



ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA

Wedding Ministry

Dear Newly Engaged Couple,

Congratulations! The staff and the parishioners of Saint Catherine of Siena promise you our prayers as you begin to prepare for your married life together! This period of engagement is an opportune and grace-filled time to plan your wedding day but, even more so, it begins an immediate period of preparing for the joys *and* challenges of married life. This booklet has been prepared to familiarize you with some guidelines and answers to frequently asked questions surrounding the planning of your wedding.

I. The Preparation

For Starters

At St. Catherine's, the first step is for you to schedule a visit with one of the priests at least eight (8) months prior to your anticipated wedding date and before making any other plans. This first appointment allows the priest to meet you, talk a little about marriage itself, and plan future meetings for the spiritual aspects of your marriage. If you later decide that you need to postpone or cancel your wedding, please notify the priest who is assisting you.

Pre-Cana Program

A vital and important element of preparing yourself for the Sacrament of Marriage is to begin to prepare spiritually, mentally and emotionally. The priest who meets with you has the privilege and responsibility to help you look at the many aspects of your relationship. In addition to meeting with the priest, you must attend the Pre-Cana program called "Transformed in Love". You can find the schedule here: [Boston Archdiocese "Transformed in Love"](#)

Wedding and Rehearsal dates

Weddings may be scheduled: ***Fridays at 6:30 pm, Saturdays at 12 Noon & 2:00 pm, Sundays at 2:00 or 4:00 pm, (unless there is a Baptism, then weddings are scheduled for 3:00 and 5:00 pm.*** These times take into account the many other parish liturgies and events that take place throughout the year.

In September-June, rehearsals are scheduled on the ***Thursday prior to your wedding at 6:00 P.M.***

Wedding Coordinators

Saint Catherine of Siena Parish is fortunate to have wedding coordinators to help facilitate the many details of the wedding ceremony. They will be of great assistance to you, the wedding party, and your guests. They will be in touch via email a few weeks prior to your wedding. They will take part in your rehearsal and will be with you on the day of your wedding to ensure that all goes smoothly and reverently.

Altar Servers

If you plan on having a Mass, the parish will schedule one or two altar servers for your wedding. They are well trained to provide your ceremony with the necessary sense of reverence and to assist the wedding party and the priest. If you would like to have family members or friends who are trained altar servers to serve your wedding, please notify the priest.

Decorating and Preparing the Church

You are welcome to decorate the inside of the church and the sanctuary. Please remember that the church is a house of worship for the whole parish. Therefore, any arrangements or decorations should be respectful of its sacredness. Because other activities in the Church often follow your wedding and due to limited cleaning schedules, we do not allow the use of flower petals or other objects to be thrown in the main aisle or elsewhere in the Church, **no exceptions**. The church does offer a lowcost decoration package, fees are listed below. Throughout the year, and especially during the Christmas and Easter seasons, the Church is beautifully decorated with flowers from the parish. If you are getting married during one of these seasons you are more than welcome to utilize this beautiful setting, but we do require that any parish decorations remain in place during your wedding.

If you have plans to decorate the church beyond general floral arrangements or pew decorations, please discuss these plans with the wedding coordinators before any floral plans are finalized. For safety reasons, we do not permit open flames. The church is available to florists one hour before your wedding.

Questions often arise in regard to the use of a unity candle. This candle, which has become somewhat of a custom in this area of the country, is actually not a part of the Catholic Marriage Rite. This custom is not encouraged as experience has proven that it takes away from the central focus of the marriage rite, which are your exchange of vows and your exchange of the rings. If you wish to take part in this activity, the reception is a beautiful time. Aisle runners are not encouraged since we have a carpeted center aisle. The runner will gather on the carpet, and often times get stuck and wrinkle for pictures.

