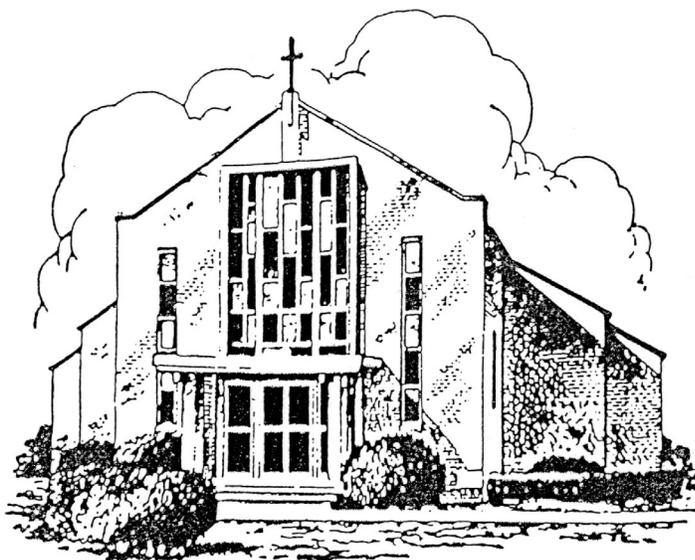


**Church of**  
**Our Lady**  
**of the Rosary**

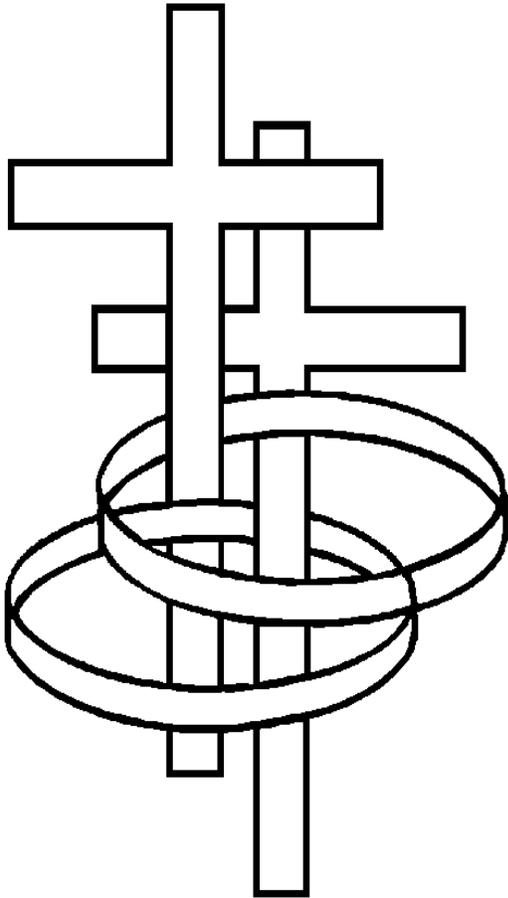


1736 Burrstone Road, New Hartford, New York 13413  
Phone: 724-0402

## VOCATION TO MARRIAGE

*Just as surely as priests are called by Christ to serve the people of God in a consecrated, dedicated life, married people are called by Christ to be the instrument through which God's love is made real for each other.*

*The essential components of both natural and sacramental marriage are commitment to a permanent union, to lifelong fidelity, and openness to children. Within the Sacrament of Matrimony, the couple commits to help each other in the fullness of life in the Lord.*



*Love is patient; love is kind. Love is not jealous, it does not put on airs, it is not snobbish. Love is never rude, it is not self seeking, it is not prone to anger; neither does it brood over injuries. Love does not rejoice in what is wrong but rejoices with the truth.*

*There is no limit to love's forbearance, to its trust, its hope, its power to endure. Love never fails.*

## **PREPARATION GUIDELINES**

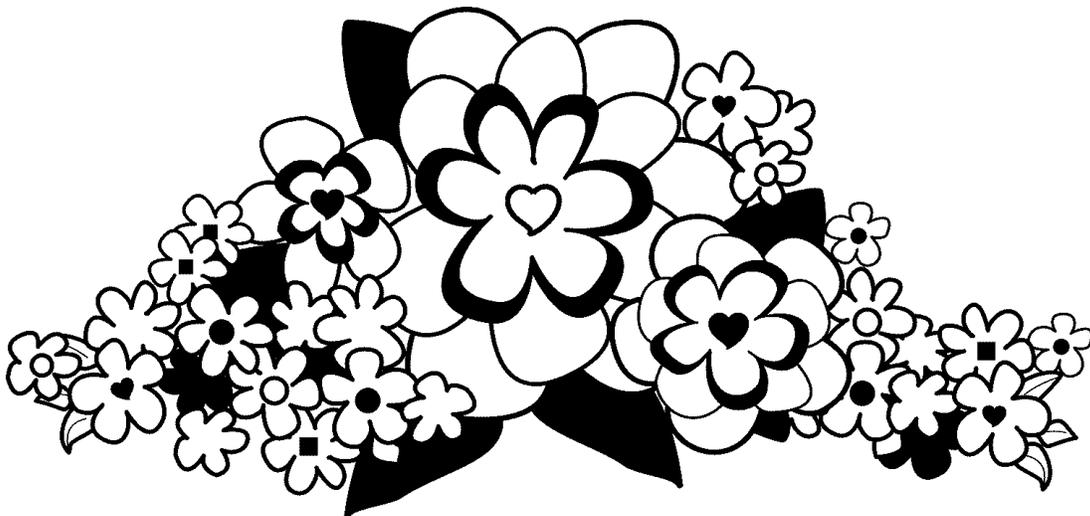
These wedding preparation guidelines are intended to help Catholics who worship at Our Lady of the Rosary Church celebrate their wedding here. While these guidelines do not cover all the specific information about a Catholic marriage, these guidelines are structured to provide you with a broad outline that is common to most Catholic weddings.

