



## GUIDELINES FOR MARRIAGE CELEBRATIONS 2018 *Version 7.5.18*

### **EXHORATION BEFORE MARRIAGE**

My Brother and Sister: You have begun preparing to enter upon a union, which is most sacred and most serious. It is most sacred because it was established by God Himself. By it, he gave to man a share in the greatest work of creation, the work of continuation of the human race. And in this way, he sanctified human love and enabled man and woman to help each other live as children of God, by sharing a common life under his fatherly care.

Because God himself is thus its author, marriage is of its very nature a holy institution, requiring of those who enter into it a complete and unreserved giving of self. But Christ our Lord added to the holiness of marriage an even deeper meaning and a higher beauty. He referred to the love of marriage to describe his own love for His Church, that is, for the people of God whom he redeemed by his own blood. And so, he gave to Christians a new vision of what married life ought to be, a life of self-sacrificing love like his own. It is for this reason that His apostle, St. Paul, clearly states that marriage is now and for all time to be considered a great mystery, intimately bound up with the supernatural union of Christ and the Church, which union is also to be its pattern.

This union, then, is most serious, because it will bind you together for life in a relationship so close and so intimate, that it will profoundly influence your whole future. That future, with its hopes and disappointments, its successes and its failures, its pleasures and its pains, its joys and its sorrows, is hidden from your eyes. You know that these elements are mingled in every life and are to be expected in your own. And so not knowing what is before you, you take each other for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health, until death.

Truly then, these words are most serious. It is a beautiful tribute to your undoubted faith in each other, that recognizing their full import, you are, nevertheless, so willing and ready to pronounce them. And because these words involve such solemn obligations, it is most fitting that you rest the security of our wedded life upon the great principle of self-sacrifice. And so, you begin your married life by the voluntary and complete surrender of your individual lives in the interest of that deeper and wider life which you are to have in common. Henceforth you will belong entirely to each other; you will be one in mind, one in heart and one in affections. And whatever sacrifices you may hereafter be required to make to preserve this mutual life, always make them generously. Sacrifice is usually difficult and irksome. Only love can make it easy, and perfect love can make it a joy. We are willing to give in proportion as we love. And when love is perfect, the sacrifice is complete. God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, and the Son so loved us that He gave Himself for our salvation. "Greater love than this no man hath, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

No greater blessing can come to your married life than pure conjugal love, loyal and true to the end. May, then, this love with which you join your hands and hearts today never fail, but grow deeper and stronger as the years go on. And if true love and the unselfish spirit of perfect sacrifice guide your every action, you can expect the greatest measure of earthly happiness that may be allotted to man in this vale of tears. The rest is in the hands of God.

Nor will God be wanted to your needs; he will pledge you the lifelong support of his graces in the Holy Sacrament, which you are now going to receive.

Planning for your marriage ceremony involves numerous details. These guidelines are designed to expedite the sacramental, musical and practical areas of your marriage ceremony for you, for the priest or deacon, and for the musicians who will be involved. Please review carefully for time sensitive informational purposes.

## **SCHEDULING**

Couples should contact the Pastor at least **six (6) months** (one year is ideal) in advance of any anticipated date for the wedding. The church wedding date can only be set upon meeting with the Pastor and paying the deposit fee.

The Director of Music and Organist at St. John Nepomucene and St. Frances X. Cabrini oversees all instrumental and vocal music for marriage celebrations. Arrangements for a consultation with the Director of Music should be made after the initial meeting with the Pastor and at least two (2) months prior to the scheduled wedding date. The Director of Music of the parish will approve or appoint musicians and music selections for the wedding ceremony while retaining a 'bench fee' or payment for services.

## **PRE-CANA – SPIRITUAL, MORAL & PRACTICAL PREPARATION**

All couples marrying in the Catholic Church are required to take a marriage preparation program, often referred to as Pre-Cana. Pre-Cana is offered in two formats: small group and private. The small group classes are held in midtown Manhattan, north of the city, or online via internet video chat. All couples, regardless of which format they opt for, must take the FOCCUS couple communication test and a class in fertility care.

