

Congratulations on your decision to get Married!



Please review this checklist carefully.

**Contact the Parish at 364-8606 to book or confirm a time
for the wedding, to schedule a meeting with the parish
priest to start planning, and to make the required deposit.**

Primary Information

- At least **six** months' notice is required for weddings.
- Usually, people get married in the parish where they worship - your own parish. If for some valid reason (e.g. your home parish does not have a church building or it is too small, or you are away from home, etc.) non-parishioners want to get married Our Lady, Queen of Families, and **if** the church is available at an acceptable time, **the priest presiding at the wedding must be the one to do the Marriage Interview to complete the required documents, and preside, and to help you select the appropriate parts for your Mass Celebration.**
- After confirmation of the marriage date and time, parishioners (or non-parishioners) need to:
 - Contact the priest to go over the various options, etc.
 - Make an appointment to complete the marriage documents.
 - Arrange for a rehearsal time.
- The Church **Stipend** for a wedding is \$100.00, payable one week in advance of the wedding. This is for the use of the church only. The Stipend for the Clergy is \$100.00 payable one week in advance of the Wedding.

Courses, Licenses and Documentation

- The Archdiocese requires that a couple attend a **Marriage Preparation Course**. Please call 726-3660 to register for one of the courses. **If you are living outside of the archdiocese you will have to contact your local parish. This should be done at least six months before the wedding.**
- The Civil License** (good for 30 days) must be brought to the parish as soon as it can be obtained (**at least one week before the wedding**). To obtain a license, contact John Ridgley, 237-5040, john@ridgley.ca, or www.ridgley.ca/ml.html, or Vital Statistics on Smallwood Drive in Mount Pearl.
- What documentation do I need to provide?**

At the initial meeting with the priest, you will need to provide a copy of your **Baptism** and **Confirmation** certificates. You will also need names and addresses of your witnesses (i.e., Best Man & Maid of Honor). Within one week of your marriage, you will need to provide the parish office with a Province of Newfoundland Marriage License (These licenses are available up to 30 days before the wedding day.). You will need to also provide the certificate from the Marriage Preparation Course, as well as any other supporting documentation that the priest or parish might require. **If you or your partner were previously married, you will need to provide a copy of your divorce certificate and your annulment decree. If you do not have one, please speak to the parish priest as soon as possible.**

Readings

- ❑ **Liturgy Preparation:** The Scripture Readings for your wedding should be selected with care. You will be given a number of choices. Couples should reflect on these Readings and discuss them with the priest. The first reading selections should come from the Old Testament, and the Second Reading should come from the New Testament. You will also be given choices for General Intercessions or Prayers of the Faithful. These should reflect the intentions of the newly married couple and their families. Reading selections can be found on parish website under, "Sacraments."
- ❑ **Can We Write Our Own Vows?**
In short, the couple is not permitted to write their own vows. The principle and over-riding reason is a Canonical (Church Law) issue. Since the primary role of the celebrating priest is to ensure that the marriage is valid, altering the words of the prescribed text jeopardizes this validity, and therefore the couple is not permitted to write their own vows.

Services to Book

- ❑ **Music** is integral to all our Liturgical Celebrations and should be chosen with care. A wedding is principally a time of worship and as such the music that is selected ought to reflect this reality. Therefore, only certain hymns and musical settings are appropriate for a Catholic wedding. Please ask the priest or parish secretary for the name and contact numbers for a parish music minister. As at our Sunday and weekday liturgies, the congregation will participate in all congregational parts. The Acclamations, Responsorial Psalm, and the Gathering Hymn and Communion Hymn are to be chosen from the Catholic Book of Worship III, our parish hymnal, or other, pre-approved, music. Any other music must be approved by the priest.
 - We can supply the names of people who can be of assistance with the music at your wedding ceremony. These people are familiar with or involved with the Music Ministry at the parish. Most are available for hire; however, this is the responsibility of the couple. **Couples are responsible for any contract/financial arrangements made with musicians/cantors.**

- ❑ **Wedding Music**

1. Annette Boyle – Keyboard

364-6845

2. Korona Brophy – Keyboard & violin

String Quartet- Church and/or Reception

Celtic Fiddlers- Reception 364-7193 or 727-0837

3. Peter Furlong – Guitar & vocalist

364-3844

4. Peggy Snow – Vocalist

368-9375

5. Gerry Crocker – Keyboard

364-7057

6. Susanne O’Keefe – Vocalist & Pianist

769-2691

7. Kathleen Hearn – Pianist

745-5731

8. Mackenzie Critch – Vocalist

689-6899

9. Jan Jasinski – Pianist

330-3949

Photographs and Videos:

- Photographers/ videographers must stay outside of the Sanctuary.
- Photographs may **only** be taken going up and down the aisle, during the exchanging of vows, and at the signing of the register.
- **Always** check with the presider before the ceremony.
- It is **your** responsibility to ensure that all those who are hired to take pictures- and all of your friends and relatives- understand these requirements.

Couples are responsible for any contract/financial arrangements made with photographers/ videographers.

Flowers/ Decorations

If desired, flowers and/or decorations are the responsibility of the couple. We encourage you not to feel obligated to purchase these or other extras. No material is allowed to be on the floor. No Chapel/ Church aisle runners. Live animals are not permitted in the church or foyer.

- **Confetti:** **No** confetti, rice, flower petals, etc. are to be thrown on the floor at the Church or on the church grounds.
- **Decorations:** If the couple decides to use a decorator it is the responsibility of the couple for all set up and removal of the decorations. Any and All decorations should be modest and evoke a sense of beauty. Decorations must be discussed with the priest or the parish secretary prior to being purchased.

The couple is responsible for any contract/ financial arrangements made with decorators. It is also the couple's responsibility to inform the decorators of the parish's guidelines.

Miscellaneous Information

Celebration of a Mass

This applies only when the wedding is celebrated within a Mass.

Communion Ministers who regularly exercise these ministries at the Parish are available if you wish.

What if my fiancé(e) is not Catholic?

If one of the parties is not a Roman Catholic, there is a special liturgy that is celebrated outside the context of a mass. The structure of the liturgy is identical to that with a mass, only there is no celebration of the Eucharist (This type of liturgy is commonly referred to as a Wedding Service). The foundational experience of the wedding liturgy is the celebration of unity, "2 become 1 flesh". If the marriage is a "Mixed Marriage" and the Eucharist was celebrated, then disunity, confusion, and a lack of hospitality would be emphasized in that a number of the guests attending the service would be uncertain of responses and ritual actions particular to a Catholic celebration of the Eucharist. Also, half of the party being married would be unable to partake.

Orders of Service or “Programs”

Orders of Service or “Programs” as they are commonly called, are encouraged, but not required. They provide your guests with a nice memento of your celebration, and they allow those not familiar with the Catholic Marriage Ritual an opportunity to participate fully in the celebration. The Parish Office can provide an outline of the information that is usually in a program. **The preparation, printing, and distribution of such materials is the responsibility of the couple.**

“Unity Candles” Optional. Speak with the priest before your wedding.