

## **FIVE FRIENDLY REMINDERS FOR PROSPECTIVE BRIDES AND GROOMS**

As you are considering the celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage in the Catholic Church, here are five friendly reminders that will help *us* help *you*.

### **#1. PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH AT LEAST SIX-TO-EIGHT MONTHS PRIOR TO YOUR DESIRED DATE TO SCHEDULE YOUR WEDDING.**

We need the time to accomplish the required preparation steps in the process, and to prepare the necessary paperwork. This is especially true if you are getting married outside the Diocese of Rochester, since all paperwork needs to be sent to the parish of the wedding passing through the dioceses involved at least two months in advance.

### **#2. PLEASE DO NOT FINALIZE THE PLANS FOR YOUR WEDDING RECEPTION WITHOUT HAVING A DATE WITH THE CHURCH.**

We may not be able to accommodate your plans. The number of weddings at Blessed Sacrament, Saint Boniface and Saint Mary's churches, the number of available priests and deacons, and our Saturday afternoon commitments in these parishes all conspire to limit weddings to Saturdays at 11:30 AM and 2:30 PM at Blessed Sacrament, and at 1:00 PM at Saint Boniface and/or Saint Mary's.

### **#3. PLEASE MAKE YOUR PREPARATION FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE A PRIORITY IN YOUR SCHEDULE.**

Engaged couples are very busy with some combination of work, school, social commitments, sports schedules, buying and furnishing a home, and, of course, wedding preparations. Still you are asking for a sacrament of the Church, and so adequate time and attention need to be given to prepare for it.

### **#4. PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THE CHURCH DOES NOT REQUIRE YOU TO SPEND OODLES OF MONEY ON A WEDDING.**

All the Church requires is that Catholics be baptized (Confirmation is also preferred), that you have never been married before, that you are well-prepared for the Sacrament and ready for the marital commitment, and that you are at your best for this event. Everything else that goes along with weddings these days is the expectation of the wedding industry and any need you might have to meet or exceed those expectations.

### **#5. REMEMBER ALSO THAT ALL PREPARATIONS ARE DONE WITH THE BRIDE AND GROOM DIRECTLY, not through a parent, relative or wedding planner.**

*Hope this Helps!*

**BLESSED SACRAMENT + SAINT BONIFACE + SAINT MARY'S**  
**The Southeast Rochester Catholic Community**

[www.southeastrochestercatholics.org](http://www.southeastrochestercatholics.org)

**585-271-7240**

**Memo to:** Engaged Couples  
**From:** Father John F. Loncle, Pastor

Congratulations on your engagement to be married! Our prayers and best wishes will be with you in the days ahead. I hope your plans are going along smoothly. I also hope this packet will be helpful to you in your preparation. Enclosed you will find:

- a marriage preparation checklist
- wedding guidelines for 2018
- a memo to your photographer and/or videographer
- a flyer for Pre- Cana and for a wedding planning workshop
- a copy of the wedding vows and some questions for the husband- and wife-to-be

***Please read through this material carefully***, and if you have any questions, please contact me at [fr.john.loncle@dor.org](mailto:fr.john.loncle@dor.org) or Father Matthew Jones at [fr.matthew.jones@dor.org](mailto:fr.matthew.jones@dor.org). We both can be reached by telephone at the parish office, 585-271-7240.

I ask you to place the enclosed copy of the wedding vows prominently in your “space.” I do this for two reasons: I want them to serve as a reminder to you that you are already beginning to live these vows and will live them every day of your lives; plus I hope you will have them memorized in time for the ceremony!

**Please make preparation for the Sacrament of Marriage a priority in your schedule**, despite all the things you are juggling. Keep the enclosed checklist handy, because it tells you what you need to take responsibility for as you prepare for the celebration of marriage in the Church. We stand ready to help you every step of the way.

As you continue your preparations for marriage, “may the God of love and peace abide in you, guide your steps, and confirm your hearts in his love, now and for ever. Amen.”

