

St. Mary ~ Durand/St. Patrick ~ Irish Grove

WEDDING GUIDELINES, PLANNING, AND PREPARATION

“The sacrament of Matrimony signifies the union of Christ and the Church. It gives spouses the grace to love each other with the love with which Christ has loved His Church; the grace of the sacrament thus perfects the human love of the spouses, strengthens their indissoluble unity, and sanctifies them on the way to eternal life.” (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1661)

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INDEX:

Index	Page 1
Letter from the Pastor	Page 2
Checklist for Wedding Preparations	Page 3
Introduction to the Sacrament of Marriage	Page 4
Church Requirements	Page 4
Parish Requirements	Page 6
Civil Requirements	Page 7
I. Assessment and Instructional Phase	Page 8
II. Liturgy Planning Phase	Page 11
General Information and Policies	Page 12
Wedding Times /The Rehearsal	Page 14
The Wedding Liturgy	Page 15
Outline of the Wedding Liturgy	Page 18
Wedding Music Guidelines	Page 22
Suggested Music for your Wedding	Page 23
Wedding Fees	Page 25
Photography and Videography	Page 26
Art and Environment (Wedding Decorations)	Page 28
Liturgy Planning Worksheet	Page 29
Music Planning Worksheet	Page 34

Dear Friends,

St. Mary/St. Patrick Parish congratulates you on your engagement to be married. It is a wonderful and exciting time in your life, and we are glad that you are choosing to enter into your marriage in a sacramental way. This sacrament of Marriage draws you closer to Jesus Christ and his people, the Church. Your marriage is a vocation, a life-long calling to follow Jesus day by day in the sphere of married love and family life.

The Church would like to assist you not only in preparation for your wedding day, but also in preparing for a lifetime of loving commitment to one another. We have a great stake in the success of your marriage since it is a sacrament, that is, a fundamental way in which the grace and love of God are given you to shape your lives by, while becoming living members of the body of Christ. The policy for marriage at St. Mary/St. Patrick Church and our process of preparing you are in service of your love for each other and Christ's love for you.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Matthew M. Bergschneider, Pastor

St. Mary/St. Patrick

Durand/Irish Grove

CHECKLIST FOR WEDDING PREPARATION

UPON SCHEDULING:

- Make an appointment with the parish priest
- Arrange for Marriage Preparations Classes
 - Gift of Self: Marriage Preparation (Diocese of Rockford)
 - Parish Preparation Classes
- Finalize the date and time for the Wedding Rehearsal

SIX MONTHS BEFORE THE WEDDING:

- Obtain all documents required by the church with the exception of the Marriage License.
 - Baptismal Certificate with notation dated within six months of the wedding date
 - Confirmation Certificate (if confirmed)
 - Affidavits (Two for each) ó parents are preferred

FOUR MONTHS BEFORE THE WEDDING:

- Meet with the priest to begin planning the ceremony or Mass
- Contact the Wedding Coordinator to schedule an appointment to select music and arrange for musicians.

ONE MONTH BEFORE THE WEDDING:

- Final meeting with the priest and final planning of the ceremony or Mass
- Parish Wedding Fees are due
- Go the County Courthouse and obtain the marriage license

THE DAY OF REHARSAL:

- Marriage License is due at the earliest possible date, but no later than the rehearsal (license must be obtained within 60 days of the wedding)
- All church fees and musician fees are due before the rehearsal
- The Priest Celebrant, whether local or visiting, will be the one to perform the rehearsal for the wedding
- If a visiting priest is celebrating your wedding, he is expected to be present and perform the wedding rehearsal. He should contact the Parish Office ahead of time to obtain access to the church and receive any instructions from the Pastor.

INTRODCTION TO THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Marriage is one of the seven sacraments, which are at the heart of our Catholic Faith. Sacraments are not the prayers of individuals alone but of the whole church. In this context, the wedding day does not belong to the bride and groom; your wedding is the celebration of a sacrament and thus belongs to the whole church. It is in this context that we invite you to prepare for your wedding at St. Mary/St. Patrick Church.

The Code of Canon Law states that "matrimonial covenant, by which a man and woman establish between themselves a partnership of the whole of life, is by its nature ordered toward the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of offspring; this covenant between baptized persons has been raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a sacrament." As Marriage is a sacrament of the Roman Catholic Church, there are some essential conditions that must be met.

This booklet of information is given to aid you in preparation for the celebration of the Sacrament of Christian Marriage. We hope that the preparations for the celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage will deepen your love and your commitment to each other and strengthen the Church.

CHURCH REQUIREMENTS:

- At least one of you must be an active member of the Catholic faith. An active member of the Church attends Mass regularly, participates in parish activities, is involved in the ministries in the parish, and is in good standing with the Church. In an interfaith marriage, the Catholic party is required to make a promise to continue living the Catholic faith and doing all in their power to have the children baptized and raised as Catholics.
- Both the bride and the groom must be free to marry. That is to say, you must not have been validly married before (unless widowed). If either party has been previously married, whether you are Catholic or not, you must possess a "Decree of Declaration of Invalidity" (an annulment) from the Roman Catholic Church for each previous marriage. This must be completed before the wedding date can be set.

