

## **2008 ST. JOHN OF ROCHESTER** **MARRIAGE PREPARATION MANUAL**

***IF WE LOVE ONE ANOTHER, GOD WILL LIVE IN US IN PERFECT LOVE*** 1 John 4:12

We are delighted that you have chosen to celebrate your marriage at *St. John of Rochester*. Since every Catholic must be identified with a particular faith community, we expect that you have an *active* affiliation with our parish - either through *current* family membership or as a *registered* parishioner. If any changes occur with your address, phone #, Presider or wedding date, please notify our Parish Office *immediately* at 248-5993.

### **Marriage Preparation Personnel:**

Deacon Tom Cleary - 223-4310

Fr. Peter Clifford - Pastor - 248-5993 x 15

Barbara Hesenius - Pastoral Associate - 248-5993 x 12

Deacon Dan and Sheila Kinsky - Pre-Cana Leaders - 223 - 9395

Lynn and Vi Tates - Wedding Coordinators - 223-4426

Amy Voll – Pastoral Associate for Worship - 248-5993 x 13

### **What is Matrimony?**

In the Roman Catholic tradition, marriage refers to the Sacrament named Matrimony. A *sacramental* marriage means *both* are baptized Christians and at least one is Catholic. A *valid*, but *not* sacramental, marriage occurs when only *one* person is baptized.

Matrimony establishes a **covenant between the couple and God** as the couple *freely* pledges these 3 vows: *\*Lifelong permanence until death \*Exclusive faithfulness to each other \*Openness to life* (i.e., bearing children, providing for their good, raising them with Catholic faith.) The exchange of vows creates the marital covenant and is a *sign of God's covenant of love* towards all people. Your spousal love reflects Christ's spousal love for His Bride, the Church. The priest or deacon, families, attendants and assembled gathering of friends are *witnesses* of your love covenant to each other made in the Presence of God.

### **PRAYER FOR ENGAGED COUPLES**

Lord God,  
Source of all love,  
Your Providence has brought us together.  
As we prepare for our marriage  
we pray and ask for Your grace,  
that, strengthened by Your blessing,  
we may grow in respect for one another  
and cherish each other with a sincere love.  
May the God of love and peace  
abide in us, guide our steps,  
and confirm our hearts in Divine love,  
now and for ever.  
We pray this prayer through Christ, our Lord, Amen.

## **SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS**

*Initial Meeting with Pastoral Associate:* Get acquainted; re-confirm date and Presider; register in the parish; complete the Diocesan PRENUPTIAL INVESTIGATION FORM; take the "F.O.C.C.U.S." INVENTORY; receive all other necessary planning materials.

*Second Meeting:* Begin discussing results of FOCCUS INVENTORY.

*Third Meeting:* Finish discussing FOCCUS. Receive "FOCCUS FOR THE FUTURE".

*Fourth Meeting:* Discuss "FOCCUS FOR THE FUTURE" and any other pending issues.

*Music Coordinator:* Contact Amy Voll for planning the music/vocalists/instruments.

*Wedding Coordinator:* Contact Vi Tates for planning wedding rehearsal & wedding day.

*Retreat Coordinator:* Contact the Kinskys to register for the Pre-Cana session.

*Presider:* Schedule a meeting at least **2 months** before wedding to discuss the liturgy.

### **Baptismal Information**

Call the Church where you were baptized as soon as possible and request a **new copy** of your Baptismal certificate. Have it sent to Pastoral Associate Barbara Hesenius. (If you do not know the Church's address or phone #, we have a National Church Directory in our parish office to assist you.)

### **CHOOSING THE CEREMONY: NUPTIAL SERVICE OR NUPTIAL MASS?**

Weddings are celebrated on Friday evenings or Saturdays at 10:00, 12:00 or 2:00. The question of whether to have a *Nuptial Service* or *Nuptial Mass* will be asked at the initial interview. Your decision should be made in light of the following criteria:

\*personal faith commitment to the Catholic Church      \*regular Mass attendance  
\*Presider's availability      \*inter-denominational families      \*your spiritual needs

If you have a relative or friend who is a priest or deacon whom you would like to preside at your marriage, mention this at the time of your initial interview. It is preferable to have a Presider who is known to you and your family. If your fiancé is of another faith and would like to have a minister or rabbi take part in the ceremony, then please mention this at the time of your initial interview.

## **PLANNING THE CEREMONY**

You will receive your planning book called "*Together For Life*" at your initial interview. Meet with your Presider at least 2 months before your wedding to review your decisions. We want your celebration to reflect your choices of prayers, readings and other special participations. Some ways in which family members and friends may participate are

\*Proclaiming the Scripture readings

\*Reading the Prayers of the Faithful

\*Bringing up the gifts

\*Serving as Ministers of Communion

Please choose experienced persons to serve - as these ministries presume some prior training or knowledge in order to be most effective and reverent.

### **Music**

Once your date is scheduled contact our Pastoral Associate for Worship, Amy Voll, who will assist you in planning appropriate music. There are some restrictions on the music selections that may be used at a Catholic wedding. Talk this over with Amy. As you plan your music, think of the following considerations: Does this music fit the context of this sacred, liturgical celebration? Is the music technically and esthetically good? Will it help the assembly to pray?