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The Southeast Rochester Catholic Community

**2018 MARRIAGE PREPARATION LIST**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Meet with one of the parish priests to set a date and begin paperwork.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Register for a marriage preparation program, sometimes known as "Pre-Cana."  
(See 2018 Wedding Guidelines, page 2, for options)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Schedule Fully Engaged Inventory. Follow-up meetings will be scheduled when the inventory has been completed and the profile received. (See 2018 Wedding Guidelines, page 2)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Sign up for the Wedding Ceremony Planning Workshop (see 2018 Wedding Guidelines, page 3, and enclosed registration form)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Obtain proof of baptism. For Catholics, we need a **NEWLY-ISSUED BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE** with notations from the parish in which you were baptized. Please contact the parish of your baptism six months prior to your wedding date, and give them your name and date of birth. They will send you a certificate. The one that your parent received and lovingly kept at the time of your baptism will not do. For other Christians, we need you to provide a photocopy of your original certificate or a letter from the church where you were baptized, indicating place and date of your baptism.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Two months prior to your wedding date, make payment of offering to the church and the fees related to your wedding preparation and ceremony (please make check payable to the church in which you are being married; see 2018 Wedding Guidelines, page 6).
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Three months prior to your wedding, please contact the parish organist to arrange music (see 2018 Wedding Guidelines, page 4).
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Two to three months prior to your wedding, schedule a meeting with the priest or deacon preparing you to set a time for your wedding rehearsal (if this has not already been done), to discuss the wedding liturgy, and to finish the required paperwork. Bring to this meeting: your baptismal certificate/proof of baptism and the certificate from your marriage preparation program
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Obtain a New York State Marriage License from a city or town clerk's office, and bring it with you to the rehearsal. (see 2018 Wedding Guidelines, page 6)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Two weeks before the wedding rehearsal, submit the completed Wedding Liturgy Planning Form to the parish office at 259 Rutgers Street, Rochester NY 14607.

**BLESSED SACRAMENT + SAINT BONIFACE + SAINT MARY'S**

The Southeast Rochester Catholic Community  
259 Rutgers Street  
Rochester NY 14607  
(585) 271-7240

**2018 WEDDING GUIDELINES**

*Please read these guidelines  
carefully and completely,  
and keep them handy  
throughout the entire  
preparation period!*

Congratulations on your upcoming marriage! We are delighted that you have chosen to celebrate your marriage at Church of the Blessed Sacrament, Saint Boniface Church, or Saint Mary's Church. We look forward to helping you prepare for this very special day.

In the Roman Catholic tradition, marriage is a sacrament. The bride and groom enter into their marriage covenant in the presence of God and of the community of faith, and become a holy sign of Christ's love for the Church and of God's faithful love for the world.

For a marriage to be sacramental, two baptized persons, at least one being Catholic,

- freely enter into a vowed commitment of respect, reverence and love
- make this promise for a lifetime
- promise fidelity to each other
- desire that their love be blessed with children and make the commitment to pass on the gift of faith to their children.

Thus, the sacrament of marriage becomes a way of life, not just the ceremony on your wedding day. God in Christ is the center of your relationship "in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health," because where love is, God is (see 1 John 4:15).

The Church also is ready and willing to witness interfaith marriages, in which a Catholic and a person of another faith tradition (Judaism, Hindu, and so on) choose to marry. God's love is manifest in human love in many ways.

We hope the following guidelines will help you as you make your wedding plans.

## *Scheduling Your Wedding Ceremony*

We can schedule the wedding ceremony over the phone or by email, and confirm it at the first meeting with the engaged couple. Except during Lent, when we prefer not to celebrate weddings, a wedding may be scheduled on Saturdays only in three possible time slots:

Blessed Sacrament Church	11:30 AM and 2:30 PM
Saint Boniface Church	1:00 PM
Saint Mary's Church	1:00 PM

We regret that we cannot schedule weddings on other days of the week.

We do not schedule weddings through an intermediary (for example, one of the parents of the bride or the groom, or a wedding planner), but with each couple directly.

## *Marriage Preparation*

1) The Diocese of Rochester requires that every couple to be married participate in some formal **program of marriage preparation**. These programs are designed to help couples deepen their understanding of the essential human and Christian aspects of the marriage covenant. Couples may fulfill these requirements by participation in either:

- Parish-based Marriage Preparation Program ("Pre-Cana"): offered in a variety of formats and times in various locations throughout the Rochester area. ***Our parishes will offer Pre-Cana on Saturday, March 3, 2018 at Blessed Sacrament.*** The current schedule of parish-based Pre-Cana marriage preparation in other parishes can be found on the website of the Diocese of Rochester: [www.dor.org/Pre-Cana](http://www.dor.org/Pre-Cana).

or

- Engaged Encounter: a weekend retreat with other couples discussing topics related to marriage. For more info call **1-877-NYS-WWME** or [www.wwme-wny.org](http://www.wwme-wny.org).