- To show the care and concern of the church toward those entering the Sacrament of Marriage, and to preserve the dignity, sanctity, and respect deserving of this Sacrament, a program of sacramental preparation is required. Arrangements should be made with the priest. This preparation is best completed well in advance of the wedding.
- Both of you must be willing to make a permanent commitment to each other that will be open to having children and will include a promise of marital fidelity. You will be asked to make these promises during the wedding ceremony.
- A Baptismal certificate less than six (6) months old must be submitted by each Catholic party. In an interfaith marriage, the non-Catholic, if baptized, must also present a record of Baptism from where they were baptized.
- Two witness affidavits affirming each party's freedom to be married must be submitted.
- The Prenuptial Questionnaire for both the bride and the groom must be completed with the priest or deacon.
- A dispensation is required in all interfaith marriages and will be completed at the Parish office four months before the wedding.
- Each couple must attend the Gift of Self: Marriage Preparation Day as per the directives of the Diocese of Rockford. An explanation and schedule will be given to you at your initial meeting.
- It is appropriate for the bride and groom to prepare themselves for the celebration of their marriage by receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation if they are Catholic.
- The Sacrament must be celebrated in the church in the presence of a priest or deacon, and two witnesses. Church weddings do not have to be elaborate or expensive. Diocesan policy does not allow for the Sacrament of Marriage outside of a church. As such, outdoor weddings are not permitted.

PARISH REQUIREMENTS:

- One or both of you should be registered members of the St. Mary/St. Patrick Parish. If you are not a member of the parish, we will accept the wedding with the following conditions:
 - You will need to work through your home parish for all of the marriage preparation requirements. We encourage you to have your home pastor come and celebrate the marriage to maintain the sacramental continuity between your home parish and the place of your wedding. There is also a non-parishioner fee for a wedding here.
- All Parish arrangements and documentation must be completed at least two months before the wedding date.
- The priest or deacons at the parish are to be those who generally celebrate all weddings for our parish members. A guest priest or deacon is permitted to perform the wedding ceremony. However, the permission of the pastor must be obtained. Visiting clergy must be in good standing with the Catholic Church, and have obtained permission from the pastor, as well as the Diocese of Rockford to illustrate the fact that he does have appropriate faculties for the Diocese of Rockford, as well as in his own Diocese. **It is expected that the guest priest or deacon perform the wedding rehearsal himself, and should contact the parish office ahead of time to obtain access to the church and receive any instructions from the pastor.**

CIVIL REQUIREMENTS:

- A Marriage License must be obtained within sixty (60) days prior to the wedding from the Winnebago County or the Stephenson County Clerk's Office.

Marriage License

If you plan to be married in Winnebago County, Illinois, you need to purchase a marriage license in Winnebago County. Where you live is not a consideration. If you are getting married in Winnebago County (St. Mary Church), you need a marriage license from the Winnebago County Clerk's Office.

You must call the Winnebago County Clerk's office between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday to have an application emailed to you and to make an appointment to apply for and receive your license. The bride and groom must come to the Winnebago County Clerk's Office together.

**Winnebago County Clerk
404 Elm Street, Suite 104
Rockford, IL 61101
815-319-4250**

The fee for the license is \$40 and must be paid in certified check, cashier's check, money order (payable to the Winnebago County Clerk) or cash at the Winnebago County Clerk's Office. **You cannot use the license the same day you purchase it**, because there is a one-day waiting period. After the one-day wait, you will have 60 days to use the license. After 60 days, the license is no longer valid to use for marriage.

If you plan to be married in Stephenson County (St. Patrick Church), Illinois, you need a marriage license from the Stephenson County Clerk's Office. Both the bride and the groom need to be present and are encouraged to apply by 4:00 pm due to processing time.

**Stephenson County Clerk's Office
50 W. Douglas Street, Suite 500
Freeport, IL 61032
815-235-8289**

The fee for the license is \$55 payable by money order, cashier's check or cash. **You cannot use the license the same day you purchase it**, because there is a one-day waiting period. After the one-day wait, you will have 60 days to use the license. After 60 days, the license is no longer valid to use for marriage.

ASSESSMENT AND INSTRUCTIONAL PHASE

1. REQUESTING A DATE FOR THE WEDDING:

Please contact the pastor to request a date for the wedding. This needs to be done by either the bride or the groom and not by the parent. At that time he can tell you what dates are available and possibly pencil-in your request. **This must be done BEFORE reserving a hall for your reception.** Weddings at the parish are on Saturdays at 2:00 p.m. Rehearsals are typically Friday evening at 5:30 p.m.

2. THE INITIAL MEETING WITH THE PRIEST:

Set up a meeting with the priest as early as possible, but at least six months in advance of the wedding. At this time, he will explain the major phases of the marriage preparation and will fill out the pre-nuptial questionnaire with the couple. You will be asked to provide certificates noting the date and location of your Baptism and Confirmation, if you were baptized Catholic. These certificates can be obtained by requesting them from the church where the sacraments were administered. These certificates must be newly issued documents and not copies of an existing certificate.

3. GIFT OF SELF: MARRIAGE PREPARATION:

www.rockforddiocese.org/familylife/

Gift of Self: Marriage Preparation is a day-long retreat for couples preparing for marriage in the Catholic Church. It is presented at various locations around the diocese throughout the year. The day includes a series of presentations that will help couples grow in their understanding of the sacrament of matrimony, reflect on the gift they are preparing to make of themselves to one another, and deepen their relationship with God and one another. An explanation of this and a schedule will be given to you at your initial meeting.

4. ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTION:

The priest will also want to meet with you for additional instruction. If one or both of you have not been practicing the faith on a regular basis, or if one or the other has not received the Sacrament of Confirmation, you may be asked to participate in a program to aid in the growth of your faith and to deepen your spirituality.

