

May God Bless you and
Keep you on your Wedding
Day and Every Day of Your
Life Together



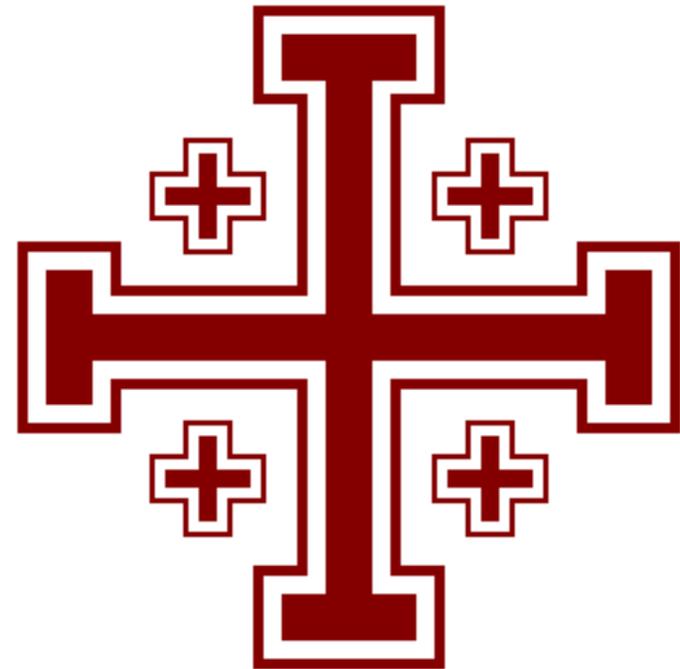
Cordially in Christ,

The Priests, Deacons, Staff and Parishioners of
The Parish of St. Agnes Cathedral

Revised September 2017

Wedding Guidelines

The Parish of
St. Agnes Cathedral



Rockville Centre, New York

Check List

Dear Friends,

Congratulations! The Parish of St. Agnes Cathedral rejoices in your plans to enter into the Sacrament of Marriage. This booklet is designed to guide you in the proper celebration of the Sacrament.

We ask that you read through this booklet very carefully. It is important that you follow all that is required of you by the Church and the Parish of St. Agnes. This will also help you to avoid any problems in your plans.

At St. Agnes, we are here to help you in any way possible. Please feel free to inquire with any questions you may have.

May God bless you as you begin to plan your lives together.

*The Priests, Deacons and Staff of
The Parish of St. Agnes Cathedral*

- Baptismal Certificate
 - Groom
 - Bride
- Letter of Freedom
- Pre Cana Certificate
- Dispensation/Mixed Marriage
- DF/Annulment
- Fee To Church and Music
- Marriage License
- Liturgy Sheet
- Music Selection
- Rehearsal Date

Marriage Preparation

Rice/Rose Petals/Banners

No rice, flower petals, bird seed or confetti is allowed to be thrown inside or outside of the Cathedral. Because of the sacredness of the Sacrament of Marriage, carrying banners and signs in the procession is not permitted.

White Runner

At the Cathedral we do not allow runners because they can create a safety hazard. We have had too many incidents where the runner has caused people to fall. So as to cause no one in your family, wedding party or yourselves unnecessary harm, we would request that no runners be used.

Cell Phones/PDA's

Due to the solemnity of the Sacrament of Marriage all members of the wedding party and guests should turn off their cell phones, and other electronic devices so as not to distract or take away from the celebration.

Tipping Servers and Sexton

It is customary to offer Altar Servers and Sextons a monetary tip for their service. A tip of \$10.00 to each server and to the sexton on duty is appreciated. We thank you for your generosity.

In order to help you prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage, we would like to make you aware of some Diocesan requirements and parish policies concerning your marriage at St. Agnes Cathedral.

Out of a desire to accommodate as many parishioners as possible, non-parishioners are able to secure a date only within a year of their wedding date. If someone outside of the parish boundaries, wishes to register as a parishioner, there is a waiting period of one year before they can secure a wedding date. In order to prepare properly for the sacrament, your marriage should be scheduled at least six months in advance of the celebration.

Usually the priest/deacon who first interviews you will officiate at your wedding. Vacation schedules and priest/deacon transfers could make a difference in the policy. If you wish a specific priest/deacon from the parish to witness the wedding ceremony, you should indicate this when you call for an appointment or at your first interview. If you have a priest/deacon relative or friend whom you wish to perform the ceremony, he is most welcome to do so.

