



St. Mary's and St. Matthew Marriage Preparation Booklet

We think this booklet will offer you answers to all the questions you have about getting married at St. Mary's or St. Matthew Churches.

Congratulations on your engagement!

We are delighted that you have chosen to celebrate your marriage at the St. Mary and St. Matthew cluster. There are two churches in this cluster, St. Mary's Church in Honeoye and St. Matthew Church in Livonia. We are here to assist you in your wedding preparation. The celebration of your love is a time to rejoice in the gift you share with one another.

In the Roman Catholic tradition, *marriage is a sacrament*. A sacrament is an outward sign of God's love. Your love for each other will make visible God's love for you. The Sacrament of Marriage is not just a religious ceremony on the day of your marriage. It is your life together. In the Sacrament of Marriage, we are asking God to be at the center of your relationship. The Sacrament of Marriage implies that you value the spiritual dimension of your life together.

Matrimony establishes a covenant between the couple and God as the couple freely pledges these three vows: *lifelong permanence until death, exclusive faithfulness to each other and openness to life (eg: openness to bearing children, providing for their good, raising them with the Catholic faith.)* The exchange of vows creates the marital covenant and is a *sign of God's covenant of love* towards all people. This powerful promise speaks to all assembled, of whom God is for us.

The priest or deacon, the families, attendants and the assembled gathering of friends are *witnesses* of your love covenant to each other made in the presence of God.

The following will help you as you make your plans:

Baptismal Information

Contact the Church where you were baptized and ask for a recently dated copy of your Baptismal certificate. Parishes are used to providing this information, and it is usually obtained by a simple phone call to the parish office. If you have a hard time finding your records, call the Diocese of Rochester, 585-328-3210 and they will assist you in locating your records.

FOCCUS

To help in the preparation process, you will be asked to complete a marital inventory called FOCCUS. This tool provides assistance in articulating values that are important in couple communication. The inventory will be administered in one session and the priest/deacon/pastoral associate will go over it with you in another session.

Pre-Cana (Marriage Preparation)

All couples preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage are required to participate in a pre-Cana session. The cost for marriage preparation (pre cana) is \$75. You have two options for marriage preparation:

Parish Sponsor Couple (engaged couple meets with a sponsor couple for four 1 ½ hour sessions in the sponsor couple's home) – contact Alice Miller Nation, 346-3815 or anation@dor.org to schedule sponsor couple.

Diocesan On line Pre-Cana (Engaged couples can view pre cana and respond to questions on line. They then bring completed answers to the priest or deacon to talk about their relationship in the context of the issues raised in the on line precana. To choose this option, talk to the priest or deacon to receive the necessary parish code. The online pre-cana can be accessed through the Diocese of Rochester's website: www.dor.org)

Choosing the Ceremony: Nuptial Service or Nuptial Mass?

Couples may plan to be married at either a Nuptial mass or a Nuptial Ceremony. Either celebration will be well planned by the couple, together with the priest or deacon who presides.

It is our hope that your wedding ceremony reflects the spirituality of your relationship. If the Eucharist is a significant part of your life, it follows that the nuptial Mass would be the appropriate context of your wedding ceremony. If the Mass is not part of the way you pray on a regular basis, we would encourage the Nuptial Ceremony. If your fiancé is not Roman Catholic, you might want to consider a Nuptial Ceremony to help your guests feel welcome and comfortable at your wedding. Please talk this over with the priest or deacon who is presiding at your wedding.

Weddings are scheduled on Saturdays at 10 a.m., noon or 2 p.m. If you are getting married at St. Mary's Church, weddings can be scheduled later on Saturdays. Please discuss this with the priest or deacon. Friday evening weddings and weddings at the regular weekend liturgy are possible as well.

If you wish to have a visiting priest officiate at your ceremony, you are welcome to do so. All other expectations would still be the same. The marriage preparation would still be done with Fr. John or Deacon John Hoffman. The bride and groom need to arrange for musicians and a cantor. At St. Matthew, Denise Germano is the wedding coordinator who will assist you at the rehearsal and on your wedding day.

If one of you is of another faith or denomination and would like to have a rabbi or minister participate in the ceremony, they would be most welcome. Please mention this at the time of your initial planning.

Preparing the liturgy for your wedding ceremony

At the time of your initial interview with the priest or deacon, you will receive the book, *Celebrating Marriage: Preparing the Roman Catholic Wedding Liturgy*, by Paul Covino. You can purchase this book for \$10. or borrow it from the parish to be returned before your wedding date. We very much want your celebration to reflect your choices of prayers, readings, and music. If you have chosen to have a nuptial ceremony rather than a Mass, there are additional options available to you regarding one of the readings. If you are interested in this option, Fr. John can explain this to you. You will have the opportunity to review your completed liturgy planning form with the priest or deacon and the wedding coordinator before your celebration.

Some of the ways in which family members and friends can participate in your wedding are:

- Proclaiming the Scripture readings as a lector
- Leading the Prayers of the Faithful
- Bringing up the gifts of bread and wine
- Serving as Eucharistic Ministers

Eucharistic Minister and Lector training can be held at the rehearsal.

Music

All music used before and during the liturgy must reflect the dignity of the occasion, intensify the Christian meaning of the liturgical service and enhance the sacredness of the liturgy. Any texts used before or during the liturgy must be consistent with the tradition of the Catholic Church. Music that merely recalls a sentimental or personal association might not be appropriate for the wedding liturgy, but more appropriate for the wedding reception.