5. SPIRITUAL PREPARATION:

With all the excitement of preparing for your wedding, please remember that you are really preparing for the **Sacrament of Marriage**. The most important element of your preparation is your spiritual preparation, because this is what will carry you through as the years go on. We recommend, and strongly encourage you to pray together often and regularly. **Attend Mass together every Sunday**. If this hasn't been your practice, start a new tradition now. Studies show that couples who actively practice their faith have happier and longer lasting marriages, and better values to pass on to their children. Finally, **receive the sacrament of Reconciliation** before your wedding. This will help you to have a wonderful and spiritual new beginning. Your pastor will be happy to help you with any of the above. Please ask.

A SPECIAL NOTE ON COHABITATION- LIVING TOGETHER BEFORE MARRIAGE

- ❖ One should not marry because one is expected to or feels obliged to do so. Marriage must be a truly free choice if it is to be a marriage at all. Living together may not allow either person enough emotional distance and objectivity to make this extremely important life decision.
- ❖ Catholic teaching opposes cohabitation before marriage, but it also strongly supports a couple's right to marry. It opposes cohabitation only because it supports sexuality and marriage as sacred and wants couples to achieve marital success and happiness.
- ❖ While the Church wants to support the couple and their relationship, it also adheres to religious values that the couple seems to be denying by their choice to live together before marriage. In other words, the couple seems to say that they do not think as the Church does but yet are coming to celebrate something for which the Church stands. As adults we must take responsibility for actions which have specific consequences.
- ❖ The following are questions to consider. They are not hard-and-fast rules. If you have been living together, but have a deep desire to prepare your hearts for the full grace in the sacrament of marriage, ask yourselves the following:
 1. How will marriage be different from our present situation?
 2. What will it change in your marital bond and commitment?

THE LITURGY PLANNING PHASE

1. RITUAL PREPARATION

Once the Assessment and Instructional Phase has been completed, the couple meets with the priest for preparation of the wedding liturgy. The various liturgical options (procession, prayers, Scripture readings, placement, ministers, etc.) are included in "The Wedding Liturgy" section of this booklet and the "Together for Life" booklet. All decisions regarding the liturgy are subject to approval by the Pastor.

2. MUSIC

It is the policy of St. Mary/St. Patrick Church that the Parish Organist and the Parish Cantor provide music for all weddings. All choices of wedding music are subject to approval by the Pastor. Once you have met with the priest to discuss the liturgy, be sure to arrange a personal appointment with the Wedding Coordinator at least two months in advance of your wedding date. The Wedding Coordinator will help you select music for your wedding. Please read and review the music section of this booklet regarding music choices and the selection of music for the wedding liturgy before meeting with the Wedding Coordinator.

3. GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE USE OF ST. MARY/ST. PATRICK:

- A. **Use of Alcohol and Tobacco:** No smoking is allowed in either church. No consumption of alcohol or other behavior-influencing chemicals is allowed anywhere on the grounds. Anyone under the influence of such substances will be asked to leave. If the bride, groom, or other attendants are involved, the priest may postpone or cancel the marriage. The marriage, if witnessed while the bride or groom has been drinking, could be considered invalid because of the lessening of one's freedom through the use of alcohol/drugs.
- B. **Building and Grounds:** No rice, bird seed, confetti, flower petals, or other matter is to be thrown. No balloons are allowed inside the church buildings. The Church Hall, church, pews, and entry areas are to be picked up and in good order after your wedding.
- C. **Food & Gum:** No food, gum, candy, or drink is permitted in the church proper at any time, out of respect for the Blessed Sacrament and the dignity of the Sacrament we celebrate.
- D. **Church Decorations:** Although the church is already decorated for the seasons of the church year, you may choose to bring flowers into the church. Your decorations may not conflict with those of the church and church decorations may not be disturbed. **No flowers or decorations may be placed on top of the altar, or in such a way as to obscure it.** Anyone involved in decorating the church for your wedding should review the Art and Environment (Wedding Decorations) pages for more information.
- E. **Unity Candle:** The lighting of a unity candle is not a part of the Catholic Rite of the Sacrament of Marriage. The wedding reception would be an appropriate place for the Unity Candle.
- F. **Aisle Runners:** The Church does not allow aisle runners of any kind. The aisles of the church are for the use of all of those gathered, and aisle runners have proven to be safety and trip hazards to wedding guests.

- G. **Videography and Photography:** Be sure to read the pages entitled, "Guidelines regarding Videotaping and Photography." Anyone involved in this process should receive these guidelines and confer with the priest beforehand to resolve any related questions.
- H. **Order of Worship:** A well-designed printed participation booklet greatly enhances the assembly's participation in your wedding ceremony. This order of worship should include all of the music and the responses which are prayed by the assembly gathered for prayer. The Wedding Coordinator will help you to create and assist with the production of an Order of Worship. *If you choose to use an order of worship for your wedding, it is your responsibility to have it duplicated and ready for your guests on your wedding day.*
- I. **After the Wedding/Clean-up:** Please make sure that all areas of the church building are cleaned up following the wedding ceremony: including the main church, the pews, the entrance, the Church Hall and the parking lot. Please take everything with you, as we are not responsible for anything left behind.
- **Janitorial help is not available at the time of your wedding. Please help us to keep our buildings and grounds beautiful for all who come here to pray.**

WEDDING TIMES:

Saturday at 2:00 p.m.