The FOCCUS test is an excellent tool for helping couples make sure they have communicated on all the important issues affecting their relationship. Couples take this test on their own time, and then meet with a facilitator to discuss their results. The test can be taken online or mailed to couples.

In the Fertility Care class, women are taught how to observe their fertility signs. This gives women the ability to identify when they are fertile and, importantly, to monitor their health. Several classes in fertility care are offered every month. It's important that men also attend this class. Knowledge of Fertility Care has been shown to facilitate greater intimacy between husband and wife.

The fee for Pre-Cana is \$250 per couple. This fee may be negotiated with demonstrated need. For more information about the program, or to register, please contact Peter McFadden at 646-341-088 or via email at [mcfadden@mac.com](mailto:mcfadden@mac.com).

## **PAPERWORK**

All paperwork must be submitted by hand directly to the Pastor. Photocopies are not acceptable.

The person responsible for the compiling of marriage papers is the priest of the parish where the Catholic party or both of the parties are in resident. If the marriage is to take place outside that parish, the parish priest will send the completed papers to the diocesan chancery for approval before forwarding the file to the Diocese or Church where the marriage is to take place.

**PROOF OF BAPTISM** – All Catholic parties are required to obtain a baptism certificate from the church where they were baptized. **This must be dated within six months of the date of the proposed wedding.** This certificate will give evidence of baptism, but if fully annotated will also give details of Confirmation and of any notes regarding marriage within the Catholic Church. When you contact the church where your Baptism took place, give your full name, date of birth and date of baptism. If you cannot confirm the exact date of baptism, please indicate the date as closely as possible. There may be a small processing fee.

Baptized Non-Catholics – Newly issued (copy is acceptable) certificate indicating that you have been baptized *“In the Name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit”*

**PROOF OF CONFIRMATION** – Catholics who have been confirmed should provide a certificate on Confirmation. As noted, details of Confirmation will generally be included on the new certificate of Baptism. If they are not, contact the Church where the Confirmation took place for the certificate.

**AFFIDAVIT CONCERNING THE FREEDOM TO MARRY** – This is a testimonial by a parent, close relative or life-long friend that have never attempted marriage, **Civilly or Religious**, with another person. The outline for the Affidavit can be found on page 14 of this document. Please have it MAILED or EMAILED directly to the Pastor.

**PRE-CANA CERTIFICATE** – Issued at the end of the Pre-Cana course.

**DISPENSATIONS** – If one of the parties is a non-Catholic or a non-Baptized person, a request must be made to the Archbishop to dispense the law that requires a Catholic to marry a Catholic. The Catholic party will reaffirm their faith in God and His Holy Church and promise to do everything in their power to raise any children in the Catholic faith by having them baptized and teaching them to practice the faith in word and deed.

If one of the parties is Jewish the Wedding Ceremony will most likely take place at the reception venue. This request is part of the Dispensation to marry a non-Baptized person.

A Processing Fee of \$50 is requested. Please make the check payable to THE ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK. If you reside in Brooklyn or Queens, make the check payable to THE ARCHDIOCESE OF BROOKLYN.

**PRE-MARITAL INVESTIGATION** – Once you complete the Pre-Cana course and gather all paperwork, an appointment must be scheduled with the Pastor. At this meeting this questionnaire will be completed under oath. It officially records your ability and intention to enter into a True Catholic Marriage.

**CIVIL LICENSE** – A Marriage **CANNOT** be witnessed without a Civil License. It is your responsibility to obtain the license. Bring the License and return envelope to the Church rehearsal and give it to the Priest or coordinator BEFORE the rehearsal begins. Once the Wedding has taken place it will be mailed from the Rectory.

**DESTINATION WEDDINGS** – For non-parishioners who wish to be married in our Parish, a Letter of Permission from the Pastor of your home parish giving permission for your Wedding to be witnessed at St. John Nepomucene or St. Frances X. Cabrini is required stating that all preparations for the Sacrament will be completed by him. If your preparations are being completed here, your Pastor needs only to send a letter indicating that permission is granted for the Wedding to take place at St. John Nepomucene or St. Frances X. Cabrini. **Until this letter is received, your date cannot be confirmed.**

## **THE MARRIAGE CEREMONY**

The Marriage Ceremony in the Roman Catholic Church celebrates the Christian faith of the couple that is nourished by the Word of God proclaimed in the Scriptures and, for two Catholics, the Body and Blood of Christ shared in the Eucharist. It celebrates God's grace at work in the life of the couple uniting them in the self-giving love that Christ has called us all to have for one another. For this reason, the music, the clothing, the decorations, and any activities that have come to be part of the Church Wedding Ceremony are to draw attention to and highlight the spiritual dimensions of the ceremony, never overshadow or distract from it.