Certain important parts of the liturgy should always be sung: the psalm, the gospel acclamation, and if you celebrate in the context of the Eucharist, the “Holy, Holy, Holy” the “Memorial Acclamation” and the “Great Amen” should be sung. We expect the use of a liturgical cantor and organist or pianist at weddings to lead these parts of the liturgy. You are welcome to have additional musicians for your celebration, (violin, harp, trumpet, etc.) At the Wedding Liturgy Planning workshop, you will be given a booklet that will assist you in planning music for your celebration. This can also be found on the St. Mary’s/St. Matthew website. Plan on reviewing your liturgy plans with the priest or deacon at the last meeting you schedule with him.

St. Mary’s and St. Matthew have organists and cantors who are available to play at weddings. The organist you choose can offer suggestions for a cantor. If you need more assistance, please contact the priest or deacon. Sometimes the bride and/or

groom have a friend or relative whom they would like to have sing a solo at their wedding. We will do our best to accommodate these requests.

Organists:

Steve Donohue	h: 585.346.6767 sdonohue2@frontiernet.net
Peggy Szczesniak	h:585.243.1259
Christine Lazarony	h:585.346.9847

St Matthew Folk Group

Meg Watkins	h: 585.346.5108
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Pianist:

Kerry McLaughlin	h: 585.346.0995	(summers)
Amy Sauter	h: 585.367.9743	
Michelle Maginn	h: 585.346.5166	

Violinist:

Ryan Nation	h: 585.346.0998
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Cantors:

Michael Capel	h: 585.243.5717
Dave Dussault	h: 585.346.3357
Marty Hughes	h: 585.704.9845
Meg Watkins	h: 585.346.5108

Flowers

1. In choosing a florist, please be aware of the church environment and the care it should be shown. Flowers may be left in church or taken with you after the ceremony. Let the wedding coordinator or the priest or deacon, know ahead of time what your plan is. Be sure to let your florist know where you want the flowers placed in the sanctuary. No flowers will be placed on the altar itself or strewn on the floor, nor should they block the view of the ambo or the presider's chair.
2. Aisle runners are not permitted. Both churches are carpeted and this policy prevents anyone from slipping and falling on runners.
3. The Wedding (Unity) Candle is not a part of the official marriage rite; therefore, it is optional in your ceremony. If you choose to use the Unity Candle at your ceremony, you will need to provide the Unity Candle and holder as well as the family candles and holders. The Unity Candles should be brought to the rehearsal.
4. Pew decorations are welcome, but please attach with ribbons or pipe cleaners. The non-residue adherents can also be used. Open candles are not permitted for pew decorations or elsewhere in the church.

Offerings

Please bring to the rehearsal a check made out to St. Matthew Church or St. Mary's Church for \$150. This covers the fee for the church. The wedding coordinator fee at St. Matthew is \$50. Please make this check out to your assigned wedding coordinator. Musician fees are to be negotiated by you with the individual musicians.

Photography

The guidelines for photographers handout is to be given to your photographer and/or videographer. You can find it at the end of this document.

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 before 3:30 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 secretary will send in the papers.

Rehearsal

At St. Matthew, the wedding coordinator, along with the priest will conduct the rehearsal. Contact Denise Germano (585 346 6209) as soon as you have confirmed your wedding date with the parish. She will assign a coordinator to your celebration. At St. Mary's, the priest or deacon will conduct the rehearsal. Your rehearsal will be planned for one or two days before your wedding and will be scheduled at the initial interview with the priest or deacon.

The rehearsal will last less than an hour. If you have carefully thought out the details of your wedding and communicated this to the wedding coordinator and/or the priest or deacon, the rehearsal will run smoothly. **Please bring the marriage license, all fees and if you have prepared a worship aid (program) and/or are using a Unity Candle to the rehearsal.**

All members of the wedding party should be present. All readers will practice their readings on the microphone at this time. Please do not invite any additional guests to the rehearsal. Alcohol consumption at the rehearsal or wedding is not permitted on church property. 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 rehearsal dinner or wedding reception unless formally invited. If you wish someone to attend, please invite them well in advance to the wedding date.

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 remain open to God's 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. Mary's or St. Matthew Church, 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. If you are blessed with children, call the parish to register for our baptismal preparation class, and to receive the support and information you will need as a growing family here at St. Mary's and St. Matthew cluster.

**St. Mary's and St. Matthew Cluster, Honeoye and Livonia, NY
Wedding Guidelines for Photographers/Videographers**

Couples being married at St. Mary's in Honeoye or St. Matthew in Livonia ask their photographer to respect the sacredness of this Church and the holiness of the commitment they are celebrating. Therefore, the photographer is asked 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 front side aisles or back, during Mass. At St. Mary's, photos may be taken from the choir loft.

At St. Mary's a video camera may be set up in the choir loft and run throughout the ceremony. Video may be set up in the front side aisles.

Be sure that the placement of your equipment does not obstruct the flow of traffic in the side aisle at Communion time if a Nuptial Mass is being celebrated.

To keep the focus on the wedding ceremony, no photos may be taken from anywhere in the sanctuary during the ceremony. The sanctuary is the area beyond the bottom step and includes the side altar areas.

No flash photos may be taken during the homily or during the Eucharistic Prayer, the consecration or communion of a Mass.

For a Saturday wedding, all photography must be completed by 3:30 p.m.

If a photographer does not respect these guidelines, he or she will not be welcome to photograph any other wedding at St. Mary's or St. Matthew Churches.