Prayers from the Rite of Marriage*



**The Celebration  
of Marriage  
at the  
Church of the Sacred Heart  
Hartsdale, New York**

**914-949-0028**

## Marriage among Catholics

Marriage has existed as a natural institution as long as there have been people, but since the death and resurrection of Jesus there has also existed a Sacrament of Marriage. When two baptized Christians, Catholic or non-Catholic, marry, it is this Christian Sacrament they are entering. As a Sacrament a Christian Marriage makes God present in the world and brings people closer to God; in this Sacrament each of the parties brings into their new relationship with each other the relationship each one already has with God through Baptism so that God is always a party with them in their married life.

Whether the natural institution or the Christian Sacrament, marriage is a permanent and exclusive union of life and love whereby a man and a woman establish a home and, when blessed with children, a family as well.

The Church's law requires that both the man and the woman be free to marry, that they prepare for their married life, and that they marry in a ceremony recognized by the Church. (When a Catholic who is free to marry does so outside the Church - in a civil or a non-Catholic religious ceremony for which permission has not been given - the marriage can be validated subsequently with as much or as little ritual as the couple chooses.)

When a Catholic wishes to marry a non-Catholic, the permission of the bishop must be obtained.

### Requirements in Church Law

1. A Catholic must present certificates for Baptism, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation.
  - a. The Baptism one must be no more than six months old.
  - b. Ordinarily, if First Holy Communion or Confirmation was received in the same church as Baptism, this will be noted on the reverse of the Baptism certificate.
  - c. If a Sacrament was received at the Church of the Sacred Heart in Hartsdale, a certificate is not necessary.
2. A non-Catholic who has been baptized must present a certificate for this.

3. Anyone who is not a parishioner, whether Catholic or non-Catholic, must present a "letter of freedom."
  - a. For a Catholic this is provided by his/her parish priest.
  - b. For a non-Catholic this is provided by a parent.
4. Every party, Catholic or non-Catholic, must complete a questionnaire known as the "Pre-Marital Inquiry".
5. Each couple must participate in one of the Marriage Preparation programs sponsored by the Archdiocese and explained in a booklet with schedules published each year.

### Requirements in State Law

Unless you are having a civil marriage validated, you must have a marriage license from New York State. You may get this license from any city or town clerk in the state (preferably outside New York City) and must bring it to the rehearsal.

### The Wedding Liturgy

1. You may be married during a Mass or outside Mass.
2. In either case you are asked to choose the readings for the celebration and the readers. A booklet and a form are provided to help you with this.
3. When the wedding will take place during Mass, you are also asked to choose two people to bring up the gifts.
4. If you would like to distribute worship aids to the guests at your wedding, you are asked to have the celebrant approve it in advance.

### Wedding Fee at Church of the Sacred Heart

The wedding fee is \$750.00. This covers everything. The above fee must be paid by check to the Church of the Sacred Heart at least 30 days before the wedding.