The Church has reserved the use of the church on Saturday afternoons for weddings. However, other days and times may be available. Please note that some dates may be unavailable due to Holy Days or Parish Events. The wedding party may arrive at the church two hours prior to the scheduled wedding time. *Because of the preparatory nature of Advent and the penitential nature of Lent, weddings and baptisms are not encouraged during these Seasons.*

THE REHEARSAL

Rehearsals are usually scheduled the evening before the wedding (Friday at 5:30 p.m.), and should be finalized when you initially schedule your wedding. It is important that all who have an active part in the wedding Mass or ceremony attend so that each one understands their part. This would ordinarily include the bridal party, ushers, and those who will be proclaiming the scripture readings. Out of courtesy to those involved, please be on time. The average length of the rehearsal is one hour. This is a busy time for all involved and promptness helps a great deal. The rehearsal is facilitated by the priest or deacon officiating at the wedding ceremony.

Please have everyone ready to begin ON TIME. The rehearsal is a time to practice what has already been decided, so make sure that everyone knows their position, responsibilities, etc.

The wedding is primarily a religious ceremony in a sacred place. Proper dress (no t-shirts or shorts) and behavior are expected during the rehearsal and the wedding. No food or drink is allowed in the church proper at any time.

The use of cellular phones in the church is strictly prohibited. Please be respectful of the sacred space and make sure your cell phones are off.

No smoking is allowed in the church; no consumption of alcohol or other behavior-influencing chemicals is allowed anywhere on the church grounds before, during, or after the rehearsal or wedding.

Please bring to the rehearsal:

- **The marriage license, if not already done so**
- **All fees for the church, musician, etc.**
- **Readings, Universal Prayer, Orders of Worship, etc.**

THE WEDDING LITURGY

Depending upon the religious backgrounds of both parties, there are two options available for the celebration of Marriage:

1. The Order of Celebrating Matrimony within Mass
2. The Order of Celebrating Matrimony without Mass
3. The Order of Celebrating Matrimony between a Catholic and a Catechumen or a Non-Christian

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches, “In the Latin Rite the celebration of marriage between two Catholic faithful normally takes place during Holy Mass, because of the connection of all the sacraments with the Paschal mystery of Christ. In the Eucharist the memorial of the New Covenant is realized, the New Covenant in which Christ has united himself for ever to the Church, His beloved bride for whom He gave Himself up. It is therefore fitting that the spouses should seal their consent to give themselves to each other through the offering of their own lives by uniting it to the offering of Christ for His Church made present in the Eucharistic sacrifice, and by receiving the Eucharist so that, communicating in the same Body and the same Blood of Christ, they may form but ‘one body’ in Christ.” (1621)

1. The Order of Celebrating Matrimony within Mass

The wedding Mass is like any ordinary Mass, but contains the wedding ceremony within the Mass. This Mass consists of the Liturgy of the Word ó a reading from the Old Testament, the Responsorial Psalm, a reading from the New Testament, the Gospel reading, the homily, and the universal prayer. The actual Rite of Marriage takes place following the homily. After the exchange of vows and rings between the bride and groom, the Mass continues with the Liturgy of the Eucharist ó the Presentation of the Gifts of bread and wine, the Eucharistic Prayer (where, with the words of consecration, the bread and wine are changed into the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ), and the distribution of Holy Communion to Catholics, who are able to receive, in attendance.

2. The Order of Celebrating Matrimony without Mass

In weddings between a Catholic and a non-Catholic, the Rite of Marriage consists of the Liturgy of the Word as it is discussed above. Because Catholics believe that the celebration of the Mass and reception of the Eucharist is a sign of the reality of the oneness of faith, life, and worship, it is not appropriate for members of the other Christian communities or other faiths to be admitted to Holy Communion. Therefore, as a way to be respectful to our Catholic traditions as

well as out of courtesy to your guests in order to prevent any confusion, it is more appropriate to celebrate your wedding with the wedding ceremony outside the context of Mass.

The Wedding Liturgy is first and foremost the public worship of God. In other words, even though it focuses on the bride and groom, the wedding liturgy is the total community's act of worship, within which the bride and groom's exchange of vows takes place. It is an opportunity for all guests to join the bride and groom in praising God for the gift of love.

What happens at Sunday Mass is really the model and guide to be used in planning your wedding. Therefore, the easiest way for a couple to plan and prepare this liturgy, is to think about what happens at Sunday Mass.

CHOICE OF MINISTERS

Just as there are a number of people involved at Sunday Mass, so too, with your wedding liturgy. Rather than honoring friends and relatives by asking them to be part of the wedding party, the bride and groom could consider honoring them by asking them to minister at the wedding liturgy. Those who minister should be active in the practice of the faith in their own parish or church. The liturgical ministries are:

ASSEMBLY: participates in song, prayer, and gesture.

CELEBRANT (PRIEST/DEACON): calls the community to prayer, coordinates the various ministries, and leads the worship.

USHERS/GREETERS: welcomes the people, helps them find a place to sit, and distribute the orders of worship. Ushers should be sure that your family and friends are seated no later than five minutes before the wedding begins. They are also responsible for helping to clean up the church following the wedding celebration.