### **WHERE WILL YOU BE CELEBRATING YOUR MARRIAGE?**

1. Usually if you are going to celebrate your marriage at Our Lady of the Rosary, then all aspects of the preparation are done here. If you live outside the area, it is often possible that your preparation for marriage can be done at the parish that you attend.
2. It is both customary and Church law to celebrate the Sacrament of Matrimony within the parish of either the bride or the groom, if both are Catholic. If only one is Catholic, the wedding is normally at the Catholic's parish, although there is the possibility of celebrating it in the worship space of another faith tradition.
3. If you are getting married in another Catholic Church or in the worship space of another faith tradition, it is possible to do your marriage preparation at Our Lady of the Rosary.

### **WHEN DO YOU PLAN TO GET MARRIED AT OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY?**

1. A tentative date may be set as early as the first contact with Our Lady of the Rosary. A tentative date only guarantees the time and date of the wedding so that no one else will be able to select that time and date. *The tentative date does not, however, guarantee the actual celebration of the marriage.* Confirmation of the wedding ceremony takes place after the reception of the documents required to demonstrate readiness and freedom to marry and the marriage preparation program has been agree upon.
2. Marriages should be scheduled six months in advance of the tentative date of the wedding.
3. All documents must be at the parish, at least, 4 weeks before wedding.



## 1. **A Determination of Readiness and Freedom to Marry**

In order to determine that a couple is ready and free to marry in the Catholic Church, the couple must do the following:

- a. Complete a *“Pre-Nuptial Questionnaire”* which will provide basic information which will help determine if the couple is ready and free to marry in the Catholic Church. This questionnaire is completed with the priest at the parish office.
- b. Catholics must obtain a recent copy of *baptismal certificate*, issued within six months of the marriage. Contact the church where you were baptized to issue a new Baptismal Certificate.
- c. Other documents may be necessary once the Pre-Nuptial Questionnaire is completed. The priest will explain what additional documents will be needed.

## 2. **Completion of Marriage Enrichment Program**

Marriage preparation at Our Lady of the Rosary is intended to bring the couple to a deeper awareness of their relationship with each other, with their neighbours and with God.

- a. To receive the Sacrament of Marriage, Catholics are expected to participate in the life of the Church.
- b. All couples are required to attend, at least one of the following:
  1. Marriage preparation Day sponsored by the Family Life Education of the Syracuse Diocese. It is held at Notre Dame High School from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, meets once a month (except during the summer) and costs \$75. The Registration Form and Schedule of Days are available at the parish office. Early sign-up is advisable.
  2. An Engaged Encounter Weekend internet search: [cny engaged encounter](http://cny.engagedencounter.com)
  3. Prepare Pre-Marital Inventory (4 one hour meetings with the priest or marriage preparation team in the parish office.



## Fees

1. Church Stipend The customary offering to the church is \$250. This includes an offering to the parish and the priest. Please make check payable to the Church of Our Lady of the Rosary and give it to the priest no later than at the rehearsal. Checks should be made out directly to the Church of our Lady of the Rosary and is due at the rehearsal.
2. Music If you wish to have our parish musicians (organist and/or cantor), the cost of the musicians is between couple being married and the type of music selected. You may bring your own musicians and singers but usually the parish musicians and singer is selected. (For example the church organist receives \$150 and the cantor receives \$150.)
3. Dispensations and Decrees of Nullity (Marriage Tribunal fee) If these documents are needed, the Diocese of Syracuse Tribunal who issues generally charges a service fee of about \$100.00 each.



## NEW YORK STATE MARRIAGE LICENSE

A civil license is required by New York State Law. This may be obtained from an city, village or town clerk. The license must be obtained at least 24 hours prior to the wedding ceremony and is valid for 60 days. Do not delay until the last minute obtaining your marriage license. The priest cannot witness a wedding without a New York State Marriage License.

The License Bureau will require identification and proof of age. Both bride and groom must apply in person, with proper identification. If either applicant has been previously married, exact date of last divorce, death or annulment must be provided.