**Good taste and moderation are key principles.**

The Church allows certain cultural adaptations within the ceremony as long as they are in keeping with the nature and spirit of the liturgy. Such adaptations should not be overpowering. Be careful not to duplicate symbols that might have similar meanings: for example, the lasso and the unity candle are both cultural adaptations that emphasize the union of two persons into a new life in Christ.

Anyone who has a liturgical role (i.e., lector or reader) in the wedding is expected to have a sense of reverence for that role and reasonable competence in fulfilling it, and must be a practicing Catholic, a practicing Christian or a member of the Jewish faith.

Photographs at a wedding ceremony are very important. All efforts will be made by the parish priests to accommodate the photographers' needs within the limitations of what is sacred and holy. **All photographers and videographers must follow the setup guidelines of the Parish.** Absolutely no pictures can be taken from behind or within the sanctuary.

The photographer/videographer must meet with the priest before the ceremony. The choir loft and center aisle are accessible during parts of the liturgy. Body microphones are allowed for audio / video purposes.

If Mass is celebrated a disclosure provided by the Parish must be included in the wedding program booklet explaining whom may receive the Holy Eucharist and under what circumstance.

### **VISTING PRIEST, DEACONS OR CLERGY OF OTHER DENOMINATIONS**

Visiting priests and ecumenical clergy are welcome to take part in the wedding ceremony. If a priest or deacon other than the one assigned to St. John and St. Frances would like to preside at the wedding ceremony, this needs to be approved by the Pastor. Priests or deacons from outside the Archdiocese of New York must provide a letter of good standing (known as celebrant) to the Pastor. Ministers of other faiths must contact the Pastor to discuss their possible role in the ceremony.

The Domestic Relations Law of the City of New York requires that all visiting priests be registered with the City Clerk's Office in order to legally perform weddings anywhere within the City of New York. To download the registration form, please go to:

<http://nycmarriagebureau.com/about/officiantregistrationinfo.html>

### **MUSIC FOR THE CHURCH**

In planning music for the church celebration, please keep in mind that the liturgical celebration is a religious and sacred event. Any music that may be heard in the context of sacred liturgy throughout the church year as well as Sunday Mass would typically be appropriate. While this places restriction on some music, there are numerous possibilities for appropriate music – see suggestions on page 11. What may not be appropriate for the church ceremony is many times quite suitable at the wedding reception.

St. John/St. Frances Church provides its own professional Organist and a staff Cantor for all wedding ceremonies that adhere to the planning guidelines. A guest vocalist, through audition and with necessary credentials, may sing an appropriate accompanied solo during the ceremony or Mass by approval of the Director of Music. Guest instrumentalists are welcome to perform live music during the Prelude (while the guests are arriving), during the Offertory, after Communion, and / or during the Recessional upon approval of the Director of Music. The parish choir or a professional vocal ensemble may be requested (two months in advance) for the wedding at an additional fee mutually agreed upon with the Director of Music which will support the volunteer music ministry.

Under no circumstances are electric guitars, electronic keyboards or any pre-recorded music permitted in religious and sacred events at St. John/St. Frances. The organ is the only liturgical keyboard instrument that may be used during the wedding liturgy.

