

*2016 Wedding Guidelines for
Blessed Sacrament, Saint Boniface,
and Saint Mary's Churches
Rochester, New York*

*"God is love, and those who live in love
live in God, and God lives in them."
~ 1 John 4:15 ~*

*"Let all things be done properly
and in an orderly manner."
~ 1 Corinthians 14:40 ~*

Blessed Sacrament Church
534 Oxford Street
Rochester NY 14607
585-271-7240
www.southeastrochestercatholics.org

Saint Boniface Church
330 Gregory Street
Rochester NY 14620
585-473-4271
www.southeastrochestercatholics.org

Saint Mary's Church
15 St. Mary's Place
Rochester NY 14607
585-232-7140
www.stmarysrochester.org

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*. Please:

#1. Call the church at least 6-to-8 months prior to your desired wedding 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 two months in advance.

#2. Do not finalize plans for the 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 Parishes, the number of available priests, 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. 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 due attention needs to be given to preparation for it.

#4. Remember the church does not require you to spend oodles of money on a wedding.

- All the Church requires is that you 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 look 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 for "keeping up with the Joneses."

#5. Remember also that all preparations are done with the bride and groom directly!

- We do not make arrangements through parents, other relatives or wedding planners.

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A message for our engaged couples...

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 2016
- a memo to your photographer and/or videographer
- a flyer for Pre-Cana and the 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 my assistant Deanna Vincent (email: **dvincent@dor.org**). You can also contact me at **fkennedy@dor.org**.

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.”

Christ’s peace to you,



Reverend Robert Kennedy
Pastor, Blessed Sacrament, Saint Boniface and Saint Mary’s Parishes

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Marriage Preparation Timeline

Once You Become Engaged...

- Please contact Deanna Vincent at dvincent@dor.org or 585-271-7240 as soon as possible to see if the date you are interested in is available. Deanna will confirm the date with Father Kennedy or Father Jones and schedule an appointment for you to meet with one of them in a timely fashion.

When your wedding is in:

12 Months (or less)

- Once you have had an initial meeting with Father Kennedy or Father Jones, register for a marriage preparation program, sometimes known as Pre-Cana. *Engaged Encounter*, a parish-based or a diocesan-sponsored marriage preparation program counts for this requirement, as well. Please see the 2016 Wedding Guidelines for more details.
- Complete the *Fully Engaged* inventory. Deanna will provide you with the website and login information. Once you both complete the inventory, Deanna will be in touch to schedule a meeting to review the results with Father Kennedy or Father Jones.
- Register for the *Wedding Ceremony Planning Workshop*, which is offered twice a year. This workshop is required, as it answers many questions regarding readings, music, flowers, photography, etc. as they pertain to your ceremony.

Six Months

- Obtain proof of baptism. **For Catholics**, we need a newly-issued certificate (not your original, so no need to bother your parents!) with notations from the parish in which you were baptized. Please contact the parish of your baptism and give them your name and date of birth. They will send you a certificate. **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.
- Contact Deanna to confirm the date and time of your rehearsal.

Three Months

- Meet with the music director to arrange music for your wedding.
- Contact Deanna to schedule a final meeting with Father Kennedy or Father Jones to discuss your wedding liturgy and complete required paperwork, including baptism and Pre-cana certificates.

Two Months

- Make payment to the church of your offering and fees related to your wedding preparation and ceremony. Make the check payable to the church where you are being married.

Two Weeks

- Obtain a New York State marriage license, if you haven't already done so. Be sure to bring it to the rehearsal.
- Submit your wedding liturgy planning sheet.

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2016 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 Blessed Sacrament Church, 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 contract their marriage in the presence of God and of the community of faith, and become a holy sign of Christ's love for the Church and 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 a 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. Weddings may be scheduled on Saturdays only (except during Lent, when we prefer not to celebrate weddings) in three possible time slots:

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Blessed Sacrament Church | 11:30 am or 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.

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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 or diocesan-sponsored 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 5, 2016 at Blessed Sacrament.***
- 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**.

The current schedule of all Pre-Cana marriage preparation in other parishes and sponsored by the Diocese of Rochester is available through the website of the Diocese of Rochester: **www.dor.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 session to take the Inventory, and then one or more follow-up meetings once a profile is generated from it. The inventory is done online (we’ll provide passcodes), 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 name and address of the church is:

Church of the Blessed Sacrament
534 Oxford Street
Rochester, NY 14607

Saint Boniface Church
330 Gregory Street
Rochester, NY 14620

Saint Mary’s Church
15 St. Mary’s Place
Rochester, NY 14607

Wedding Ceremony Workshop

You are required to participate in a wedding ceremony workshop, since we ask 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 provides you with an opportunity to ask questions about it. Workshops are planned for **Monday, November 23, 2015** at 7 PM, and **Saturday, March 19, 2016** at 1 PM.

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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 Kennedy 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** entitled *Celebrating Marriage*, edited by Paul Covino. This will assist you in making the choices of readings and prayers that 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 prayers of the faithful / general intercessions
- 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

Please contact the organist at the church you will be married in two-to-three months before your wedding, or sooner if you have special requests. The organists are:

| | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|--------------|------------------------------|
| Blessed Sacrament | Beata Golec | 585-271-7240 | bgolec@dor.org |
| Saint Boniface | Ivan Bosnar | 585-642-3998 | ivan.bosnar@gmail.com |
| Saint Mary's | Malcolm Matthews | 865-684-8746 | malcolm.matthews89@gmail.com |

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 cantor's and organist's fees are included in the amount you will pay the church, and includes a meeting with you, practice time and the actual ceremony.

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Fees for other musicians are arranged directly with them, using diocesan guidelines. 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 you may take them with you to the reception if you choose. Please use the following guidelines in your decision 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 vision of the congregation
- pew decorations are permitted, but **no adhesives may be used** in attaching decorations to pews or other surfaces. Please remove these immediately after the ceremony is over.

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 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" as part of their celebration. This is not an official part of the ritual of the Church which 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. If you decide to use a unity candle, you must purchase the candles and holders yourself; these are not provided by the church.

Apart from the altar candles (and unity candle, if chosen), 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.

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

Therefore, a check **in the total amount of \$600.00** should be made payable to either *Blessed Sacrament Church, Saint Boniface Church, or Saint Mary's Church*. 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 a gift to him may be appropriate.

Also, in appreciation to the wedding coordinator, organist, and cantor for exceptional service, gratuities may be given 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. **Please bring it with you to the wedding rehearsal.** Your witnesses will sign it then; and the priest or deacon will sign it the day of your ceremony and mail it back to the issuing office.

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 45-60 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, any programs and decorations, and the unity candles and holders if you have chosen to have them.

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We Regret to Inform You...

- 1) We do not make ANY arrangements with an outside wedding planner, if you have hired one. All details from arrival at the church to departure from the church are arranged between the wedding couple and Father Kennedy or Father Jones directly.
- 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, before, during, and after the ceremony.

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PRE-CANA MARRIAGE PREPARATION PROGRAM

Saturday, March 5, 2016

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 parish offers a workshop to help you plan your wedding ceremony, addressing everything from flowers to music to "unity candles." You are invited to join us, but you need to pre-register so we can have enough materials on hand.

Blessed Sacrament School

Monday, November 23, 2015, 7:00-9:00 PM

Saturday, March 19, 2016, 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 5, 2016

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

November 23

March 19

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A 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 on videotape, **we are also deeply concerned to preserve the prayerful atmosphere of this religious service.** We hope we 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 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. However, you are **not** to move 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 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.

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

(Your fiancée's name), take 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 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.

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

(Your fiancé's name), take 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?