

CONGRATULATIONS!

With your family and friends, we look forward to your new married life. A priest will assist you in preparing to celebrate the **Sacrament of Matrimony**. He can answer any questions you have which are not answered in this leaflet. Make every effort to involve your family and friends in your preparation. May the Lord always be the source of joy now and throughout your married life!

Honest and wise preparation for the Sacrament of Marriage, which lasts till the death of one of the parties, should involve a reaffirmation of your Catholic faith by **participating at Sunday mass, making a good confession** on your own, and **using prayer** as a vital link between yourselves and God.

SCHEDULING

Fridays, 4:00-7:00PM except	<u>1st</u> Fridays (mass begins at 7:00)
Saturdays, 11:15 <u>or</u> 1:00 <u>or</u> 3:00	<u>4th</u> Saturday, only 3:00 Confessions begin at 4:00 (sharp)
Sundays,	<u>1st, 2nd and 3rd</u> Sunday, after 3:30 <u>4th & 5th</u> Sunday, after 2:30

Please arrive on time for your wedding rehearsal and celebration. There are many scheduled weekend events at our church, and we want to give you all the time you need. **Put someone who is not in the wedding party “in charge of the clock.”** It will take a tremendous load off your backs.

Rehearsal

Rehearsal is very essential to ensure a smooth and meaningful ceremony. The time of the rehearsal is arranged with the priest or deacon who will preside at your wedding. We ask all to **be conscientious about alerting everyone involved in the ceremony to arrive on time**. We allow only forty-five minutes for your rehearsal.

LITURGICAL (CEREMONY) PREPARATION

Presider

Regardless of which priest makes the initial arrangements, you may request any priest or deacon (including a visitor) to preside at your wedding, provided you do so **within a month of the initial meeting**.

Nuptial Mass or Nuptial ceremony

When two Catholics exchange marriage vows, the Sacrament of Matrimony is most properly celebrated within the context of a Nuptial Mass. However, you may choose to have a Marriage Ceremony. If the bride or groom is non-

Catholic, we do not recommend a Nuptial Mass, as we may only share Holy Communion (the body and blood of Christ) with Catholics.

Scripture Texts and Participation

Choose two scripture readings (Old Testament, New Testament) **and** **vow text** from the *Seton Marriage Booklet*. Involve your family/friends as readers with the help of the priest arranging your marriage. *Only Catholics may proclaim Scripture at a Nuptial Mass.*

CHURCH DECORUM We ask that you remind your guests that since the **church is a sacred space, no one should speak or act inappropriately**. Please make sure to give your photographer a copy of our half-sheet, ***Photographing the Sacrament of Marriage***. We expect the utmost professional behavior and no interference with the flow of the sacred ceremony, whatsoever.

Music

As soon as you schedule your marriage, contact the Parish Director of Sacred Music, **Lana Kollath, (914) 736-0372**, to choose sacred music. As you may know, only music which is *appropriate for church celebrations* is permitted. She is paid her fee for all marriages, *even if you arrange for a guest organist*.

FEE The parish wedding fee is **\$550**, (Church - \$250; Organist - \$150; Singer - \$150) which includes support of the church's ministries, the wedding sacristan, the organist, and a vocalist (optional). Bring the fee with the civil license to your rehearsal. (Each altar server {2} is usually left a \$10 tip before the day of the wedding.)

FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS If you choose to have floral arrangements, you are responsible to arrange for them. Generally, two pieces along the rear wall of the sanctuary are sufficient. We recommend **you use the containers which fit into our tall, elegant, brass flower vases**, which you can pick up the week of your wedding for the florist. For coordination purposes, we can give you the names of other brides being married the same day. The white runner for our aisle (42') is usually available from your florist.

SORRY! Since people have slipped, fallen and been injured on previous occasions, **we cannot allow any objects to be thrown or strewn (rose petals) anywhere on church property**. We hope you understand.

WEDDING COORDINATOR A trained parishioner will prepare the church for the wedding, assist you before and after the Mass/ceremony and take care of cleaning the church when you depart.