## **DETAILS AND LOGISTICS**

### **THE CHURCH BUILDING**

1. The main aisle is 66 feet long, from the foot of the step at the Sanctuary in the front to the main church doors in the back. There are 16 pews on either side of the main aisle.
2. No confetti, rice, birdseed, flower petals, etc., may be thrown on church property.
3. The use of a white runner is prohibited.
4. The responsibility for disposing of the boxes in which the flowers come, as well as all plastic wrappers, pew bows, etc., is that of the florist or the person in charge of flowers. Please convey this instruction.
5. Flowers for the church are the responsibility of the couple. Flowers are not physically placed upon the altar table. It is appropriate to have two arrangements on the high altar.
6. If you wish to use pew bows or pew flowers, you may attach them only by a rubber band, string or special clip. No tape is to be affixed to the pews, as this would take the finish off the wood.
7. If you wish to use a Unity and Individual candles, you or your florist should provide the candles and their protective holders. Candles may not be placed on the altar itself.

### **OFFERINGS & FEES (Established 2018)**

The offering of the marriage ceremony for non-parishioners is \$1200. The reduced offering for the marriage ceremony is \$750 for registered parishioners or the Czech/Slovak community. These fees include the offerings to the church, the priest, the sacristan, server, wedding coordinator (rehearsal and ceremony), the organist and the cantor. Please remit payment to the Parish Manager at the parish. Cash and check are acceptable forms of payment. Please make checks payable to St. John Nepomucene.

A non-refundable deposit of \$150 is due upon reserving your wedding date.

If you wish to invite an additional vocalist or instrumentalists (string quartet, harpist, trumpeter, etc.), the music they will perform must be approved by the Director of Music ahead of time. Any additional agreed-upon fees would be paid by you directly to those additional musicians including the Director of Music for contracting. If any of them were to be accompanied by our Organist, there would be an additional \$50 fee payable directly to the Organist for a mandatory half-hour rehearsal at or before the time of service.

All balances must be paid four (4) weeks prior to the wedding celebration or by a previously agreed term set in writing.

St. John Nepomucene offers a printed wedding program (worship aid) upon request and for an additional fee covering formatting and printing. These details are discussed in the in-person consultation with the Director of Music.

## **SEQUENCE OF EVENTS**

1. Email the Pastor or Parochial Vicar. Send in your non-refundable deposit with the signed form on page 15. Your date will not be reserved until the deposit has been received and approved by the Pastor.
2. Register for and attend the Pre-Cana sessions.
3. Schedule an initial conversation with the Pastor.
4. Collect and deliver all necessary paperwork to Pastor.
5. Schedule a meeting with the parish priest in order to fill out a Pre-Marital Investigation Form and discuss the details of the Marriage Ceremony.
6. Utilize the Liturgical Outline Sheet that corresponds to your ceremony, found on page 13. You may choose to have up to two readers. Readers must be a practicing Catholic or a practicing Christian. A person who is of the Jewish faith, may be invited to do the first reading from the Hebrew scriptures (Old Testament). Refer to [www.catholicweddinghelp.com](http://www.catholicweddinghelp.com) for detailed information and planning suggestions for all aspects of the sacred wedding ceremony.
7. Arrange a 30-minute consultation with the Director of Music to be attended by the Bride and Groom only in order to finalize the selection of the wedding music, according to the guidelines found on page 11, at least two months prior to the wedding date.
8. Catholics preparing for marriage should make it a point to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession) some time prior to the wedding date. Check the parish bulletin for schedule or schedule an appointment.

## **WEDDING REHEARSAL**

1. The time for the wedding rehearsal is arranged beforehand and reserved with the priest.
2. On the afternoon or evening of the wedding rehearsal, please bring your NYS Marriage License and any other necessary papers.

Note: There is no music at wedding rehearsals. Any rehearsal between the Organist and guest vocalists or instrumentalists (if any) is to be scheduled at another time mutually agreeable to them.

## **PLANNING THE MASS or CEREMONY**

### LITURGICAL OUTLINE FOR MARRIAGE WITH NUPTIAL MASS

#### **ORDER OF PROCESSION**

Suggestions for processional music can be found on page 11

Before Procession – Seating of Parents

Parents of Groom – seated in first pew on right

Parents of Bride – seated in first pew on left

Procession of Wedding Party – who and what order is up to the Bride and Groom

Please – no children under four (4) years of age

#### **THE NUPTIAL MASS**

**Gathering Hymn** (optional – see suggestions on page 11)

**Introit** – sung by cantor or choir

**Gloria** – sung

**Opening prayer**

#### **LITURGY OF THE WORD**

NOTE: A family member or friend may do the readings ONLY if they have a letter from their Pastor stating that they are an active member of the Ministry of Lectors in their home parish.

\*\*\*During the Octave of Christmas and Easter, Sundays or Major Feast Days, the readings for those days MUST be used. See usccb.org for those readings\*\*\*

**First Reading** – from the Old Testament (see options on page 12)

**Responsorial Psalm** – sung (selected in consultation with the Music Director)

**Second Reading** – from the New Testament (see options on page 12)

**Gospel Acclamation** – sung (Alleluia – selected in consultation with the Music Director)

**Gospel Reading** – chosen by the priest

**Homily**

#### **RITE OF MARRIAGE**

**Declaration of Intention**

**Introduction and Questions**

“(Name) and (name), have you come here freely and without reservation to give yourselves to each other in marriage?”

RESPONSE: We have.

“Will you honor each other as man and wife for the rest of your lives?”

RESPONSE: We will.

“Will you accept children lovingly from God, and bring them up according to the law of Christ and his church?”

RESPONSE: We will.

## **Vows**

In the United States, couples can choose from two different versions of the Catholic wedding vows.

### Version I

Priest (or deacon): Since it is your intention to enter into marriage, join your right hands, and declare your consent before God and His church.

Groom: I, (name), take you, (name), to be my wife. I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honor you all the days of my life.

Bride: I, (name), take you, (name), to be my husband. I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honor you all the days of my life.

### Version II

Groom: I, (name), take you, (name), for my lawful wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, until death do us part.

Bride: I, (name), take you, (name), for my lawful husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, until death do us part.

## **Blessing and exchange of the rings**

### **Prayer of the Faithful – sung by cantor**

Priest: In peace, let us pray to the Lord

Response: (sung by all) Lord hear our prayer

1. For our Holy Father, Pope Francis, our Bishop Timothy, and all clergy and religious, that they may always remain faithful to Christ and guide the Church to do the same. Let us pray to the Lord.
2. For our President and for all leaders, that they may always work for peace and the well-being of all people. Let us pray to the Lord.
3. For (name) and (name), united in the Holy Bond of Marriage, that the grace of God may sustain them to live faithfully as one with each other and with God. Let us pray to the Lord.
4. For a restored dignity and respect of human life, that we may always look out for the rights of our brothers and sisters, from the smallest to the greatest. Let us pray to the Lord.
5. For the safety of all those who selflessly put themselves in danger's way to protect others. Let us pray to the Lord.
6. For all those discerning their vocation, that they may hear the voice of God and put their trust in Him. Let us pray to the Lord.
7. For all married couples, that they may always serve each other with love, trusting in God's providence. Let us pray to the Lord.
8. For all those here today, in thanksgiving for them and remembering their personal needs and prayers. Let us pray to the Lord.

Priest: O Lord, our God, whose might is beyond description, whose glory surpasses all understanding, whose mercy is without limits, whose love for mankind is beyond expression, now, O Master in your kindness, look down upon us and this holy church, and bestow on us and upon those praying with us your abundant mercies and your benefits. For to You is due all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen

## **LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

\***Preparation of the Gifts** – Gift bearers may be selected by couple

\***Holy, Holy, Holy** – sung (selected in consultation with Music Director)

\***Memorial Acclamation** – sung

\***The Great Amen** – sung

\***Lord's Prayer**

\***Lamb of God** – sung

\***Communion** – music during Holy Communion selected in consultation with Music Director)

\***Prayer after Communion**

\***Nuptial Blessing**

## **CONCLUDING RITE**

**Blessed Mother of God** – Presentation of flowers to Blessed Virgin (optional)

**Solemn Blessing**

**Recessional** – suggestions for recessional music can be found on page 11

Bride & Groom, Wedding party, parents

\*Denotes parts that are omitted if the Wedding ceremony occurs outside the context of Mass.