ALTAR SERVERS: assist the celebrant during the liturgy. You will need two servers to assist the celebrant during the wedding liturgy. You might choose family members who are altar servers in their parish or ask the Church to provide servers for the wedding liturgy. **Altar servers should be at the rehearsal.**

READERS: proclaim the Word of God from the Sacred Scriptures and the Universal Prayer (intercessions/petitions). You may choose to have one person read all three or

you may divide the responsibility among two or three readers. If you will be using the second or third form of the celebration, which do not include Mass, you may have a non-Catholic proclaim the readings. However, if you are having Mass, then a Catholic who is trained in the ministry should proclaim the readings. In either case, the readers should be well coached ahead of time in the church and given time to practice using the microphone that will be used on your wedding day. **Readers should be present at the rehearsal.**

GIFT BEARERS: present the bread and wine. If the wedding is celebrated within the Mass, you will need two gift bearers to bring up the bread and wine. You may also want to share the joy of this day with the poor and needy. If so, you can have a basket of non-perishable food brought up at the same time. Anyone may serve as a gift bearer.

MINISTERS OF COMUNION: assist in the distribution of Holy Communion. If the wedding is celebrated within the context of Mass, one minister of the bread will be needed. If you have friends or relatives who perform this service at their Catholic parish, you might ask them to distribute at your wedding. **They should be present at the rehearsal.**

MUSIC MINISTERS: lead the assembly in song. It is the policy of St. Mary/St. Patrick that the Parish Organist and Parish Cantor serve as the musicians for **all** weddings. You will need to consult with our Wedding Coordinator after meeting with the priest. It is preferable that this take place at least two months before the wedding. **Do not make any arrangements before speaking with the Wedding Coordinator or Pastor.**

In addition, the **BRIDE and GROOM** are the ministers of the Sacrament of Marriage, while the best man and maid of honor are the legal witnesses. Other than the two legal witnesses (who must be 18 years of age or older), there is no function for other attendants at the wedding. Therefore, please try to keep the number of attendants at a minimum. The participation of children under the age of 6 years in the wedding party is discouraged.

OUTLINE OF THE WEDDING LITURGY

INTRODUCTORY RITE

Gathering of the Assembly: Your ushers/greeters should warmly greet the people as they arrive at the church. It would be particularly appropriate if you and your parents would also greet people as they arrive. This is one of the most effective things you can do to make people feel welcome, to thank them for joining in this special celebration, and to encourage their participation in the liturgy.

During this time of gathering before the procession, the prelude music is played.

Procession: The wedding liturgy is a celebration of God's love manifest in two people. As such, the symbols used throughout the liturgy need to speak of the mutuality of marriage. The wedding procession is one such symbol: it is a liturgical procession signifying the gathering of God's people for worship. Ideally one instrumental piece is chosen to accompany the procession.

There is one form of procession preferred at St. Mary/St. Patrick Church.

The celebrant and groom enter and stand at the front of the church, the bridesmaids and groomsmen, maid of honor and best man enter in procession, followed by the bride escorted by her parents or father.

Once in the front of the church, the attendants stand in the front pews. As the primary ministers of the sacrament of marriage, the bride and groom assume a prominent place, so that they are visible to all in the assembly.

Sign of the Cross: After the procession, the priest will continue the liturgy with the Sign of the Cross, and the Greeting.

Gloria/Glory to God: The Church treats Wedding Celebrations as Solemnities, which are great Feasts within the church year. As such, the assembly joins to sing together, the Glory to God, which is an ancient ritual text giving praise to God.

Opening Prayer: After the Glory to God is sung, the celebrant offers the Opening Prayer, in the name of all gathered to celebrate this Sacrament.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

One way of personalizing the wedding liturgy is choosing the Scriptures. There are three readings: one from the Old Testament, one from the New Testament, and a Gospel text. Read through and discuss the options with each other. You will finalize your choices with the priest.

First Reading (Old Testament): see *öTogether for Lifeö* booklet

Responsorial Psalm: The psalm is sung after the first reading. It is chanted by the cantor and includes an assembly refrain. You will choose this during your meeting with the cantor.

Second Reading (New Testament): see *öTogether for Lifeö* booklet

Alleluia and Verse Before the Gospel: A sung acclamation always precedes the Gospel reading. This is usually a series of intoned *öAlleluiasö* repeated by the assembly, coupled with a short verse, and followed by the same series of *öAlleluiasö*.

Gospel Reading: see *öTogether for Lifeö* booklet

Homily: The celebrant will then preach a homily based upon the readings.

THE CELEBRATION OF MATRIMONY

Instruction: After the homily, the priest gives a short instruction on marriage.

The Questions before the Consent: The priest will ask you to publicly state your intentions concerning the freedom of your decision, the permanence of your commitment, and your commitment to family life.

The Consent: You should be familiar with the words for your vows and for the exchange of rings. During the Rite of Marriage, the priest or deacon will say the words, and ask you to repeat them for all to hear. The marriage vows are the essence of the Sacrament of Marriage. Therefore, you must use the following form:

I, (N.), take you, (N.), to be my husband/wife. I promise to be faithful to you, in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, to love you and to honor you all the days of my life.

Blessing and Giving of Rings: The wedding rings will then be blessed and exchanged. Each of you will say the following, while placing the ring on your spouse's finger:

(N.), receive this ring as a sign of my love and fidelity. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Universal Prayer: The priest will then introduce the Universal Prayer (Intercessions/Prayers of the Faithful). The couple is to choose the Intercessions from the options listed in the *Together for Life* booklet. Please be sure to let the celebrant know which option you have chosen for this prayer.