If the priest or deacon is not a priest of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, we ask that he have a letter from his diocese or religious community sent to the Rector at St. Agnes attesting to the fact that he is a priest/deacon in good standing. The priest/deacon should also contact one of the parish priests for proper delegation.

Wedding Times

Friday

To be discussed with Priest/Deacon

Saturday

10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m.

Sunday

3:00 p.m.

FOCCUS/

Pre-Marital Instruction

Foccus and Pre-Marital instruction, traditionally termed "Pre-Cana," is required by the diocese.

Foccus is a self-assessment instrument designed to help couples learn more about themselves and determine their readiness for marriage. This also aids in preparation for Pre-Cana.

There are three forms of Pre-Cana available:

1. Parish Pre-Cana
2. Engaged Encounter Weekend
3. Diocesan Pre-Cana

The priest/deacon assisting you with your marriage plans will explain each to you and help you to choose the best form for you.

In addition, some paperwork will be necessary to ascertain the couple's freedom to marry. If there has been any prior marriage of either party, whether in the Catholic Church or outside the Church, please mention this to the priest/deacon at the initial interview. Likewise, you must mention if either party is under nineteen or if a pregnancy is involved.

Interfaith Marriage

In the case of an interfaith marriage, proper dispensations must be obtained and the Catholic party must promise to do his/her best to maintain his/her faith and to share that faith with his/her children.

Freedom to Marry

Catholics must obtain a recently dated Baptismal Certificate (i.e. dated within six months prior to the wedding day). This may be obtained from the church of your baptism upon request by informing the church of your name, date of birth, and the date of your scheduled wedding. This updated Baptismal Certificate testifies to your freedom to marry.

If one of the parties is a non-Catholic Christian, that person should bring a copy of his/her original Baptismal Certificate and obtain an affidavit signed by two witnesses (parent or close relative) that he/she has never been married before. Such an affidavit must also be submitted by a non-baptized individual.

Your Wedding Day at St. Agnes Cathedral

Congratulations! Your wedding day is fast approaching. To help you on this day, here are a few pointers.

Absolutely NO alcoholic beverages are permitted in Church or on Church grounds.

Punctuality

Because of the large number of weddings at St. Agnes, it is important that your wedding begin on time. *Please know that if you are more than fifteen minutes late from the scheduled time of your wedding celebration, the presider (priest or deacon) may alter your celebration.* (i.e. Mass will be altered to a Ceremony, scripture readings will be deleted and songs eliminated).

The groom, best man and ushers should be at the Cathedral at least one half hour before the scheduled wedding. The bride and her attendants should be at the Cathedral at least fifteen minutes before the ceremony.

Photo/Videographers

We ask the bride and groom to inform their photographer and/or videographer to check with the priest/deacon before the wedding begins to go over Church regulations. There will be no "restaging" of the ceremony once it is over, and photographers **must** stay out of the sanctuary area.

Flowers

The Cathedral does provide two large arrangements of flowers in the sanctuary (except during the season of Advent and Lent). We encourage couples to use these beautiful seasonal arrangements rather than purchase additional floral arrangements. A donation of \$100 will memorialize the altar flowers in your name and will be posted in our bulletin. Pew decorations may be arranged through the florist of your choice.

Our Wedding Coordinator conducts the rehearsals. Please contact the Parish Office to schedule the rehearsal at a mutually convenient time.

The usual evenings for rehearsal are Thursday and Friday. The rehearsal will take 30 minutes. Please schedule a time at 6:00, 6:30, 7:00 or 7:30 p.m. Outside wedding planners need not attend the rehearsal.

Please be on time for the rehearsal and bring the following (if you have not already dropped them off at the Rectory):

1. Civil Marriage License
2. Liturgy selection sheet from **Together for Life** book indicating the prayers and readings you have selected. The selection sheet should also note the names of any readers and any other options (wedding candle, roses to mothers, etc.)
3. Wedding Candle (if using this option)

Contact People

The following may be contacted by leaving a message at the Parish Office. The office phone number is (516) 766-0205

Msgr. William E. Koenig

Rector

Rev. Seth N. Awo Doku

Associate Pastor

Rev. James H. Hansen

Associate Pastor

Rev. German Villabon

Associate Pastor

Deacon Thomas McDaid

Ms. Ellen Fox

Director of Rehearsals

Letter of Freedom

A letter of **Freedom to Marry** is required for all non-parishioners from your home parish. This should be presented to the consulting priest/deacon.