## PARISH STAFF

### **Pastor**

Rev. Richard D. Baker

212-734-4613

[pastor@eastrivercatholics.org](mailto:pastor@eastrivercatholics.org)

### **Director of Music**

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### **Pre-Cana**

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### **Parish Secretary**

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### **Parochial Vicar**

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### **Parochial Vicar**

Rev. Martin Kertys

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[fr.martin@eastrivercatholics.org](mailto:fr.martin@eastrivercatholics.org)

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR WEDDING MUSIC

### PROCESSIONAL & RECESSIONAL MUSIC

Trumpet Voluntary	J. Clarke
Trumpet Tune	H. Purcell
Voluntary in C	H. Purcell
Rondeau	J. Mouret
Procesión Alegre	Gary Cornell
Rigaudon	A. Campra
Hornpipe (Allegro Maestoso)	G.F. Handel
Toccata (Symphony V)	C.M. Widor
Wedding March	F. Mendelssohn

Other selections may be considered upon request.

NOTE: The “Bridal Chorus” from Lohengrin and the Wedding March from A Midsummer Night’s Dream are selections from a secular opera and ballet respectively. In the case of the Bridal Chorus, the bride is delivered to her husband as chattel and not of her free will. In the case of the Wedding March, the music is played at the marriage of a donkey and the Queen of Fairies. The Bridal Chorus is not permitted at St. John/St. Frances.

### GATHERING HYMN (optional – sung after processional)

God In the Planning	Love Dive, All Loves Excelling
Joyful, Joyful We Adore You	Within Your House, O God, Today
O Father, All-creating	

### FAVORED VOCAL SOLOS (including, but not limited to the following)

Ave Maria	Schubert/Gounod/Saint-Saëns
Panis Angelicus	C. Franck
Jesu Joy of Man’s Desiring	J.S. Bach
Laudate Dominum (Praise be to God)	W.A. Mozart
Ave Verum Corpus	W.A. Mozart
Not for Tongues of Angels	Michael Joncas

### Inappropriate Vocal Solos (including, but not limited to the following)

The Wedding Song: There is Love	Beautiful in My Eyes
The Wind Beneath My Wings	Sunrise, Sunset
Love Theme from Ice Castles	Through the Eyes of Love
All I Ask of You (and other selections from Phantom of the Opera)	
Any selection from current musicals or pop radio.	

## READING SELECTIONS

**OLD TESTAMENT READINGS** Full readings can be found at [www.foryourmarriage.org](http://www.foryourmarriage.org)

1. Male and female he created them. (Genesis 1:23-28,31)
2. The two of them become one body. (Genesis 2:18-24)
3. In his love for Rebekah, Isaac found solace after the death of his mother. (Genesis 24:48-51, 58-67)
4. May the Lord of heaven prosper you both. May he grant you mercy and peace. (Tobit 7:9-10, 11-15)
5. Allow us to live together to a happy old age. (Tobit 8:5-7)
6. The woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. (Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31)
7. Stern as death is love. (Song of Songs 2:8-10, 14, 16; 8:6-7)
8. Like the sun rising in the Lord's heavens, the beauty of a virtuous wife is the radiance of her home. (Sirach 26:1-4, 13-16)
9. I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. (Jeremiah 31:31-32a, 33-34a)

**NEW TESTAMENT READINGS** Full readings can be found at [www.foryourmarriage.org](http://www.foryourmarriage.org)

1. What will separate us from the love of Christ? (Romans 8:31-35, 37-39)
2. Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God. (Romans 12:1-2, 9-18 [long form] or Romans 12: 1-2, 9-13 [short form])
3. Welcome one another as Christ welcomed you. (Romans 15:1b-3a. 5-7, 13)
4. Your body is a temple of the Spirit. (1 Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20)
5. If I do not have love, I gain nothing. (1 Corinthians 12:31, 13:8)
6. This is a great mystery, but I speak in reference to Christ and the Church. (Ephesians 5:2, 21-33 [long form] or Ephesians 5:2, 25-32 [short form])
7. The God of peace will be with you. (Philippians 4:4-9)
8. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. (Colossians 3:12-17)
9. Let marriage be held in honor by all. (Hebrews 13:1-4a, 5-6b)
10. Be of one mind, sympathetic, loving toward one another. (1 Peter 3:1-9)
11. Love in deed and in truth. (1 John 3:18-24)
12. God is love. (1 John 4:7-12)
13. Blessed are those who have been called to the wedding feast of the Lamb. (Revelation 19:1, 5-9)



**TO BE FILLED OUT BY THE COUPLE BEFORE MEETING  
WITH DIRECTOR OF MUSIC**  
refer to [www.catholicweddinghelp.com](http://www.catholicweddinghelp.com) or Together for Life  
(from Pre-Cana) for more details.