The marriage license should be given to the priest at the wedding rehearsal. During the marriage ceremony, the marriage license will be signed. The parish priest will then mail it to the same location from which it was obtained.

# Weddings



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## Wedding Ceremony

### Time of Wedding Ceremony

Weddings are usually on Saturday ending by 2:00 pm. However, there is scheduling flexibility on days of week and time. Discuss with Father Honold the date and time that you would like.

*The wedding time is the time that the bride must begin to walk down the aisle.* It is suggested that Invitations should reflect at least 1/2 hour earlier than wedding time to allow guests to arrive

on time.

Each couple must do whatever is necessary to ensure that not only the entire wedding party is ready to start on time, but all guests are present in the church on time. The wedding party should assemble at least 30 minutes before the beginning of the ceremony. By starting on time, there is much less anxiety and frustration. Thus, everyone can enjoy participating in the wedding.

### Official Church Witness of Wedding

The priest officially assigned to Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church will officiate at all weddings. Other Catholic priests or deacons will be permitted to officiate at the wedding with the pastor's advance approval. Pastors from other religious traditions or Jewish rabbis are most welcome to take part in the wedding ceremony.

Visiting Catholic priests are welcomed to witness the wedding vows of relatives and close friends. However, the couple will set the date, complete the appropriate forms and supply the required sacramental documents with the assistance of the priest at Our Lady of the Rosary.

### Planning the Ceremony

Approximately a month before the wedding, there will be a planning meeting with the priest or deacon to plan the actual wedding ceremony. Each couple will be expected to complete the wedding plan before meeting with the priest or deacon. All couples should be as involved as possible in the planning of their wedding ceremony.

### Rehearsal

The rehearsal is scheduled at a mutually convenient time for bride, groom and bridal party. The rehearsal must start on time. The priest will conduct the rehearsal. No bridal consultant is permitted to conduct the rehearsal.

## **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

It is recommended that Catholics receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation prior to their wedding. The priest officiating at the ceremony will normally be available for confessions following the wedding rehearsal.

## **Music**

All music performed in the church must be liturgical. The Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church organist usually plays for all weddings. If the organist should not be available, a competent substitute will be suggested. Please schedule a meeting with the parish music director to discuss your wedding music. If you wish to have a soloist, Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church organist will suggest names of singers for you to contact. Both the organist's and soloist's fee is directly negotiated between you and them. (If you wish your own organist to play, Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church organist must approve that the person is able to adequately use our organ).



## **Floral Arrangements**

Floral arrangements are the responsibility of the bride and groom. Usually one arrangement of flowers on either side of altar is sufficient. Any decorations placed on the end of the pew must not be harmful to the finish and must be picked up after the ceremony. Flower arrangements are not permitted on the Altar table. It is suggested that floral arrangements are to be left for the weekend liturgies. Our bulletin will note that this gesture is made by the couple in loving memory of their deceased relatives. Please notify the parish office of the names of the deceased family members two weeks before your wedding.



Runners are permitted but really not needed since the church is carpeted.

Costs are responsibility of couple.

## **Unity Candle**

Some couples may wish to have a Unity Candle at wedding. If so, please bring candles and stand to the wedding rehearsal. It is the couple's choice who pre-lights the "outer" candles during the ceremony. Sometime, it is the bride and groom; other time the mothers of the bride and groom or special relatives or friends.

## **Photographers**

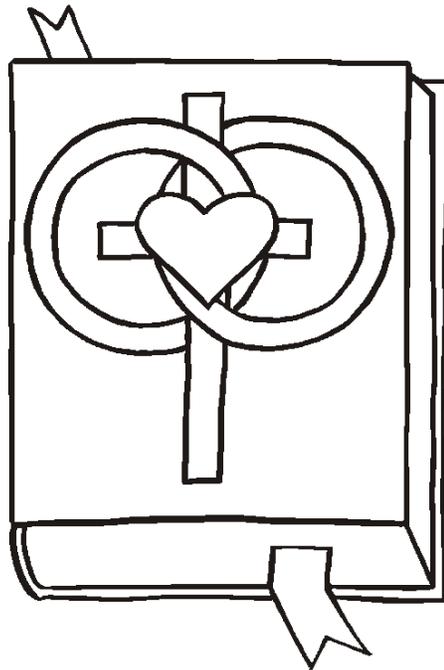
Photographers are permitted to take a limited number of pictures during the ceremony. They must consult with the priest or deacon prior to the ceremony to acquaint themselves with the order of events. The Sanctuary is a sacred space, and the photographers may not enter it at any time. The Church will remain open with lights on and available for photographers for a reasonable length of time after the ceremony.

## **Clean and Safe**

The Church must be kept clean and present no hazard to those attending the wedding. Rice, confetti, bird seed, etc. may not be tossed anywhere in the church or in front of the church. Flowers may not be strewn down the center aisle by the flower girl.

## **Honeymoon Plans**

If the honeymoon takes place outside of the United States, care should be taken to insure that all visas signed correspond to the names in the passports.



**GOD BLESS YOU!**