2) Our parishes and the Diocese also expect that every couple take the **Fully Engaged Inventory**, a tool that facilitates couple communication and mutual understanding on a variety of topics related to marriage. It requires an initial 40- to 60-minute online session to take the Inventory, and then one or more follow-up meetings once a profile is generated based on your responses. The inventory is done online (we provide with the link and log-in code), and the follow-up meetings are in person.

3) Certain paperwork is required by the Diocese as well, and will be completed in due course in the preparation process.

### *For Your Invitations*

The official names and addresses of our churches are:

**Church of the Blessed Sacrament**  
**534 Oxford Street**  
**Rochester, New York 14607**

**Saint Boniface Church**  
**330 Gregory Street**  
**Rochester, New York 14620**

**Saint Mary's Church**  
**15 St. Mary's Place**  
**Rochester, New York 14607**

### *Wedding Ceremony Workshop*

If you are in town, we ask you to participate in a wedding ceremony planning workshop, since we want you to take an active role in the preparation of your celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage. The workshop discusses the various components of the wedding liturgy and the options available to you. Workshops are planned for **Monday, November 27, 2018 at 7 PM, and Saturday, March 24, 2018 at 1 PM.**

### *Planning Your Ceremony*

The wedding ceremony is celebrated either within Mass or outside Mass. Either form of the celebration will be well-planned by the couple, together with the priest or deacon who presides.

The wedding ceremony reflects the spirituality of your relationship. If the Sunday Eucharist is a significant part of your life, it follows that the Rite of Marriage during Mass would be the appropriate context for your wedding ceremony. If the Mass is not part of the way you pray or if there are circumstances in the religious life of your families that would make Mass inappropriate, the Rite of Marriage Outside Mass may be the way to go. Please talk this over with the priest or deacon who is presiding at your wedding.

You are welcome to have **another priest or deacon**, who may be a relative or personal or family friend, officiate at your ceremony. All the expectations of these guidelines remain the same, and marriage preparation process is still arranged through Father Loncle or Father Jones.

If one of you is of another faith tradition (that is, other than Christian) and you would like to have a minister, rabbi, or imam of your acquaintance be a part of the ceremony, he/she would be most welcome. Please mention this in the early stages of planning, so appropriate arrangements can be made.

The parish will provide you with a **planning book** to help you in the preparation of your wedding ceremony. That way the choices of readings, music and prayers will reflect the meaning of your wedding day and commitment for you.

Within the liturgy, there are several ways for your family members and/or friends to participate:

- proclaiming the scripture readings
- leading the universal prayer / prayers of the faithful
- bringing the gifts of bread and wine to the altar
- serving as extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion

Brief lector and communion ministry training can be held at the rehearsal or before the ceremony.

### *Music*

Two organists serve our three churches. We will let you know which one is scheduled for your wedding, and you should be in touch with them three months ahead of your wedding to plan the music. Our organists are:

Chelsea Barton	585-271-7240	<a href="mailto:chelsea.barton@dor.org">chelsea.barton@dor.org</a>
Ivan Bosnar	585-642-3998	<a href="mailto:ivan.bosnar@gmail.com">ivan.bosnar@gmail.com</a>

Each will assist you in selecting appropriate music for your wedding ceremony. By parish policy, our organists play for all weddings; however, additional musicians may be added, if you choose to have them. The organist's fee is included in the amount you will pay the church, and their services include a planning meeting with you, practice time and the actual ceremony.

Our organist will arrange for a cantor at your wedding who will assist the congregation in participating in the music you select, along with the appropriate Mass parts. The cantor's fee is also included in the amount you will pay to the church.

We reserve the right to assess the appropriateness of music selections for a wedding in the Catholic Church.

### *Flowers*

You are welcome to purchase flowers to decorate the church for your wedding. We are grateful if they are left in the church afterwards, but of course you may take them with you to the reception if you choose. Please use the following guidelines in your decisions about flowers:

- our churches do not require a lot of additional decoration: noble simplicity is the key
- flowers may not be placed on the central altar, or in the sanctuary in a way that would restrict movement of the bride and groom and liturgical ministers, or block the sight line of the congregation
- pew decorations are permitted, but **no adhesives may be used** in attaching decorations to pews or other surfaces. Please remove these after the ceremony is over.