## LITURGICAL OUTLINE FOR MARRIAGE WITH NUPTIAL MASS

Marriage of \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_  
 Weekday and Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### INTRODUCTORY RITE

Prelude  
 Wedding Processional \_\_\_\_\_ composer: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gathering Hymn (optional) \_\_\_\_\_ Hymnal # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Introit and Gloria  
 Opening Prayer

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Old Testament Reading: \_\_\_\_\_ (the reader is chosen by the couple)  
 Responsorial Psalm, in consultation with the Director of Music  
 New Testament Reading: \_\_\_\_\_ (the reader is chosen by the couple)  
 Gospel Acclamation  
 Gospel Reading: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Homily: Father \_\_\_\_\_

### RITE OF MARRIAGE

Exhortation  
 Exchange of Vows & Exchange of Rings \_\_\_\_\_ (the reader is chosen by the couple)  
 (In ceremony only, a vocal selection may be sung here)  
 General Intercessions: "Lord, hear our Prayer"

### LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

\*Preparation of the Gifts: \_\_\_\_\_ composer: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \*Eucharistic Prayer  
 \*(Holy, Holy, Holy – Christ has died – the Great Amen  
 Lord's Prayer (spoken)  
 Nuptial Blessing  
 \*Breaking of the Bread: Lamb of God  
 \*Communion: \_\_\_\_\_ composer: \_\_\_\_\_

### CONCLUDING RITE

Solemn Blessing and Dismissal  
 Wedding Recessional: \_\_\_\_\_ composer: \_\_\_\_\_

Optional:     Flowers to the Blessed Mother (Ave Maria)  
                   Lighting of the Unity Candle (short instrumental)

\*- denotes parts that are omitted if the Wedding Ceremony occurs outside of the context of Mass

**AFFIDAVIT OF FREEDOM TO MARRY**

**TO BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED TO ST. MALACHY'S CHURCH, Attn: Pastor**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, give witness for (Bride/Groom) \_\_\_\_\_ who will be married to (Bride/Groom) \_\_\_\_\_.

Your Full Name: (Please print all information)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Numbers: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (Work) \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is your relationship to the person whose name appears above?
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. How long have you known this person? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How well? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Has this person ever gone through any type of marriage ceremony with someone other than his/her intended spouse? (Circle) YES or NO
6. How many times? \_\_\_\_\_ With whom? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Does/do this/these marriage(s) still exist?

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Is this person related to the other party to this intended marriage? Yes or No  
If Yes, in what way?

9. To the best of your knowledge, is this person entering this marriage freely? **Yes No**

10. To your knowledge, does this person intend to enter a lifelong union? **Yes No**

11. To your knowledge, does this person intend to be faithful for life to his/her partner in this marriage? **Yes No**

12. To your knowledge does this person intend to have children with his/her partner in this marriage? **Yes No**

13. \*\*\*If you have answered "No" to any part above 6 - 9 please explain.

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you know of any reason why this person should not be married? **Yes No**  
If Yes, please explain.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Witness Signature (Please print) \_\_\_\_\_ (date) \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this completed and signed form to:

St. John Nepomucene Church  
 Attn: Pastor  
 411 East 66<sup>th</sup> Street  
 New York, NY 10065

# AGREEMENT

*(to be returned to St. John Nepomucene Church)*

We, the undersigned, understand and accept all the terms and conditions explained in these Guidelines for Marriage Celebrations.

Wedding Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ Time:\_\_\_:\_\_\_AM/PM

Bride's Signature:\_\_\_\_\_

Groom's Signature:\_\_\_\_\_

Today's Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

## DEPOSIT

Enclosed is our payment of \$\_\_\_\_\_

in the form of CASH / CHECK