If your celebration will not include the Eucharist (the Mass), skip over to “The Concluding Rite” on page 21.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparation of the Gifts: At this time your gift bearers will bring up the gifts of bread and wine, as at Sunday Mass. Gifts for the poor, such as a food basket, are most appropriate as well. This portion of the liturgy is short. Either a hymn is sung by the assembly or an instrumental piece is played.

Prayer over the Offerings:

Eucharistic Prayer: The acclamations of this prayer (Sanctus, Mystery of Faith, and Great Amen) are normally sung. The priest will select the Eucharistic Prayer.

Lord's Prayer: The Lord's Prayer is prayed by all present. This is the prayer of the gathered assembly, and is not the time for a vocal solo.

Nuptial Blessing: The Nuptial Blessing will be proclaimed by the celebrant.

Sign of Peace: At the Sign of Peace, the wedding couple will go together to share this greeting with their parents and then return to their place.

Communion: In order to celebrate this communal act, a song that includes the assembly is sung.

(Optional)

Flowers to the Blessed Virgin: While a presentation of flowers to the Blessed Virgin Mary is not part of the Rite of Matrimony nor of the Catholic Mass, it is a long-honored

tradition for the bride (and groom) to offer prayers and flowers to the Blessed Virgin Mary following the Communion Rite, especially if the couple has a special devotion to our Blessed Mother.

Prayer after Communion: All stand as the celebrant prays this prayer, asking God to bless all who have celebrated together this Sacred Mystery.

THE CONCLUDING RITE

Final Blessing and Dismissal: There is a final blessing over the couple followed by the dismissal.

After the words of dismissal, the wedding couple may be formally presented.

Recessional: A festive instrumental is played as you and your wedding party exit the church.

WEDDING MUSIC GUIDELINES

Music is a basic, central, and integral part of Catholic Worship, and so it should be for the wedding liturgy as well. Music is not a frill, but a basic and important element that cannot be overlooked. The most important moments for music in the wedding celebration are the times for congregational song and participation. Unfortunately, that is often the last type of music couples consider.

The music during your wedding liturgy is the time for those who gather to celebrate with you to rejoice in song. Allowing musicians to perform all the music at your wedding liturgy is not compatible with Catholic liturgy. There are other, more appropriate times during your wedding celebration to invite others to perform. Choosing songs and refrains the assembly can sing, and printing the songs, or at very least, the song numbers from the hymnal in your Order of Worship, will allow the assembly to express their joy and participate more fully in the liturgy.

When selecting music for your wedding, there are three basic criteria:

- 1) Music must be able to be sung by the assembly.
- 2) Music must fit the spirit and structure of the liturgy.
- 3) Music must be of high quality and appropriate content.

To put it another way, the music must fit the context of faith and the dignity of the occasion. The texts should speak of a Christian concept of love and marriage, not a romantic one. Every generation has its love songs, and some of them are great music. They may have a place in your wedding day, but that place is not your wedding liturgy. This includes **ALL** secular music.

It is the policy of St. Mary/St. Patrick Church that the Parish Cantor and the Parish Organist provide the music for all weddings. All choices of wedding music are subject to approval by the Pastor. Once you have met with the priest to discuss the liturgy, be sure to arrange an appointment with the Wedding Coordinator at least two months in advance of your wedding date. The Wedding Coordinator will help you select music for your wedding. Please review the following pages regarding music for the wedding liturgy.

SUGGESTED MUSIC FOR YOUR WEDDING

Instrumental (Processional/Recessional):

Air (Handel)
Air on the G String (Bach)
Allegro Maestoso (Handel)
Break Forth Into Joy (Bach)
Canon in D (Pachelbel)
Hornpipe (Handel)
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring (Bach)

Largo (Handel)
Ode to Joy (Beethoven)
Prelude to Te Deum (Charpentier)
Rondeau (Mouret)
Trumpet Tune (Purcell)
Trumpet Voluntary (Clarke)

Responsorial Psalms:

Psalm 19: Lord, You Have the Words ó Word /Song #318
Psalm 25: To You, O Lord, I Lift My Soul ó Word/Song #324
Psalm 33: Let Your Mercy Be on Us
Psalm 34: Taste and See the Goodness of the Lord ó Word/Song #332
Psalm 40: Here I Am, Lord ó Word/Song #334
Psalm 63: My Soul Is Thirsting ó Word/Song #341
Psalm 66: Let All the Earth ó Word/Song #342

Psalm 85: Lord, Let Us See Your Kindness ó Word/Song #347, #348
Psalm 103: The Lord is Kind and Merciful - Word/Song #359
Psalm 121: Our Help Comes from the Lord
Psalm 122: Let Us Go Rejoicing
Psalm 126: The Lord Has Done Great Things
Psalm 128: Blest Are Those Who Love You
Psalm 145: I Will Praise Your Name ó Word/Song #375, #376

Preparation of the Gifts:

All That We Have ó Glory & Praise #10
Dwelling Place ó Glory & Praise #63
Faith, Hope, and Love ó
Glory and Praise to our God - Word /Song #740
God is Love ó
I Have Loved You ó Glory & Praise #103
I Sing A Maid ó
Love One Another ó Word /Song #674
Magnificat ó
No Greater Love ó
Only This I Want ó Glory & Praise #183

Seek Ye First ó Word & Song #684
Shepherd of My Heart ó
The King of Love My Shepherd Is ó
The Love of the Lord ó
The Summons ó Word & Song #655
Ubi Caritas ó Word & Song #678
We Are the Light of the World ó Word/Song #756
Where Charity and Love Prevail ó Word/Song #672, #681

