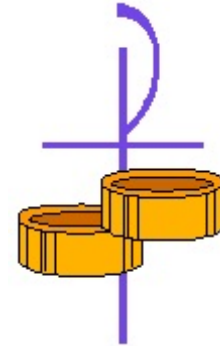


*Marriage in Christ*  
*Norms for the Celebration of the*  
*Sacrament of Marriage*



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**pastorsdoc/booklets/weddings**

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## *Notes*

## *Congratulations!*

We are happy that you are planning to marry at St. Martin of Tours. Undoubtedly, the coming months will be a hectic time as you prepare for your wedding day. Countless details will need your attention: the reception, dresses, invitations, and many other issues too numerous to count. Take heart, for the effort and energy put into making your wedding special and sacred are well worth it.

Right now we ask you to put aside all the details of that special day as we want to spend some time talking about the two of you and the relationship you bring to your marriage. This is the purpose of our meeting and pre-marriage preparation program which you are required to attend.

This booklet contains important information concerning your wedding plans. Please read it carefully. We sincerely hope that the months of preparation and the wedding day itself will be the beginning of many happy years together.



*Norms for the Celebration of  
The Sacrament of Marriage*

The decision has been made. You as a couple have decided to take the next step to make a full commitment to God and to each other in the Sacrament of Marriage. **The first thing to do is to call Fr. Jim McCabe, CSsR at (516) 931-0818 ext. 20. Father Jim will work with you to book the wedding date and time.**

The following is an informative and helpful outline which will guide you in preparing for the Marriage Ceremony. Please refer to this booklet in your planning and feel free to contact the rectory if there are problems or questions not addressed here.

- One of the parties to the marriage must be a Catholic residing in or having family residing in the immediate boundaries of St. Martin's Parish. Special cases can be discussed with the parish priest or deacon.
- The priest or deacon who conducts the initial interview will ordinarily be the presiding celebrant unless you and he together work out some other arrangement. If a priest or deacon other than those of the parish is to preside at the wedding, please supply the interviewing priest or deacon with his name, address and phone number so that these norms may be sent to him.
- Diocesan norms require that the couple must come to the parish for the initial interview at least 6 months prior to the proposed date of the marriage. However, it is preferred that the couple come in for the interview as early as one year prior to the proposed wedding date. This is because the sacramental preparation should be the first and most important part of your wedding plans.
- It is important to know that no date can be finalized for the marriage until the priest or deacon instructing the couple is convinced that they are spiritually prepared and free to marry in the Church and all pertinent documents have been given to the priest or deacon.

*Post-script*

We have asked you to reflect on what it means to get married in the Church. Chiefly, it means that your faith will play an active role in your life decisions. It also means that you will be assisted by and supported by those persons who profess faith in Jesus Christ and the liberating gospel he preached. It means you will participate in the sacramental life of the Church, and your marriage will reflect the love of God for the world and the love of Christ for the Church.

We hope that you have many relatives and friends whose lives illustrate this for you. Their lives, not our words, deliver this message in the most forceful way possible. As you prepare the liturgical celebration of your wedding, you will have a chance to bring together your love for each other and your faith. Don't miss this opportunity. It will be a real service to all who witness your marriage.

It has been said that the glory of God is a human being fully alive. If we may take the liberty to adapt this saying, we dare to say, ***"The glory of God is the flourishing of the engaged couple in love, fully human, fully alive, creating their relationship for the well-being of themselves and for all humanity."***

Your engagement and marriage is your great adventure and our great hope.

*Blessings and Best Wishes!*

## Photographing Weddings at St. Martin of Tours Church

1. **Check with the presiding priest or deacon** to confirm that you understand the guidelines for weddings.
2. **Recognize that your presence makes you a participant in the liturgy.** The purpose of a wedding liturgy must always take priority over the making of photographs. Keeping your role and responsibility in perspective will help you make good judgments as to when and how you should photograph special moments.
3. **Adopt the rule that it is never acceptable to use flash lighting during a liturgy even if permission is given.** The use of a flash is the most common complaint of presiders and congregations. A flash is highly distracting and destroys the focus and mood of the liturgy.
4. **Efforts and movements related to photography should be discreet, virtually unnoticed.** They should never intrude on or draw attention away from the experience or mood of the liturgy.

Liturgies are designed to celebrate and illuminate life's meaning. They invite us to intimacy with God. By their nature, they require reverence and are vulnerable to the type of distractions that can be created by picture snapping.

Photographers are always at risk of being interruptive when they take pictures at the liturgy. Liturgies do not provide natural breaks in which to take snapshots, nor do they easily accommodate the complex need of professional photographers who wish to balance composition and lighting.

Please refrain from entering "shaded areas" on the sketch below once the liturgy has begun.



