

Dear Friends,

Congratulations on your engagement! Matrimony is a most important and sacred commitment. As you prepare for your wedding celebration and married life together, we offer the following preparation and guidelines.

Certainly you want your wedding ceremony to symbolize the complete giving of yourselves to one another as wife and husband. Your personal love and faith in Jesus Christ is publicly proclaimed in the presence of God and the Christian Community.

Fr. Robert Schrader
Pastor

b. There MUST BE REVERENCE in all areas of the church AT ALL TIMES. We ask that you respect the dignity of the church.

c. We welcome you to return to the Sanctuary after the wedding service for photographs. However, we ask that you please remember that THE SANCTUARY IS NOT A SUBSTITUTE PHOTO GALLERY. Please act in a way that shows your respect for the Lord.

d. Many bridal couples are choosing to have their receiving lines at the reception hall rather than at the church. This would allow more time for picture taking after the ceremony. All photography and videotaping, however, MUST end ½ hour before the next service.

REHEARSALS

a. Rehearsals usually last approximately 30 minutes. All participants, including readers, must be present and, PLEASE, on time.

b. All FEES and OFFERINGS--along with the wedding license and any wedding Unity Candle set--should be brought to the rehearsal.

MISCELLANEOUS

a. The throwing of RICE, CONFETTI, BIRD SEED, BUBBLES, ROSE PETALS, ETC. is STRICTLY PROHIBITED due to our insurance coverage.

b. WE REGRET THAT WE MUST MENTION:
There is to be absolutely NO DRINKING OR DRUGS on church property, in church, or in cars at any time. If any member of the wedding party arrives for the ceremony in an intoxicated or impaired condition due to alcohol or drugs (prescription or otherwise), THE CEREMONY WILL NOT BE PERFORMED.

CHECKLIST FOR THE COUPLE TO BE MARRIED

- _____ Establish date and time with priest/deacon AND Rectory Office.
- _____ Obtain "Parish- or Diocesan-Based Marriage Preparation" ("Pre-Cana")/"Engaged Encounter"/"New Again"/"The Best of Both Worlds: Issues in Marriage" schedules and register for one of these programs.
- _____ Obtain a Marriage Preparation Certificate upon completion of one of these programs.
- _____ Obtain a newly issued Baptismal Certificate (Catholic parties only).
- _____ Contact our parish Wedding Coordinator.
- _____ Contact Organist/Musician(s).
- _____ Clear wedding music with Church Organist.
- _____ Make floral arrangements.
- _____ Arrange for Photographer/Videotaper, and tell them to see priest/deacon before wedding.
- _____ Complete and return Ceremony outline one month before wedding date (along with a *draft* of any Program for final approval).
- _____ Obtain a Marriage License from City/Town Hall.
- _____ Bring License, Offerings, Fees, Programs, and any Unity Candles to church on the night of the rehearsal.

Winton-Culver Catholic Community Marriage Guidelines



e. We ask that you please BE PROMPT for the rehearsal/ceremony. Being late is no longer looked upon as being fashionable, but rude.

f. Attendance at "Parish- or Diocesan-Based Marriage Preparation" ("Pre-Cana") is required of both parties. You will be given a schedule of places and times by the priest/deacon. "Engaged Encounter" is also an excellent way to prepare for your wedding. "New Again" and "The Best of Both Worlds: Issues in Marriage" are for couples where one or both parties have been married before. The Marriage Preparation Certificate you receive at the conclusion of whichever of the above you attend is then to be gotten to the rectory office within the month following the program.

g. A recently issued Baptismal Certificate is required of the Catholic party. The baptismal certificate needs to be dated within six months of your arranging for the wedding. To obtain this, please contact the church where you were baptized. This is the responsibility of the couple. Originals only: photocopies are not acceptable.

h. The outline of the wedding, including any special requests, should be prepared by one month prior to your wedding.

i. A New York State Marriage License must be obtained AT LEAST 24 HOURS BEFORE THE CEREMONY. The license must be obtained by the couple and is valid for 60 days after it is issued. The Marriage License is to be brought to the church at the time of the rehearsal. New York State Law will not allow a marriage to be celebrated without a New York State License.

j. A Mass may be celebrated at an ecumenical or interfaith marriage if both parties desire.

k. In order to provide a meaningful Mass/Service, the couple should select the appropriate Scripture readings, music, prayers and blessings in consultation with our parish's Wedding Coordinator.