Weddings are celebrated in the context of ongoing parish life. Therefore the normal environmental decorations of the parish cannot be removed to accommodate wedding color schemes, etc. Wedding couples should be especially mindful of this when selecting a wedding date that falls within the seasons of Advent, Christmas and Easter.

Please let your florist know the church is available for decoration one hour before the scheduled time of your wedding, since there may be another service ahead of or after your wedding.

### *Aisle Runner*

The use of an aisle runner (sometimes known as a “crash”) is not permitted in our churches for safety reasons.

### *Candles*

In recent years some couples have chosen to use a "unity candle," “unity sand,” or other “symbols” as part of their celebration. These are not an official part of the ritual of the Church, and because of their ambiguous meaning, their use is discouraged. The wedding liturgy already contains many symbols of unity: the involvement of the couple in the planning of the ceremony, the vows and the exchange of rings, the involvement of family members and friends in the various liturgical roles of the ceremony, and, when it is celebrated, the Eucharist itself.

Apart from the altar candles, lit candles or candelabras are not permitted for safety reasons.

### *Photography / Videography*

The celebration of a wedding is an act of prayer. While we allow couples the **privilege** of a photographer and/or videographer, we want to preserve a prayerful atmosphere throughout the service. Please provide your photographer and/or videographer with the enclosed policies for weddings at our churches.

You may remain in church for photographs for up to an hour after your ceremony is concluded. Yet, a late start may curtail the available time.



## *Programs*

Some couples choose to provide a program for the congregation so that they can more easily follow the ceremony and participate in it. You are welcome to do this, but please check with the presiding priest or deacon to be sure you are providing a complete and helpful order of service. A guide will be provided to you along with the wedding ceremony planning book.

Our wedding coordinator will ask your groomsmen/ushers to collect the programs from the pews when the ceremony is over and the congregation has left.

## *Offerings and Fees*

The offering for the use of the church is \$150.00, an amount set by the Diocese. We also ask that you pay for five services provided by the church: the organist's fee, a fee for a wedding coordinator to assist you at your rehearsal and the wedding day itself, a fee for the cantor, the Fully Engaged Inventory processing fee, and the planning workbook.

Therefore, a check **in the total amount of \$675.00** should be made payable to the church in which you are being married. This is due two months prior to your wedding date.

Please note that the priest or deacon who presides at your ceremony receives none of this fee, so at your discretion a gift to him may be appropriate.

Also, in appreciation to the wedding coordinator, organist, and/or cantor for exceptional service, gratuities may be given to them, again at your discretion.

Fees for a marriage preparation program/Pre-Cana and for other musicians are arranged separately.

## *Marriage License*

It is your responsibility to obtain a New York State marriage license from a city or town clerk's office. Both of you will need to appear in person. Please note the marriage licenses are not valid until 24 hours after they are issued, but are valid for 60 days. So we highly recommend the license be obtained a few weeks prior to the wedding. **Please bring it with you to the wedding rehearsal.**

## *Rehearsal*

Wedding rehearsals are usually scheduled at 5:00 PM or 6:00 PM the evening before the wedding. We ask you to come to this rehearsal with your plans already in place and with the people who will be taking an active part in your wedding ceremony. Ordinarily the rehearsal will last about 45 minutes.

**Please be on time** for your rehearsal since there may be another rehearsal on the same evening or another scheduled parish event. If you are late for your rehearsal, the wedding coordinator has the right to determine the length of your rehearsal.

Please bring to the rehearsal your marriage license, and any wedding programs or any other items that may be needed at your wedding.

***We Regret to Inform You...***

- 1) While a professional wedding planner or consultant may prove helpful to you in arranging the details of your wedding day which are not directly related to the liturgical celebration, his/her responsibilities cease at the church's door and begin again at your reception.
- 2) The practice of throwing confetti, bird seed, rice, or flower petals inside or outside the church is not permitted. Neither is the use of balloons, soap bubbles, butterflies, or any similar practice permitted inside or outside the church.
- 3) The use of alcohol or drugs is strictly forbidden in the church or anywhere on the grounds of the parish campus. Should the bride and groom be under the influence of alcohol or drugs, it can affect your ability to enter into marriage under civil and Church law. We highly recommend you refrain from the consumption of such prior to your consent and definitely while on the grounds of the parish campus. If members of your wedding party, family or guests are under the influence, we reserve the right to make a judgment about whether they will remain in church during the ceremony.