II. Other Items

Music

Music plays an important role in setting a prayerful and uplifting tone to your wedding celebration. Once you have confirmed your wedding date and time, please contact Mr. Kirk Hartung at the rectory to make plans for your music and to reserve the services of the musicians. Outside soloists are welcome to sing or play as a guest (two song maximum), but **in order to preserve the high standards of our music ministry, the church policy stands firm on hiring the parish musicians.**

Receiving Lines/Formal Portraits

Receiving lines and formal portraits are allowed following your ceremony. However, they are allowed only with the consideration of other liturgies which follow your wedding. If your wedding is followed closely by another wedding or weekend Mass, a receiving line/formal portraits are not possible out of consideration for those attending the next liturgy.

Photographers and/or Videographers

Photographers/videographers are welcome to record this beautiful moment. Please remind them that your wedding is a religious act of worship. As such, the photographer/videographer must not become a distraction to you, your guests or the priest. For this reason, **he/she is not allowed into the sanctuary or beyond the first/front columns**. Of course, they may take pictures/videos from the side aisles. If they choose to shoot from the choir loft, they must follow the directions of the organist. A good guideline to follow is that any time during the ceremony, the photographer / videographer **must be discreet** and not be in the line of sight of any of the guests. **Please advise your photographer that they may not directly film the organist, soloist, or instrumentalists. Their performance is copyrighted material.**

Limousines

In order to respect the fact that we are on Church property, we ask that you please advise your driver of our request that champagne toasts not occur outside of the limousine.

Confetti, rice, birdseed, flower petals, bubbles, etc.

In order that the outside area of the Church remain clean and inviting for other liturgies, confetti, rice, birdseed, flower petals, bubbles or other objects are **strictly prohibited** following your ceremony.

Visiting Clergy

A visiting priest/deacon is welcome to celebrate your wedding. He must be in good standing with the Archdiocese of Boston (or his own diocese or religious order). The visiting priest/deacon must receive delegation (permission) from our pastor. If he resides outside the state he must apply for permission to witness the marriage from the Secretary of State of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

III. Reminders

Be Punctual!

Being on time is critical. Lateness demonstrates a lack of respect for your vendors/guests, including any liturgy that follows yours. The musicians often have other services following your wedding and have allotted due time for your ceremony. If you are late the musicians may have to leave in order to be punctual for their next appointment and there is a chance that a Mass is shortened to a ceremony. The bride should plan to be in the church at least fifteen minutes prior to the wedding.

Marriage License

You will need to obtain from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts a marriage license, valid for sixty days after a three day waiting period, from any town or city hall in Massachusetts. (Both parties must be present when you apply). **The wedding cannot take place without a marriage license. Please bring the marriage license to the rehearsal and give it to the wedding coordinators.**

Wedding Bans

Three weekends prior to your wedding, an announcement of your wedding bans will be placed in our parish bulletin. This helps to verify freedom to marry and gives an opportunity for your parish to pray for both of you as you approach your marriage

In Closing

In closing, we opened this booklet with our offer to pray and support both of you as you move toward your new life together as husband and wife. We would like to close it praying that your days be filled with God's abundant blessing, joy and peace. You are in our prayers now and always.

Fees*

An Offering of Gratitude to the Church

Saint Catherine of Siena Parish has a beautiful and spacious Church, which lends itself to a meaningful and memorable setting for your wedding. The maintenance of this building and space is constant, between heating, lighting, air conditioning and janitorial costs. We are equally proud of our efforts to serve those in need. It is customary and appropriate for the bride and groom to make a monetary offering to the parish at the time of your wedding. This donation is put towards the maintenance of the Church building and to the ongoing work of our pastoral parish programs. You can plan to make your offering at the time of your rehearsal. If the requested offering presents a financial hardship for you, please discuss this with the priest.

Individual checks should be made out to the amount and name listed below.

The checks are to be brought the night of the rehearsal.

\$400 - St. Catherine of Siena Parish

\$325 - Wedding Coordinator and Cantor– Marisa Ferrara

\$25 - Altar Servers (CASH) generally, two servers.

\$250 – Kirk Hartung (Organist)

Optional Lowcost Decoration Package:

\$25 – White tulle Pew bows (rental of 12)

\$25 – Set of 12 floral pew cones, (will need to be filled by florist).

*Effective July 1, 2017