Communion Songs:

Blest Are They ó Word & Song #767
Bread of the World ó Word & Song #518
Bread of Life ó Glory & Praise #37
Eat This Bread ó Word & Song #534
Gift of Finest Wheat ó Word & Song #538
I Am the Bread of Life ó Word & Song #525
Let Us Be Bread ó
Lord, When You Came ó
Now in This Banquet ó

Now We Remain ó Word & Song #539
One Bread, One Body ó Word & Song #564
Pan de Vida ó Word & Song #533
Take and Eat ó Word & Song #541
Taste and See ó Word & Song #537
Unless a Grain of Wheat ó
We Have Been Told ó Word & Song #677
We Remember ó Word & Song #522
You Are Near ó Word & Song #694

Songs Specifically for Weddings:

The Servant Song ó Word & Song #660

When Love is Found ó Word & Song #577

****Please note: Other than the Responsorial Psalms, many other music suggestions can be appropriate for more than one moment during the Liturgy.****

Example: "I Have Loved You" is listed as an appropriate song for the Preparation of the Gifts. However, it could be used appropriately for the Communion Song instead.

MUSICAL SELECTIONS NOT ALLOWED!

Wedding March (Mendelssohn)
Bridal Chorus (Wagner)

WEDDING FEES

ACTIVE REGISTERED PARISHIONERS

Marriage Preparation & Materials:	\$100.00
Church usage:	\$150.00

INACTIVE/NON-REGISTERED

Marriage Preparation & Materials:	\$200.00
Church usage:	\$300.00
Altar Server:	\$ 10.00
Organist:	\$150.00
Cantor:	\$100.00

These include consultation to select music, the playing and singing of music at your wedding, and assisting with your order of worship. Fees for supplementary instrumentalists (brass, strings, etc.) are the responsibility of the couple and vary widely.

It is the policy of St. Mary/St. Patrick Church that the Parish Organist and Cantor provide music for all weddings. Any guest musicians must be approved ahead of time, are required to adhere to our wedding music guidelines, and must work directly with the Wedding Coordinator.

TOTAL MUSICIAN FEES (Musicians should be paid directly): \$250.00

All fees are due before the wedding rehearsal begins.

ORDER OF WORSHIP:

Each wedding celebration at St. Mary/St. Patrick Church is encouraged to have an order of worship to assist your guests in participating in the wedding liturgy. This order of worship should include all of the music and the responses which are prayed by the assembly gathered for prayer. The Wedding Coordinator will help you to create and assist with the production of you Order of Worship. **It is your responsibility to take the completed and approved Order of Worship to a printer to have it duplicated, folded, and stapled.**

GUIDELINES REGARDING PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEOGRAPHY

GENERAL GUIDELINES:

Professional photography and/or videography may take place during the wedding liturgy. However, the photographer and/or videographer may not interfere with the liturgy in any way. The photographer and/or videographer are not allowed in the sanctuary or in front of the first row of pews. Once the ceremony has begun, flash photography is prohibited.

The following guidelines are to be followed by all photographers and videographers. A copy of these guidelines must be provided for the photographer and/or videographer you have chosen for your wedding.

1. Photographers may take pictures anywhere in the vestibule or the church proper before and after the wedding. During the wedding, the photographer may use the side and center aisles.
2. The photographer is not permitted in the sanctuary and a fitting reverence is expected at all times.
3. Photographers are asked not to interfere with the procession or recession by having couples stop in the aisles. This action degrades the sanctity of your wedding to a show.
4. Please contact the priest immediately before the wedding.
5. Pictures of the wedding party may be taken in church before or after the wedding as long as the times have been pre-scheduled by the photographer with the priest or Wedding Coordinator. This will insure that the church is available at the times desired. Pictures need to be concluded one half hour prior to the start of the wedding. After the wedding, pictures must be completed by 3:30 p.m. in order to allow the church to be prepared for the evening Mass.
6. Under no circumstances may the photographer/videographer come onto the steps or main floor of the sanctuary during the wedding, or come any closer to the altar/sanctuary than the side or center aisles.
7. No additional sound equipment is to be brought into the church without permission from the priest or the Wedding Coordinator.
8. No church equipment or furniture is to be moved. One is NEVER to move/remove any item in the altar/sanctuary area.

All pictures must be completed, the church cleaned-up, and vacated by 3:30 p.m.

Silence and quiet are part of this holy place. Please show respect and reverence. Prayerful conduct is expected at all times on church grounds.

CHOIR LOFT: Professional photographers and videographers are welcome to use the choir loft at the rear of the church. Please be aware that musicians may be using the steps to get in and out of the loft during the liturgy, so please keep these areas clear.

VIDEOGRAPHY:

MICROPHONES: Please do not attach microphones to any church furniture or any existing church microphones. This includes the Ambo (Pulpit), Altar, and microphones for the Cantor (song leader).

SOUND SYSTEM FEED: There is a sound system feed in the choir loft. Please contact the Wedding Coordinator at least one week prior to the date of the wedding for details.