# PRE-CANA MARRIAGE PREPARATION PROGRAM

*Saturday, March 3, 2018  
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM*

*Blessed Sacrament School Auditorium*

*\$50.00 per couple  
(lunch included)*

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## WEDDING CEREMONY PLANNING WORKSHOP

Our parishes ask that you participate in a workshop to help you plan your wedding ceremony, addressing everything from flowers to music to readings. Please pre-register so we can have enough materials on hand.

Blessed Sacrament School

Monday, November 27, 2017, 7:00 PM  
Saturday, March 24, 2018, 1:00-3:00 PM

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### Registration Form

Couple's Names \_\_\_\_\_

Phone or Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ We want to register for Pre-Cana on **March 3, 2018**

\_\_\_\_\_ We want to register for the Wedding Planning Workshop (circle one):

**November 27**      **March 24**

**BLESSED SACRAMENT + SAINT BONIFACE + SAINT MARY'S**  
The Southeast Rochester Catholic Community  
259 Rutgers Street, Rochester NY 14607  
585-271-7240

## **MEMO TO ALL WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHERS AND VIDEOGRAPHERS**

We believe weddings are first and foremost events of prayer and worship. While we recognize that this is an important day in the life of each couple, and therefore worthy of being recorded in photographs and/or on video, **we are also deeply concerned to preserve the prayerful atmosphere of this religious service.** We hope that we will have your cooperation in that.

Toward that end, we ask you to observe these simple rules:

- 1) Photographers and videographers are not permitted in the sanctuary, or in the cross front aisle, at any time during the ceremony.
- 2) Please confine your movements in the center aisle to the following:
  - Blessed Sacrament: 12 rows back from the sanctuary steps
  - Saint Boniface: 8 rows back from the sanctuary steps
  - Saint Mary's: 6 rows back from the sanctuary steps
- 3) Please **do not stop** the bridal procession in order to take pictures of individual party members once it has begun, and **do not obstruct** the aisle by standing in it to take pictures.
- 4) Flash photographs are **not** to be taken during the readings from scripture, the homily or the Eucharistic Prayer and Holy Communion. You are permitted to take pictures from the choir loft throughout the ceremony, as long as you consult with the musicians ahead of the ceremony and do not interfere with their ministry.
- 5) Flash pictures are permitted only during the processional and recessional. Light bars or any additional lighting or equipment for the sake of picture-taking are not permitted at any time during the wedding ceremony.
- 6) If you have need of an extension cord, it must be covered and secured to the floor with duct tape wherever it crosses aisles; this, of course, for safety reasons.
- 7) You are welcome to take pictures of the couple, their wedding party and families in the church for one hour after the ceremony, provided the ceremony began and proceeded on time. However, you are **not** to move or remove any furniture in the sanctuary.
- 8) To comply with fire regulations, please do not place equipment in the doorways or aisles at any time.
- 9) Please follow the directions of the wedding coordinator at all times.

***Groom:***

I, (your name), take you, (your fiancée's name), to be my wife.  
I promise to be faithful to you  
in good times and in bad,  
in sickness and in health.  
to love you and honor you  
all the days of my life.

*(As you place the ring on your fiancée's finger, say):*

(Your fiancée's name), receive this ring  
as a sign of my love and fidelity,  
in the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

***Bride:***

I, (your name), take you, (your fiancé's name), to be my husband.  
I promise to be faithful to you  
in good times and in bad,  
in sickness and in health.  
to love you and honor you  
all the days of my life.

*(As you place the ring on your fiancé's finger, say):*

(Your fiancé's name), receive this ring  
as a sign of my love and fidelity,  
in the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

### **Questions for the Husband-to-be:**

Am I ready to be married? What are the specific indicators of my readiness?

Is this the right person for me to marry? Do I have any doubts or hesitations? What are the specific factors that help me know this?

Is my love for and commitment to my fiancée strong enough for a lifetime?

I have come to the Church asking for the sacrament of marriage. What are the concrete indications that God is present in our relationship?

### **Questions for the Wife-to-be:**

Am I ready to be married? What are the specific indicators of my readiness?

Is this the right person for me to marry? Do I have any doubts or hesitations? What are the specific factors that help me to know this?

Is my love for and commitment to my fiancé strong enough for a lifetime?

I have come to the Church asking for the sacrament of marriage. What are the concrete indications that God is present in our relationship?