MUSIC

a. The music for the ceremony should reflect your Christian values, enhance worship and inspire prayer. ALL MUSIC, SONGS AND HYMNS MUST BE APPROVED BY THE PARISH'S CHURCH ORGANIST.

- b. Musicians available for weddings at our 3 worship sites are:
1. Janet Andrychuk-Tedesco is available for most weddings as organist at St. Ambrose. She may be contacted at 865-8910.
 2. Dane Noble-Rosima is available for most weddings as organist at St. John the Evangelist. He may be contacted at 755-6829.
 3. Kola Owalabi is available for most weddings as organist at St. James. He may be contacted at 442-3066.

c. Cantors and other musicians should be discussed with the parish organist before contracting their services.

FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS

a. Flowers are the responsibility of the wedding couple. When there is more than one wedding on a weekend, couples may wish to share flowers and costs. Only candelabra approved by us at the Winton-Culver Catholic Community's three churches will be permitted in the sanctuary. During certain seasons of the year (Christmas, Easter, etc.), special floral arrangements may already be incorporated in the decoration of the sanctuary. Check with the priest/deacon performing your ceremony.

b. Flowers are not to be placed on the altar table, and any brought to the church are considered a gift to the church for the weekend. Thanks.

c. ALL pew decorations (ribbons, flowers, candles, etc.) are PROHIBITED. Do NOT attach ANYTHING to ANY pew by ANY means.

d. The white runner is not a necessary item for a wedding. Many times they are an inexpensive plastic that catches the heels on shoes.

Do not feel that you need purchase such a runner. If you do, though, the aisles are 90 ft. (St. Ambrose), 79 ft. (St. James), 100 ft. (St. John's).

OFFERINGS AND FEES

a. The Bishop of Rochester has established a standard FEE of \$75 for the celebration of a wedding in the diocese. This fee is retained by the parish. If a priest celebrates a Nuptial Mass as part of your wedding ceremony, he receives \$10 of this \$75 fee as a Mass stipend. Clergypersons who preside at your wedding and are not on the parish staff receive \$25 of this \$75 fee. Any supplemental OFFERING you may wish to give either to the church or to the clergyperson performing your ceremony is at your own personal discretion.

A local \$75.00 FEE covers the services of the parish Wedding Coordinator (who will meet with you prior to your wedding, run your rehearsal, and be present on your wedding day to address last-minute details and pick up afterwards).

One cheque IN THE AMOUNT OF \$150 and PAYABLE TO the church you are being married in covers both FEES above. Any additional OFFERINGS should be handled separately.

It is the responsibility of the couple being married to arrange the music fees and means of payment directly with all musicians and soloists over and beyond ALL fees described above.

b. All FEES and OFFERINGS should be brought to the church AT THE TIME OF THE REHEARSAL along with the Marriage License and any wedding Unity Candle set to be used.

PHOTOGRAPHERS AND VIDEO RECORDERS

a. All photographers/videotapers are to speak to the priest/deacon before the Mass/Service.

PREPARING FOR YOUR WEDDING CEREMONY

You are looking forward to your wedding day as one of the happiest days of your life and we pray that it will be. It is our desire to make our part of the day--the church ceremony--beautiful and reverent. To help you plan your own arrangements, we offer these guidelines. Most important of all, though, since Matrimony is a sacrament, you are encouraged to receive the Sacrament of Penance on the Saturday before your wedding in preparation.

PREPARING FOR THE WEDDING

a. It is important that either the bride or the groom be a registered parishioner of the Winton-Culver Catholic Community, unless permission is given by the pastor. If neither is a parishioner, permission will need to be obtained from the Winton-Culver pastor and from the pastor of the parish in which the bride or groom resides. The priest/deacon performing the ceremony should set the date and time of the ceremony and clear the date with the calendar in the parish office. The Bishop's guidelines require a 6-month preparation period prior to the wedding.

b. You are invited to have the Marriage Rite during the celebration of the Mass. If, however, you feel that due to circumstances a Mass is not desirable, a Wedding Ceremony without a Mass is also possible.

c. A relative or friend who is a priest or deacon is welcome to witness your vows. Please, coordinate the date and time of the celebration with both the celebrant and the pastor. The one who witnesses the vows usually fills out the paperwork, but if distance separates you making this difficult, please let us know.

d. Generally, weddings are celebrated on Saturdays at 12:00 Noon or 2:00 P.M. The spacing allows for adequate time for the celebration. Times available on other days (e.g., Friday evenings) depend upon the schedule of parish events and of the priest/deacon.