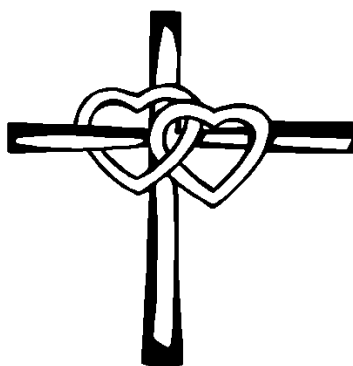


PREPARING
FOR
YOUR WEDDING



St. John the Baptist Parish

110 Lincoln Avenue
Haverhill, Massachusetts

Marriage is a sign of love: human and divine. By asking to be married at St. John the Baptist, you are asking the Church to witness your solemn exchange of vows along with your family and friends. It is your wedding, so both of you should participate in the planning of the wedding Mass or ceremony. Since it is a Sacrament you will confer upon each other, the Church has guidelines for this celebration.

With the advice of the priest, you will decide whether your marriage will take place within a Mass or as a ceremony. If your wedding is to be an ecumenical or interfaith ceremony, please know that your minister or rabbi is most welcome to participate in the service. Discuss this with the priest who is helping you.

Marriage Preparation:

The Archdiocese of Boston provides for a variety of marriage preparation programs for engaged couples. Couples preparing for marriage in the Church are required to participate in one of these programs. These sessions are conducted by teams of married couples and a priest and will explore various areas of married life: communication, sexuality, finances, spirituality, family life and the Church.

Documents You Will Need:

Baptized Catholics and all Christian parties will be requested to provide a recent copy of their baptismal certificate. Simply call the parish where you were baptized and they will send a copy directly to St. John's Parish. If a priest who is to preside at the wedding lives outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, he must obtain a Massachusetts marriage license and he should file for that license at least three, but no more than sixty days before the wedding.

Fees:

At the time of your wedding, the customary offering for the support of St. John the Baptist Parish is \$150. This gift helps defray the expenses of maintaining the church.

Music:

If you wish, the parish will provide an organist and soloist for your wedding. Please call:

Organist ~ Phillip Clayton
(978) 521-5052

Soloist ~ Peggy Welch
(978) 521-6910

If you have any special requests for music, please discuss these with the organist. Music used during a Catholic wedding is always chosen and performed according to the guidelines for the Archdiocese of Boston. Fees are negotiated directly with the musicians.

Flowers & Runners:

Arrange with your florist to have flowers in the church. If a white runner is to be used, please advise the florist that the center aisle at St. John's is 87 feet long.

Rehearsal:

Celeste McCusker will conduct the rehearsal and will be available on the day of your wedding. Again, fees are negotiated directly. Punctuality for both the rehearsal and the wedding is greatly appreciated since the church is often reserved for successive events.

Call Celeste at (978) 373-5879 as soon as possible so you can schedule your rehearsal date and time. Please advise us if you wish to use the church for pictures or a receiving line after the wedding. There may be other events taking place in the church that day.

Pictures:

Please ask your photographer and/or videographer to consult with the priest before the wedding.

Supervision of Children:

If younger children are to attend the rehearsal and/or the wedding, they must be supervised by an adult at all times. Liability for their behavior rests entirely upon their parents or another family member.

NO RICE, CONFETTI OR FLOWER PETALS, PLEASE.