## PREPARATION PROGRAMS

All couples are required by the Diocese of Rockville Centre to participate in one of the three types of preparation programs offered: Diocesan Pre-Cana, Engaged Encounter or Parish Pre-Cana. It is the responsibility of the couple to arrange for one of these programs as soon after the initial interview as possible. The number for the Diocesan Pre-Cana Program or Engaged Encounter is (516) 678-5800 ext. 223. Parish Pre-Cana can be arranged at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Massapequa at (516) 541-3270. The marriage cannot be celebrated if this preparation is not done.

## BAPTISM CERTIFICATE

For Catholics not baptized at St. Martin's, a recent copy of your baptismal certificate (***dated within six months of the marriage***) must be obtained from the church of baptism. For those baptized but not Catholic, a copy of the original certificate or an authorized letter from your church of baptism indicating where and when you were baptized, is needed.

## LETTER OF FREEDOM

If one of the parties is Catholic but not a member of St. Martin's, he or she must also obtain a Letter of Freedom from the pastor of his or her church which simply states that he or she is free to marry in St. Martin's.

**MARRIAGE LICENSE** - *Obtained at Town Hall (good for 60 days).* **Important:** *there is a 24 hour waiting period before the marriage ceremony for the license to be valid. It is advised to obtain the license at least a week before the wedding.*

## REHEARSAL

Rehearsal is limited to one half hour. Please insist that ALL in the wedding party be at the church on time. Remind them beforehand about the sacredness of the church and that they are expected to conduct themselves accordingly during the rehearsal.

Since we usually have several rehearsals on the same night, in fairness to those following you, your rehearsal will not run over the half hour designated for you if you or anyone in your wedding party is late. Please make it your responsibility that your wedding party is on time. **Note: Rehearsals will ONLY be directed by the priest or deacon.**

### **TIME OF THE WEDDING**

The time of your wedding is limited to **one hour**. It is, therefore, very important that weddings start promptly.

### **IF YOU ARE HAVING A MASS AND DOING A WEDDING PROGRAM, PLEASE NOTE:**

*In your wedding program, please put the following: "As Catholics, we believe that Holy Communion is truly the Body and Blood of Christ and is most sacred to us. While respecting the beliefs of others, we ask that only believing Catholics come forward to receive the Body and Blood of Christ."*

If a Nuptial Mass has been planned, but the wedding begins late, it will be at the discretion of the priest to celebrate only the wedding ceremony without the Mass.

### **WEDDING SCHEDULE**

**Friday:** Any convenient time  
**Saturday:** 11:00; 12:30; and 3:00  
**Sunday:** 3:00 - the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays (subject to change)

### **LIMOUSINES**

In order for the wedding to start on time, the limousine should arrive at the Church at least fifteen minutes before the start of the wedding. Obviously, if the limousine arrives at the same time the wedding is to begin, the wedding will not begin on time. The couple should inform the limousine driver that the wedding procession is to begin at the set time. If pictures are to be taken as you enter the Church, once again, this must be done before the actual wedding time.

### **USHERS**

Ushers should be at the Church a half hour before the wedding. It is important that ushers seat guests as they arrive so that the wedding can begin on time. Please situate ushers at both entrances.

### **MUSIC**

In order to effectively plan the music for your wedding, **please contact the Music Director, Ms. Elena Scollo at (516) 713-8854 at least two (2) months prior to your wedding date.** Elena will arrange a meeting with you to help you choose the appropriate music for your liturgical celebration. **The music fee** is \$275 which includes an organist/pianist and a singer, and a planning session with Elena. If you wish to have additional musicians/singers, you are responsible for making those arrangements and for paying their fee separately.

### **RICE, BIRDSEED, CONFETTI**

Please inform your family and friends that the throwing of anything -- rice, birdseed, confetti, etc. either inside or outside the Church is forbidden. Such things make the sidewalk very dangerous, especially for those who have some difficulty walking, particularly if the sidewalk is wet. No balloons are allowed inside the Church.

### **CHURCH DONATION**

The donation for the Church is \$400.00. It works best when the offering, the marriage license, and music donations are presented at the time of the rehearsal. Please refer to page 4 for the music fees listed under **MUSIC**. Should you request altar server(s), we suggest a \$10 offering per server.

### **FLOWERS**

Flowers for the altar are optional and are the responsibility of the wedding party. Please note that ribbons **ONLY** may be attached to the pews with rubber bands, **NEVER** with tape.

### **PHOTOGRAPHS**

You are responsible for choosing the photographer and informing him/her of St. Martin's guidelines for taking pictures.

The Sacristy and the Sanctuary are off limits during the wedding. There is no flash photography apart from the opening and closing procession. The photographer is not to stop the procession to take individual shots of each person in the bridal party. Make sure he/she is aware of this regulation.

No additional lights are to be used once the opening procession is complete. The couple is to provide a separate copy of the guidelines to be given to all photographers and videographers.

### **VIDEO EQUIPMENT**

The rules for photographers apply to videographers. No additional lights may be used. Any stationary video must be set up on the side aisles of the Church and be unobtrusive at all times for all wedding guests. Please refer to the sketch of the Church with the grey area on the following page.