Marriage License

A valid New York State Marriage License is necessary. This may be obtained from the office of any Town Clerk in New York State. Marriage licenses are valid from 24 hours after issued to 60 days from the date the license is obtained.

Church Offering

Sacraments are matters of faith. They are neither sold or bought. However, our parish community has many temporal needs. If you are a parishioner or have some spiritual connection to the parish a fee of \$500 for services provided at the Cathedral and \$250 for services provided by **our Music Ministry is required. *If you are a non-parishioner and have received the necessary permission from your Pastor to marry at St. Agnes, a fee of \$750 (\$500 wedding and \$250 out-of-parish fee) for the services provided at the Cathedral and \$250 for the service provided by our Music Ministry is required.*** Please write out two separate checks: one check payable to the Cathedral Parish of St. Agnes and another check payable to St. Agnes Music Ministry. This offering will help cover the maintenance cost of our church building and the services of our parish organist and cantor.

Parish fees should be dropped off at the Rectory Office one month before the wedding.

Weddings are not scheduled on National Holidays: Independence Day, Memorial Day, Labor Day, etc.

Altar Servers will be assigned to assist at your wedding. It is customary to give a tip to the Altar Servers.

Wedding Banns

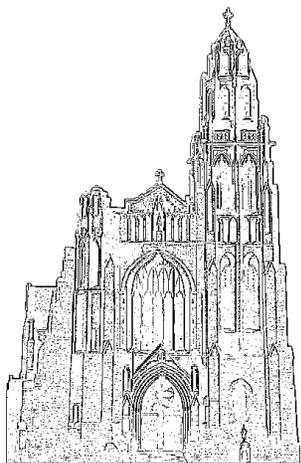
The Banns of Marriage announce your upcoming wedding to the local community. Wedding Banns are published in the parish bulletin three consecutive weeks before the wedding.

Liturgy

The **Together for Life** booklet which contains the various options for your wedding ceremony (readings, prayers, forms of vows, blessings) will be given to you. Please contact the priest/deacon witnessing your wedding at least *six weeks in advance* of the ceremony to go over your liturgy selections.

Also discuss with the priest/deacon whether your wedding is going to be a Nuptial Mass or a ceremony without Mass. He will be able to help you make the proper decisions.

To assist couples with details of the wedding, a Wedding Liturgy Showcase is scheduled every six months to assist couples with the planning process. Couples will be contacted about the date for the next Wedding Showcase, or you may contact the Rectory (766-0205).



Music

All music selections must be approved by the Music Department. Please contact the Music Office, *at least three months in advance* (weddings@stagnescathedral.org or 764-9578) to make arrangements. Forms for planning the music selections, as well as sample pieces to choose for the wedding are available online at www.stagnescathedral.org or you may request a CD recording of the selections to choose. *All arrangements for musical selections and musicians should be completed one month prior to the wedding.*

At each wedding liturgy there are two cathedral musicians: the cathedral organist and cantor. The music stipend (\$250) is given to the secretary at the parish Rectory Office. Checks should be made payable to St. Agnes Music Ministry. Additional musicians for the wedding liturgy (brass, strings, choirs) are also available and can be arranged through the Music Department. Permission for a guest organist or cantor must be obtained from the Music Department. When permission is granted, the music fee must still be provided by the couple. When selecting music for the wedding liturgy, please remember that the texts sung should be sacred texts (taken from scripture, or inspired by scripture). Secular songs are more appropriate for your reception rather than the liturgy.

Sacrament of Penance

In order to enter into the Sacrament of Marriage with the proper disposition, we urge those to be married to receive the Sacrament of Penance (confession) before their wedding. This Sacrament is celebrated at St. Agnes every Saturday from 4:00-4:45 p.m., on Monday after the 7:30 p.m. Mass and Wednesday following the 7:45 a.m. Mass or by appointment with a priest.

The Sacrament of Penance will **not** be available at the wedding rehearsal.

Rehearsals

Because of the large numbers of weddings at St. Agnes and other pastoral commitments, it is usually not possible for the priest/deacon officiating at your wedding to conduct the rehearsal.