### **Cantor/Musicians**

We expect the use of a liturgical Cantor at weddings and have several excellent parish Cantors available. You will consult with Amy Voll in making this decision. If you choose to provide a vocalist, s/he needs to be *trained* in the Catholic Liturgy and *skilled* in leading the assembly in song. Ideally, you will plan some music in which the assembly can sing so that all can praise God and pray together for you in music. Using only instrumental music or only a soloist is discouraged at Catholic weddings. Using recorded music is not permitted. Consult your Diocesan Wedding Music Guidelines for detailed information. \*\*\*Amy Voll will also provide you the information about obtaining any additional musicians or instrumentalists.

### **Flowers & Aisle Runner**

Flowers may be left in Church or taken to your reception. Let the Wedding Coordinators, either Lynn or Vi Tates, know ahead of time what your plan is. Be sure to let your florist know where you want them placed in the sanctuary. No flowers will be placed on the altar table or strewn on the floor. An aisle runner will *not* be used, for our carpet insures cleanliness for the gowns and also helps to prevent any slipping or falling from occurring.

## Offerings

**Please bring to the Rehearsal a check made out to St. John of Rochester for \$350.00.**

This amount covers the fees for the Church, Wedding Coordinator, parish Cantor and parish Organist.

If using a non-parish Cantor, an extra rehearsal with an extra fee for the parish Organist is expected. If other additional musicians are desired, then discuss this with Amy Voll.

## Photography

The enclosed Guideline handout is to be given to your photographer.

Our church is beautiful and we want your celebration to be beautiful also. Instruct your photographer to remain on the sidelines and in no way to obstruct your ceremony.

You may remain in Church for photos after your celebration. If your wedding is scheduled for Saturday afternoon, please keep in mind that all photography must be concluded by 4:00 p.m.

## Marriage License

A license must be obtained *at least 24 hours* before the ceremony. You may go to any New York town/city/village Clerk's Office to obtain a license. **Bring the marriage license to the rehearsal.** Your two witnesses will then sign the papers. The Presider will sign the license on your wedding day. Our parish office secretary will send in the papers.

## Rehearsal

Our Wedding Coordinators, Lynn and Vi Bates, are responsible for the overall rehearsal planning with you. Contact either one soon after you have confirmed your wedding date with the parish. Your rehearsal will be planned for one or two days before your wedding and will be scheduled at the initial interview with the Pastoral Associate.

The rehearsal will last about 60 minutes. If you have carefully thought out how you want your wedding to proceed, the rehearsal should run smoothly. **Please bring the final outline of your liturgy, the marriage license and ALL fees to the rehearsal.**

*All* members of the wedding party should be present. *All* readers will practice their readings on the microphone at this time. It is advisable *not* to invite additional guests to the rehearsal. There will be no consumption of *any* alcoholic beverage on Church property at the rehearsal or wedding. There will be no rice, flower petals or any other items strewn either inside or outside the Church.

## **Reception**

No staff member presumes to attend the reception unless formally invited, so if you wish someone to attend, please invite him/her well in advance of the wedding date.

## **Spiritual Preparation**

Celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation is an important way to *spiritually prepare* for your new married life together. Regular time is Saturday from 4:00 – 4:45 p.m. in the Adoration Chapel, or anytime by appointment.

## **In Conclusion**

These months of preparation for your marriage will be busy and exciting! While your engagement, showers, rehearsal, reception and honeymoon are all significant parts of the celebration of your marriage, *the Marriage Ceremony is the center of your Christian celebration*. Please discuss appropriate *attire* and *etiquette* during the Ceremony with your wedding party. The prayers, Scripture readings, Nuptial vows, giving and receiving of rings, music and Nuptial Blessing are all expressions of your Christian faith in God and in each other. They testify to your confident belief that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit will strengthen and sustain your married love if you will remain open to Their Presence and Grace in your lives. May these days of preparation bring many blessings!

## **After the Ceremony**

After having made the decision to be married in the Catholic Church, don't forget to *register* as a newly-wed couple. This may mean the simple change of name and address if you are continuing to worship at St. John of Rochester, or to fill-out a new registration form if you are relocating here from another parish.

We want to be a spiritual and social presence in your lives as a married couple. We hope you will be an *active* couple in our parish by volunteering and attending parish activities and spiritual enrichment opportunities. When you decide to start a family, call the parish office to register for our Baptismal Preparation session, and to receive the support and information you will need as a growing family here at SJR.

**CONGRATULATIONS AND BLESSINGS TO YOU!**

## Wedding Guidelines for Photographers

\*Couples being married at *St. John of Rochester* ask their photographer to respect the sacredness of this Church and the holiness of the commitment they are celebrating. Therefore, the photographer is expected to abide by the following guidelines and do nothing that will distract from the ceremony itself:

\*Photos may be taken in the center aisle before Mass begins; and from the choir area, front side aisles or back Narthex during Mass.

\*A video camera may be set up in the Narthex or front side aisles and may run throughout the ceremony, provided it is not moved and the photographer does not move about in a distracting way.

\*Be sure that the placement of your equipment does not obstruct the flow of traffic in the side aisle at Communion time.

\*To keep the focus on the Mass, the Wedding Ceremony and the Bride and Groom, no photos may be taken from anywhere in the sanctuary during the ceremony. The sanctuary is the area above the bottom altar step.

\*No *flash* photos may be taken during the homily, the Eucharistic Prayer, the Consecration or at Communion.

\*Upon arrival at the Church, the photographer should meet the Wedding Coordinator (if unavailable, seek out the presiding priest or deacon) and acknowledge that they are familiar with these guidelines. You may provide us with a business card, if you wish.

\*If a photographer does not respect these guidelines, s/he will not be welcome to photograph any other wedding at *St. John of Rochester*.

\*All photography must be completed no later than 4:00 p.m. on Saturdays.