

SAINT MARY PARISH
Guidelines for Marriage Preparation
2020 edition



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The parish community of Saint Mary in North Plymouth/Kingston congratulates you on your coming marriage. We promise to pray, both in hope and thanksgiving, for you as you journey with Jesus and His Church toward this sacred moment. We ask you to take some time to review the material offered in this booklet. It will provide you with information that will help you in your preparations.

We are happy to assist in any way needed.

May God offer you His blessings always.

FIRST STEPS

In order to request a date for your marriage, you will need to contact the Parish Office to schedule an initial meeting with the Pastor. It is suggested that this meeting take place at least six months prior to the requested date of marriage, although we understand there are times that time frame isn't possible. This meeting is a wonderful opportunity to share your story as a couple, enabling the pastor to know you better. It also provides a comfortable setting for you to further understand the necessary preparatory steps for marriage in the Catholic Church.

Prior to this initial meeting, please request both of your (if both are Catholic) Baptismal Records from the parishes of your Baptisms. These documents are to be sent directly from those parishes to Saint Mary Parish, 313 Court Street, Plymouth, MA 02360. The Baptismal Record indicates the sacraments you have received. They will also indicate that you are free to marry, enabling the scheduling of your marriage in the Church. Please anticipate that other documents may be requested.

Your wedding may be scheduled on any day of the week, although Saturday and Sunday are the most traditional days. Saturday weddings can be scheduled between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. or after 6:30 p.m. Sunday weddings can be scheduled between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.

We request that the Wedding Rehearsal be scheduled at the time you schedule your wedding. The Rehearsal is generally scheduled on the day before your wedding. This is flexible as needed. Saint Mary Parish's Wedding Coordinator will oversee the Wedding Rehearsal and organize the procession into the church on your wedding. She will work to assure that your wedding day proceeds both prayerfully and smoothly. The Rehearsal will be an opportunity to bring to the church all the items needed for the celebration of your wedding.

We understand that you may have or are thinking of hiring an external wedding coordinator or planner. You are welcome to do this and your planner can assist in ways of seating guests, decorating the church with flowers, passing out wedding programs and removing decorations

from the church. Please be respectful to our wedding coordinator. She is there to make sure you have a beautiful wedding, that you and your wedding party know exactly what to do and she will not need assistance in this area. Our wedding coordinators are trained and are a necessary element to having a Catholic wedding. This is not negotiable and external wedding coordinators/planners are not able to fill this position, but are welcome to attend as a guest.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION/PRE-CANA: Please visit the Archdiocese of Boston website for available dates for required Marriage Preparation Programs-
<https://www.bostoncatholic.org/Offices-And-Services/Office-Detail.aspx?id=11654>

PLANNING YOUR WEDDING CELEBRATION

Your wedding celebration may take place as either a nuptial Mass or a ceremony. You are invited to discuss with those who assist in your preparation regarding each and what is the best choice for you. Within each celebration there are opportunities for your family and friends to participate actively. Ordinarily, readings from both the Old Testament and the New Testament are selected, which can be proclaimed by guests. In addition, you are welcome to ask someone to prayerfully lead the Intercessory Prayers, ideally written by you to allow for a personal and intimate tone.

A selection from one of the Gospels, appropriate for the celebration of marriage, is made by you after discussion with the priest. The proclamation of the Gospel will be followed by a brief homily breaking open the meaning of the proclaimed word as it applies to your lives. Your earnest preparation with the priest will provide him with insights for this privilege.

Following the homily, there is a period of silent prayer. At its conclusion, you will exchange consent to marry before the priest and your witnesses. It is a beautiful and prayerful moment in which you will vow to love one another for the rest of your lives and in which God will join you for such a joy. The blessing and exchange of rings, a pristine symbol of unity and charity, will follow

We are then called to pray in gratitude for the holy gift of your marriage and in hope for your lives together. At this time, the wedding guest who has been chosen to lead the intercessions is called forward to pray.

If a nuptial Mass is being celebrated, the altar is prepared and the gifts of bread and wine are brought forward by two of your guests.

If your wedding is being celebrated as a nuptial Ceremony, after the Prayers of Intercession, a Nuptial Blessing, prayed by the priest, is offered over you. At the end of both the Mass and the Ceremony, a blessing is offered for all those gathered. We speak "Amen!" to affirm the blessing and you are then invited to recess down the aisle.

Together for Life by Father Joseph Champlin, is a booklet that will walk you through all of the planning details and options; this will be given to you at the time of your visit with the Pastor. If you have not received one, please let your wedding coordinator know so that one can be mailed to you.

ENHANCING THE BEAUTY OF YOUR WEDDING

Music both enhances the sacred nature of your marriage and adds to its beauty. Saint Mary Parish's Music Director will coordinate the music for your wedding, providing you with whatever you desire in terms of musicians and vocalists. [Please note that additional musicians will entail extra cost.] The parish office will give you the contact information. The Music Director is very familiar with Catholic liturgical music and will assist you in the selection of pieces, which are both appropriate and beautiful. Guest musicians, singers or instrumentalists are welcome; **please provide 6 months notice if you will be requesting additional musicians OR bringing additional musicians as they will need to work with our music director.**

Depending on the date of your wedding, the Church may already be decorated for a special event such as Easter or Christmas. Weddings scheduled during Lent or Advent should be subdued in the extent of decoration. Fresh flowers, arrayed in an appropriate manner, will add to the beauty of your celebration. We invite you to leave the flowers at the Church at the conclusion of your marriage. Your offering of flowers beautifies God's altar and allows the people of Saint Mary to share your joy. Flowers are permitted in most areas in and out of the church, however, nothing permanent to hang them please (no nails or such on the pews or walls).

Due to safety concerns, aisle runners are not permitted in St. Mary Church; however, the center aisle is carpeted.

IMPORTANT REHEARSAL REMINDERS

Please remember to bring your License to Marry to the office, issued by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, without which your wedding may not take place. Please do not mail your license as we have to have the original and if lost you will not be able to marry. Please deliver this no later than one week before your wedding date.

You are welcome to offer your guests a program to assist them in the prayerful celebration of your wedding. If so, you please leave them with the Wedding Coordinator at your Rehearsal; she will be sure they are available for early arriving guests. Other items may include a unity candle or traditional dress. Bringing these things on the night of the rehearsal, guarantees that they will be available on the day of the wedding.

Please mail in your *Together For Life* worksheet so that your wedding coordinator will provide the correct readings at your wedding rehearsal and wedding day.

You are very welcome to invite clergy from outside of Saint Mary Parish to participate in your wedding. Please note that visiting clergy are asked to speak with the Pastor of Saint Mary both so that delegation may be granted to them and so that questions regarding responsibility for marriage preparation may be answered. Visiting clergy are asked to contact the pastor by phone 781-585-6679 ext100

OFFERING

\$1250 Offering:

(½ due at Booking; ½ due at 6 Months Prior to Wedding)

Church - \$500.00

Organist - \$300.00

Music Director- \$300.00

Wedding Coordinator - \$150.00

This does NOT contain a gift to the priest personally. If you wish to give the priest who officiates at your wedding a personal gift it is appreciated.

BLESSINGS

We at Saint Mary Parish hope that these guidelines and suggestions will be helpful to you as you continue to prepare for marriage. All of us extend prayers, blessings and best wishes upon you as you walk the journey of loving commitment with Jesus and His Church. Through the intercession of Mary the Mother of God may you be blessed.