ART AND ENVIRONMENT (WEDDING DECORATIONS)

St. Mary and St. Patrick Church are decorated for special events and seasons within the Liturgical Year. We ask that you respect the decorations which are in place. Under no circumstances should you move or rearrange the environment already set-up in the church. In the same respect, absolutely no church furniture may be moved or rearranged. All decorations must be removed after the liturgy. **The church must be cleaned-up, and vacated by 3:30 p.m.**

- Although the church is already decorated for the seasons of the church year, you may choose to bring flowers into the church. Your church decorations may not conflict with those of the church and the church decorations may not be disturbed.
- **NO nails, tacks, screws, staples, pins, or tape** are to be used in any part of the building or on any furniture. Only ribbon, or specially designed pew clips may be used to secure bows and flowers to the pew ends.
- **NO candles or candelabras** may be added to the church environment. There is no provision for the addition of candles at the ends of the pews, as these candles have proven to be hazardous to guests.
- Flowers need to be placed where there will be no water damage or other stains. **No flowers or decorations may be placed on top of the altar, or in such a way as to obscure it.**
- No rice, birdseed, flower petals, potpourri, glitter, or confetti may be used inside or outside on the church property. The release of balloons, butterflies or doves is also not permitted. Bubbles may only be used outside the church building.
- The church does not allow aisle runners of any kind. Aisle runners have proven to be hazardous to wedding guests. Insurance and building codes also prohibit the use of runners.
- If the couple wishes, the flowers in the sanctuary may remain in the church after the wedding. It is nice to have flowers for Sunday Mass.

Liturgy Planning Worksheet

All Scripture Readings and the Universal Prayer can be found in the "Together for Life" book you will receive at your appointment.

GATHERING RITES

PRELUDE MUSIC: _____

SEATING OF THE GRANDPARENTS & PARENTS: _____

Reception of the Couple

PROCESSIONAL OF BRIDESMAIDS/GROOMSMEN: _____

PROCESSIONAL OF BRIDE: _____

or

PROCESSIONAL/SONG OF GATHERING: _____

INTRODUCTORY RITE

Sign of the cross, Greeting

OPENING PRAYER/COLLECT: #A - _____

Gloria/ Glory to God

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING: #B - _____

READ BY: _____

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: #C - _____

SUNG/READ BY: _____

NEW TESTAMENT READING: #D - _____

READ BY: _____

ALLELUIA AND VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL: #E - _____

GOSPEL: #F - _____

Homily

CELEBRATION OF MATRIMONY

Introduction

QUESTIONS BEFORE THE CONSENT: #G - _____

THE CONSENT: #H - _____

RECEPTION OF THE CONSENT: #H13/H14/H15 - _____

BLESSING AND GIVING OF RINGS: #I - _____

Blessing and Giving of the Arras (if applicable): _____

THE UNIVERSAL PRAYER/PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL: #J - _____

READ BY: _____

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

(If you are not celebrating Mass, skip to %Nuptial Blessing+)

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS: _____

BROUGHT FORWARD BY: _____

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS: #K - _____

PREFACE: #L - _____

The Blessing And Placing of The Lazo or The Veil (if applicable): _____

The Lord's Prayer

NUPTIAL BLESSING: #M: _____

(If you are not celebrating Mass, skip to %Final Blessing+)

Sign of Peace

Lamb of God

COMMUNION SONG: _____

Optional – Flowers to the Blessed Virgin Mary:

(Circle your selection)

Yes

No

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION: #N - _____

THE CONCLUDING RITES

FINAL OR SOLEMN BLESSING: #O - _____

Dismissal

How would you like to be introduced:

(example: ~~%Mr. & Mrs. John Doe,+%John and Mary Doe+~~)

RECESSIONAL/SENDING FORTH: _____

LIST OF CHOSEN LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Ushers/Greeters:

Altar Servers:

(Church can arrange)

Reader (s): First Reading

Second Reading

Universal Prayer

Gift Bearers:

Minister of Communion:

Cantor:

WEDDING PARTY

Best Man: _____

Maid of Honor: _____

Attending Couples:

Parents of the Bride & Groom:

Bride: _____

Groom: _____

Any others involved in the liturgy:

MUSIC PLANNING WORKSHEET

The Order of Celebrating Matrimony

Date: _____

Time: _____

Bride: _____

Groom: _____

Contact Info: _____

Contact Info: _____

Celebrant (Priest or Deacon): _____

Parish Organist: Deb Rousch

Parish Cantor: Peg O'Hagan

GATHERING RITES

PRELUDE MUSIC: _____

Reception of the Couple

PROCESSIONAL OF BRIDESMAIDS/GROOMSMEN: _____

PROCESSIONAL OF BRIDE: _____

OR

PROCESSIONAL/SONG OF GATHERING: _____

Sign of the cross, Greeting, Introduction,
Opening Prayer, and Gloria/Glory to God

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Second Reading
Alleluia and Verse before the Gospel

Gospel, Homily

THE CELEBRATION OF MATRIMONY

Introduction
Questions before the Consent
The Consent
The Reception of the Consent
The Blessings and Giving of Rings
Universal Prayer/Intercessions

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

(If you're not celebrating Mass, skip to "Final Blessing")

PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR AND THE GIFTS:

EUCCHARISTIC ACCLAMATIONS: SANCTUS, MYSTERY OF FAITH, GREAT AMEN

Blessing and Placing of the Lazo or the Veil (if applicable)
The Lord's Prayer
Nuptial Blessing
Sign of Peace
Lamb of God

COMMUNION SONG:

FLOWERS TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (if applicable):

Prayer after communion

CONCLUDING RITE

Final or Solemn Blessing, Dismissal
Introduction

RECESSIONAL/SENDING FORTH:
