

Wedding Guidelines

“If we love one another, God will live in us in perfect love.” ~ 1 John 4:12



St. Benedict Parish

St. Bridget's Church, E. Bloomfield

St. Mary's Church, Canandaigua

Parish Administration Center: 95 North Main Street, Canandaigua NY 14424

(585) 394-1220 • www.st.benedictonline.org

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CONGRATULATIONS and WELCOME

We are delighted that you have chosen to celebrate your marriage at St. Benedict Roman Catholic Parish. We are a parish which consists of two churches: St. Mary's Church in Canandaigua and St. Bridget's Church in East Bloomfield.

We are here to assist you in your Catholic wedding preparation. Such preparation will require some time so **contact us at least six months in advance**; the sooner the better!

In the Roman Catholic tradition, **Marriage is a Sacrament**. The lived, day to day relationship sealed through the exchange of vows becomes a sacred place to experience God's incredible love.

For marriage in the Catholic Church, two persons, at least one being Catholic...

- Freely enter into a vowed commitment of respect, reverence and love.
- Make this promise for a lifetime, which includes the promise of fidelity
- Are open to bearing children, providing for their good, and bringing them up in the faith.

The exchange of promises between the bride and groom is a commitment to love one another for life. Thus the couple's love and pledge of fidelity becomes a sign of God's love for God's people. This powerful promise speaks to all those assembled.

The priest (or deacon), the families of the couple, the attendants, and the assembled gathering of friends witness what the bride and groom promise.

You will find some interesting questions addressed if you search the following link: <http://www.bustedhalo.com/princessandpriest>

The Church will be *tentatively* reserved for you after you fill out the online form at <https://stbenedictonline.org/marriage>, but the date for your wedding will not be confirmed until after you have had your initial interview with one of our priests or Marriage Formation Team.

A \$100 deposit should be sent in soon after the initial interview and is refundable if plans for your wedding change and the church is notified well in advance.

These months of preparation for your marriage will be busy and exciting. If you find there are ways in which the parish staff can be of assistance, please contact us. While your engagement, showers, rehearsal, reception, and honeymoon are all significant parts of the celebration of your marriage, the Marriage Ceremony is seen as the center of the Christian celebration.

May these days of preparation hold many blessings!

PARISH CONTACT INFORMATION

St. Benedict Parish Administration Center

Mailing address: 95 N. Main Street, Canandaigua, NY 14424

Phone: 585-394-1220

Fax: 585-396-3230

Website: www.stbenedictionline.org

Fr. Michael Costik, Pastor: Fr.Michael.Costik@dor.org

Fr. Matthew Walter, Parochial Vicar: Fr.Matthew.Walter@dor.org

Teresa Dunn, Pastoral Associate (Marriage Formation Team): Teresa.Dunn@dor.org

Amy Corron, Communications & Liturgy Coord. (scheduling): Amy.Corron@dor.org

Sarah Eaton, Director of Music Ministry: Sarah.Eaton@dor.org

Wedding Coordinators: Joanne Sciarratta, 585-396-1006 and Jennifer Muscato, 585-301-2998 or jmuscato14@hotmail.com

Note: The bride and/or groom should be the primary people to reach out to the staff above. The bride and groom's parents or other representatives should not be the primary contacts.

REQUIREMENTS

Both parties must be free to marry. (If not a member of this parish, permission must be obtained from your parish)

PRE-CANA: All couples preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage are required to participate in a Pre-Cana Session. Couples can choose to complete Pre-Cana in-person or online. SEE APPENDIX 2 (page 8).

“Fully Engaged” Inventory: To help in the preparation process, you will be asked to complete a marital inventory indicator, called “Fully Engaged.” This tool provides assistance in articulating values that we hold sacred and value highly in a couple’s communication. More information can be obtained from the following web address: <http://www.dor.org/index.cfm/evangelization-catechesis/sacraments/marriage/fully-engaged/>

Newly issued Baptismal Certificate: All Catholic parties are required to produce a newly issued copy of a baptismal certificate which can be obtained, at no charge, from the church of your baptism. It should be issued ***within six months of the wedding.***

Marriage License: You will need to secure a New York State marriage license, which can be obtained from any city or town hall. Please bring it in the envelope to the rehearsal.

If couple is being *prepared* outside the Diocese of Rochester: When preparation and paperwork is complete your paperwork must be sent by the preparer to that diocesan Chancery, who will send it to the Diocese of Rochester Chancery and who will then send it on to the church where the wedding is to be registered. Paperwork must be received before the date for rehearsal.

If couple is being *married* outside of the Diocese of Rochester: Our parish staff is happy to assist members of the parish who are being married in another diocese. You must have permission from the pastor for this to occur and you will need to fulfill the requirements of this diocese. Please contact the parish office for further information.

OFFERINGS/STIPENDS

For the use of one of the churches: \$600 (\$100 deposit, \$200 paid 3 months before wedding, and \$300 paid before the day of rehearsal. You may also pay the entire fee at any time of the deposit if you so wish.) *Checks should be made payable to St. Benedict Parish.*

Please note: There is no set fee required to the priest or deacon for the assistance, guidance, and services offered for your wedding. However, a couple may offer in gratitude whatever seems appropriate.

MEETINGS WITH PRESIDER/MARRIAGE FORMATION TEAM

(normally at least four are required)

Initial Interview: To get acquainted, answer any questions you may have, fill out necessary preliminary paperwork, which includes determining your freedom to marry, confirming the date and time for your wedding, and determining whether you will celebrate with a Mass or a ceremony. *Ordinarily, if both the bride and groom are Catholic, they would celebrate the sacrament of marriage with a Nuptial Mass. Otherwise, the couple could choose to celebrate with a Nuptial Mass or Nuptial Ceremony.*

Second & Third Meeting: This is an opportunity to review the “Fully Engaged” profile (additional meetings may be required to discuss these results), and provide you with materials to plan your wedding ceremony.

Fourth Meeting: This is also an opportunity to meet with the wedding coordinator before the rehearsal to discuss your selections for your wedding and answer any questions before the rehearsal. ***Couples should make decisions about the readings and music before this meeting.*** Reading selections can be found at

<https://stbenedictonline.org/wedding-readings>. To review the music list, visit <https://stbenedictonline.org/wedding-music>. There you will find some pages on music, including the capability of listening to the Psalm options. All other music can be heard on YouTube.

MUSIC

You need to contact Sarah Eaton, St. Benedict Parish's Director of Music Ministry, for a meeting even if you are planning to have another musician for your wedding. There are some restrictions on the music that may be used at a Church wedding. Be sure to talk this over with the Director of Music Ministry. Ideally, you will plan some music the congregation can sing so that all can praise God and pray together for you in music. This is a powerful way to help your friends and family be participants, not simply observers.

Our Director of Music Ministry can make recommendations for possible cantors. Our parish musicians are generally available to play at your wedding if not already booked. You may have a musician play who is not affiliated with the parish once permission is granted by the Director of Music Ministry. However, church fee will remain the same and the outside musicians (not employed by the diocese) would need to contact our Director of Music Ministry for additional information. Diocesan policy requires that all musicians be paid through the church so the fee for the outside musician(s) will be added to the church fee (along with a small administration fee) and they will also be required to fill out the appropriate paperwork in the parish business office.

ABOUT PHOTOGRAPHERS AND VIDEOGRAPHERS

Couples being married at St. Benedict Parish should ask their photographer to respect the sacredness of the Church and the holiness of the commitment they are celebrating. Therefore, the photographer is expected to abide by the following guidelines and do nothing that will distract from the ceremony itself.

- Please ask the photographer to introduce themselves to the Presider before the liturgy and receive any last-minute instructions. Photos may be taken in the aisle before Mass begins and from the choir, side aisles or back, during Mass.
- A video camera may be set up out of the way and may run throughout the ceremony, provided it is not moved and the photographer does not move about in a distracting way. Be sure that the placement of your equipment does not obstruct the flow of traffic in the aisle at communion time.
- To keep the focus on the Mass, the wedding ceremony and the Bride and Groom, no photos may be taken from anywhere in the sanctuary during the ceremony. No flash photos may be taken during the homily or during the Eucharistic Prayer, the

consecration or communion of Mass. Because of the sacredness of the Mass and the church space, no live-streaming, Zooming, etc. will be permitted.

- You may remain in Church for photos for a reasonable time after your celebration. If your wedding is scheduled for Saturday afternoon, photography must conclude no later than 3:30, when Confessions begin at the parish. Afternoon weddings must choose to have time EITHER for a receiving line OR photographs in church after the ceremony.

DO'S

- Have the ushers, groom and best man in church at least 60 minutes prior to the wedding
- Eat something prior to the ceremony
- Take care of your personal needs just prior to arriving at church (including the wedding party).
- Bride and attendants, be at the church at least 30 minutes prior to the start time
READY
- DO enjoy yourself—it is the most important day of your new life together!
- As soon as the music starts, leave everything in the hands of the Lord, with the Presider's assistance!

DON'T'S

- No throwing of rice, birdseed, or flower petals, or confetti, or bubbles inside or outside the church
- No runner or crash in the church
- If using pew bows, they cannot be taped to the pews. Use rubber bands to attach.
- No alcohol on Church grounds at rehearsal or the wedding
- Don't get too upset if something does not go as planned — usually only you know it!

APPENDIX 1: Preparation Checklist - *This checklist has been created to assist you as you prepare for your wedding day. Please refer to it and use it to keep track of what you may still need to address as you move forward*

- Fill out the form online at <https://stbenedictionline.org/marriage> to request your preferred wedding date. The Liturgy Coordinator will reach out to you after receiving this online form.
- The Marriage Formation Team will be in contact with you to make appointment for the initial meeting and to determine if you will be celebrating with a Mass or ceremony.

After Initial Meeting

- If your date is not confirmed after the meeting, do what you need to do to get the date confirmed (*Annulment needed? Or other?*)
- If your date is confirmed:
 - Pay the \$100 deposit
 - Determine your Pre-Cana option (in-person or online)
- Complete the “Fully Engaged” inventory online
- Attend follow-up meeting(s) regarding “Fully Engaged” results
- Complete Pre-Cana session (you will receive a certificate at completion)

Six Months Prior to Wedding

- Catholic parties to contact Church of Baptism to secure a NEW Baptismal Certificate

When all required documentation is in hand (*Pre-Cana certificate, Baptismal certificate*)

- Contact Presider to schedule next meeting
- Complete PMI form with presider
- “Together for Life” book received and explained
- Meet with church musician to discuss and plan music
- Fill out “Together for Life” liturgy form
- Contact Wedding Coordinator
- Secure New York State Marriage License (*valid for 60 days before the wedding*)

When all forms are completed

- Contact Presider for final meeting to review forms for ceremony
- (*At least one week prior to date of rehearsal please provide the balance of the \$600. fee for the church*)

For Rehearsal

- (*There is no required set fee for the presider at your wedding, but gifts are gratefully accepted*)
- Bring marriage license.
- Bring any articles needed for the wedding (Unity Candle, Programs, readings, etc.)

APPENDIX 2: Pre-Cana Options

Couples are free to choose between online and in-person Pre-Cana options. Although, historically, gathered sessions have been the norm, online versions provide some real advantages to busy couples: you have 24-7 access to the resources; you can start-and-stop any session over multiple sittings or complete a session at one sitting; you can accommodate your busy social and work schedules without having to block one entire day.

Here are some of your options:

1. **DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER:** Four videos and reflections, followed by a conversation with the priest or deacon preparing you for marriage in the Catholic Church. Explore the spirituality and sacramentality of marriage and enter into the vocation with God-given grace through four presentations: Does love matter; Love Revealed; the Total Gift of Self; and A Sacramental Bond.

To register, go to dor.org. At the top of the opening screen are a series of words in blue background and beneath them there are a series of words in light gray background. Click on VOCATIONS, then MARRIED LIFE. Scroll down until you come to a series of boxes/icons. Click on PRE-CANA. There you can choose from two options: IN-PERSON PRE-CANA or ON-LINE PRE-CANA.

The cost of this program varies from \$75 to \$125 per couple depending upon the location, and it provides a one-year subscription to the materials. Couples need to meet with their clergy to review the content after the videos have been views. Then the priest or deacon can access a certificate of completion for the couple.

2. **LIVING OUR FAITH IN LOVE:** Developed in collaboration with the Catholic Archdiocese of Detroit. It covers all of the “must-have conversations” for Catholic marriage preparation, as outlined by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Topics Covered: Commitment, Careers, and Practical Issues; Money Matters; Healthy Sexuality and Intimacy; Communication and Conflict Resolution; Spirituality of Marriage; Family of Origin; Theology of Marriage; and Natural Family Planning and Parenthood.

To register, go to www.livingourfaithinlove.

The cost of this program is \$195. per couple and provides a one year subscription to the materials. Couples are able to print out a COMPLETION OF STUDY CERTIFICATE for their clergy.

3. **JOY-FILLED MARRIAGE:** Offers a comprehensive approach to marriage preparation that covers not only the sacramentality and theology of marriage, but also

the practical life skills necessary to live out the rich Catholic vision of marriage. This program helps engaged couples to embrace God's plan not only as an honor and a privilege, but also as a challenge. Couples learn sound principles and a fresh, virtue-based approach to life skills, as well as the Catholic vision of marriage and the beautiful and significant gift of sexuality. Through a variety of focused questions and activities, couples discuss their relationships, learn about themselves, and begin applying what they have learned.

To register, to go <http://ascensionpress.com>. At the top of the opening page, choose Study Programs, then Sacramental Preparation, then Joy-filled Marriage. Scroll down just a bit. You will see three options "FOR ENGAGED COUPLES." Choose the online course for \$105. Then, BUY NOW. Add to cart, proceed to checkout, become a member to create an account. The cost of this program is \$105 per couple and provides one year access to the materials. At the end of the course, couples will be able to print a certificate with a serial number to verify completion.

Please note: For our in-person, gathered sessions, the materials from Joy-Filled Marriage are used by our Pre-Cana team at St. Benedict Parish. The team members have judged them to be well-balanced practical presentations, with clear and pertinent activities. Please check with the Marriage Formation Team to find out when/if any in person options are scheduled at St. Benedict Parish in the near future.

APPENDIX 3: Liturgy Worksheets

Date of Wedding _____

Time _____

Bride _____

Phone _____

Groom _____

Phone _____

Nuptial Mass Nuptial Ceremony

Date of Rehearsal _____

Time _____

Number of people invited/expected _____

Photos: Before During After

Flowers: Taken Left at Church

Pew Bows (Placed by _____)

Boutonnieres (Pinned by _____)

Printed worship aid/program: Yes No *(The couple composes and prints their own worship aid. However, the presider or wedding coordinator would be happy to offer advice and review the program.)*

Mother of the Bride _____

Father of the Bride _____

Mother of the Groom _____

Father of the Groom _____

Any special insights needed to accommodate seating? _____

Priest _____

Deacon _____

Florist _____ Phone _____

Photographer _____ Phone _____

Videographer _____ Phone _____

Musician _____ Cantor _____

Do you have a wedding coordinator for the overall wedding day? _____

SEATING BEFORE THE PROCESSION: Who will be escorted into church 5 minutes before your wedding (mothers, grandmothers, etc.)?

<i>Name</i>	<i>Relationship to the couple</i>	<i>Escorted by</i>

Any special seating accommodations? (bridal party seating, immediate family seating, step-parents, handicapped seating)

Music for seating: _____

ORDER OF PROCESSION:

Processional music for wedding party: _____

Will the Groom and Best Man be entering the church with the procession from the main entrance? Groom Best Man

Wedding Party: *(In order as they will be walking INTO church at beginning -usually walk out at the end of the liturgy as ‘couples’)*

Walking into church: As couples Individually

Those processing from the Main Entrance: (from last to first)

Bride: _____ M of H: _____

Flower Girl: _____ Ring Bearer: _____

<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>
1 st :	1 st :
2 nd :	2 nd :
3 rd :	3 rd :
4 th :	4 th :
5 th :	5 th :

Processional music for the bride: _____

Bride and her escort(s): _____
(Bride’s parents can both walk her down the aisle)

Liturgy of the Eucharist (only to be completed for Nuptial Mass):

Presentation of the Gifts

Music _____

(For all to sing or a short solo/instrumental music)

Who will present the Bread and Wine? (You will need to ask up to 3 people)

Prayer over the Gifts (pgs 98-99): K-1 K-2 K-3

Preface (pgs 99-101): L-1 L-2 L-3

Mass Parts: Holy, Holy, Holy; Memorial Acclamation, Great Amen; and the Lamb of God are sung by all, led by the cantor

Lord's Prayer

Nuptial Blessing (pgs 102-106): M-1 M-2 M-3 M-5

Sign of Peace (only to be completed for Nuptial Mass):

Ministers of Communion (not currently used)

Communion Processional Song _____

Meditation Song after Communion (optional) _____

Prayer after Communion (pgs 97-101): N-1 N-2 N-3

Concluding Rite

Final Blessing (pgs 103-106): O-1 O-2 O-3

How does the couple want to be introduced? _____

Recessional Music: _____

Receiving Line? OR Photographs in church after ceremony: