

Saint Patrick's Church

Victor, New York



*...there was a wedding in Cana in Galilee,
and the mother of Jesus was there.
Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding.
- John 2:1-2, NAB*

Wedding Guidelines

(Updated January 2024)

Saint Patrick Church
Victor, New York

Wedding Guidelines

The peace of Christ be with you and congratulations!

We, the members of Saint Patrick's Church, share in your joy as you enter this time of proximate preparation for your marriage. Be assured of our prayers for you: may this time be for you full of grace and joy.

Preparing for Your Marriage

From the day of your baptism, your faith formation at home, in religious education and your participation in the sacramental life of the Church already form the remote preparation for your marriage. It is on these that the immediate preparation now builds on so as to nurture your conviction that God calls you to this special vocation in church, the married life. In Christ, may you find the model and example for the love that brings unity and life, that is, total, self-giving, lasting and fruitful. It is our hope that, after your wedding, your marriage will be nurtured and will continue to grow with your active involvement and the support of your parish, particularly from other married couples who share in your beliefs and values concerning marriage as the original and eternal plan of God between one man and one woman.

Getting Married in the Church

We, at Saint Patrick Church, are honored that you have chosen to celebrate your wedding in our faith community. May your encounter with all those who assist you in your preparation be faith-filled, warm and welcoming. We take this opportunity to invite you to become formal members of our parish, that is, if you are currently living in the area and are not yet affiliated with a Catholic parish.

If you are Roman Catholics and are current members of another parish, you must have the permission of your pastor and our pastor to celebrate your wedding at Saint Patrick Church. To get married in the Catholic Church, at least, one of the couple must be Roman Catholic.

Financial Obligations

In the Catholic Church, the faithful have due rights to the celebration of the sacraments and, therefore, the administration of the sacraments is free. We would like the engaged couples to be attentive to the cost entailed in the preparation and the celebration of marriage: the use of the

church facilities, the meetings with staff, the cost of services of organist, and that of preparation materials like Fully Engaged and Together for Life. The breakdown of the cost is as follows:

Church Facilities	\$200 ¹
Organist/Pianist	\$150
Cantor	\$100
Wedding Coordinator	\$150
Total	\$600 ²

To secure the wedding date, the couple must meet with either Father Edison Tayag or Deacon John Payne and a deposit of \$300, half of the total fee, must be made. The balance must be paid two weeks prior to the wedding date. Check must be made payable to *Saint Patrick's Church*, and on the memo line, indicate your *names and wedding date*.

For the wedding you are allotted two hours: 60 minutes for set-up and arrival, 60 minutes for the celebration of the rite beginning with the processional and ending with the recessional, and 45 minutes picture-taking and clean-up. Your arriving on time and your leaving on time respect the schedule of the priest, deacon, ministers, musicians and guests. Should the ceremony start late, this would cut into the time that your wedding party would be able to use the church after the ceremony. Weekends are especially busy time for churches: on Saturdays, Confessions are celebrated in the afternoon and the Vigil Mass follows.

Days and Times for Weddings and Rehearsals

Weddings are usually scheduled on Fridays and Saturdays. On Fridays, at 3:00 PM, and on Saturdays, either at 11:00 AM or 1:00 PM. All times are at the discretion of the priest or deacon.

Rehearsals are normally scheduled on Thursdays or Fridays, between 5:00 and 8:00 PM. It is good practice to secure these dates as soon as possible so as to avoid conflict with activities that take place in church.

The Arrangement and Ornamentation of the Church

“The ornamentation of a church should contribute toward its noble simplicity rather than to ostentation. Moreover, in the choice of elements attention should be paid to authenticity and there should be the intention of fostering the instruction of the faithful and the dignity of the entire sacred place.”

- General Instruction of the Roman Missal, Chapter V, 292.

¹ Includes Fully Engaged Workbooks and Inventory, and Together for Life, guide to planning the wedding liturgy.

² If additional musicians are required or desired, they will be paid directly by the wedding party. If the selected music and musicians require additional rehearsal time, it will result in additional fees. Please plan well with the music director.

With regards to the altar, *the faithful may not be impeded from a clear view of what takes place on the altar or what is placed upon it.* And with the ambo, *ordained ministers and readers should be clearly seen and heard by the faithful.*

- General Instruction of the Roman Missal, Chapter V, 307 and 309.

The sacred character of the church and the celebration guides the way the worship space is decorated, the readings and music are selected and the decorum of those present. In the celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage follows for its model the Sunday celebration of the Mass. Nothing must distract the faithful from the dignity of the celebration and the sacredness of the church.

Furniture and Furnishings

- None of the furniture or furnishings in the church can be moved or removed. All aisles and exits must remain clear to facilitate safe entrance and exit to and from the church.
- The church follows the Liturgical Calendar, which guides the use of liturgical colors. Liturgical colors are not changed to accommodate wedding colors.
- Aisle runners are not used at Saint Patrick's Church.
- No tacks, nails, tape, or other means may be used to secure flowers, palms or other decorations to church walls, fixtures, chairs/pews or other furniture. Any decorations attached to the chairs or pews must be attached with string, pipe cleaners or rubber bands. These must not inhibit the movement of your wedding guests as they can be a hazard in an emergency situation. Single-candle torches at the ends of the pews or rows of chairs can be used if they have hurricane-type covers. To avoid candle drippings, candles must be contained in glass candle-holders.

Flowers

- Flowers must not impede the movement of the priest, deacon, readers and the bride and groom, or block the sightlines of the altar and the ambo. Movements must be safely done around the altar and the ambo.
- Artificial flowers are not permitted in the sanctuary. During Lent, floral arrangements are not permitted in the sanctuary. Couples are invited to consider leaving the floral arrangements in church after the ceremony.
 - Florists have an hour before the ceremony to set-up floral arrangements in church, and half an hour to remove wedding apparati (ribbons, boxes, etc.) after the ceremony.
- Rice, confetti, flower petals, sparklers, flower petals (including silk ones) or the like are not allowed on church property; they are a safety hazard to your guests and a liability to our church. It is your responsibility to inform those invited to your wedding of this limitation.

Photographers and Videographers

- Saint Patrick's Church expects responsible activity on the part of all photographers and videographers, both professional and amateur. Be attentive to scheduled church activities before and after the wedding. Photo sessions must be completed within forty-five minutes after the ceremony.

- To insure that the sacred character of the sacramental celebration is not disrupted, the use of flash photography during the ceremony is discouraged. Photographers and videographers should consult the wedding coordinator for proper decorum in church. If there are questions about the use or placement of equipment, your photographer should consult the Wedding Coordinator.
- During photographic sessions before or after the ceremony, no furniture of the church may be moved. Video lights are not permitted. It is advisable that the couple discuss video plans with the Wedding Coordinator before signing a contract.

Food and Beverages

- Under no circumstances are refreshments allowed in the church.
- If bottled water is used, kindly see to it that empty bottles are properly disposed.
- No alcoholic beverages are allowed in the church premises. If the groom or the bride or witnesses are found to have consumed alcohol before the wedding, the priest or the deacon has the right to cancel the wedding.

The Wedding Liturgy

With the priest or deacon who will witness your marriage, you will prepare the wedding liturgy to choose –

- Scripture readings
- Prayers and blessings
- Words of Consent
- And the Prayer of the Faithful

The priest or deacon will assist you in determining the proper context of the wedding, either within the celebration of the Mass or the Liturgy of the Word.

Wedding coordinators have received instructions on the order of procession, Rite of Marriage and recession of the wedding party.

Wedding Music

Christian marriage is a vocation through which God calls a man and a woman to reflect the love that God has for His people. As such, through the love between husband and wife what is also manifested is the love between God and His people. Keeping this in mind, the selection of music for weddings must point to the sacred character of love between God and His people and between husband and wife.

For weddings, music must be carefully selected so that appropriate music is sung at the proper time. The parish music director, with help from the priest or the deacon who is preparing you for marriage will assist in selecting music for the parts of the ceremony, like,

- Processional: includes the priest or deacon, the liturgical ministers, the groom's men, the groom, bride's maids, bride and other escorts.

- Responsorial Psalm
- Acclamations
- Offertory Hymn
- Communion Hymn
- Recessional.

“The Bishop should therefore be determined that the Priests, the Deacons, and the lay Christian faithful grasp ever more deeply the genuine significance of the rites and liturgical texts, and thereby be led to the active and fruitful celebration of the Eucharist. To that end, he should also be vigilant in ensuring that the dignity of these celebrations be enhanced and, in promoting such dignity, the beauty of the sacred place, *of the music*, and of art should contribute as greatly as possible.”

- General Instruction of the Roman Missal, Chapter I, 22.

The main place should be given, all things being equal, to Gregorian chant, as being proper to the Roman Liturgy. Other kinds of sacred music, in particular polyphony, are in no way excluded, *provided that they correspond to the spirit of the liturgical action and that they foster the participation of all the faithful.*

General Instruction of the Roman Missal, Chapter I, 41.

As with the arrangement and ornamentation of the church, the Sunday liturgy also serves as model for the music used at the celebration of weddings. The selection of music should point to the sacred character of the ceremony and promotes the active and conscious participation of the faithful.

You may use the following reflection questions as you plan the music at your wedding:

- How do these hymns reflect the love between God and His people?
- Do these hymns inspire us to further give witness as husband and wife to the love between God and His people?
- Do these hymns reflect the message contained in the Scripture readings that we have selected for the wedding?
- How would a piece of music be classified using the following categories –
 - *Liturgical music*, that which is often found in church hymnals
 - *Contemporary music* which reflects the religious and spiritual aspects of love
 - *Contemporary music* which reflects only the physical or emotional aspects of love

Musicians

- Discuss with the parish music director the parish music guidelines and your music suggestions for your wedding. *All music that will be used at the wedding need the approval of the parish music director.*
- Discuss with the parish music director if you have plans of inviting soloists, vocalist and/or instrumentalist, for your wedding. *All guest cantors or vocalists must meet with the parish music director prior to the rehearsal.* Discuss with the parish music director any need for rehearsal with vocalist/s and instrumentalist/s.

- Since the cantor usually leads in singing the hymns and responses, let the parish music director know the extent of the involvement of an invited vocalist, if any. The presence of cantor and organist at the wedding eliminates the use of any recorded music, sung or instrumental.
- You may reach Carl Galland, the parish music director through carl.galland@dor.org or 585 924-7111. Meet with Carl at least two months prior to your wedding date.

Wedding Coordinators

A duly trained wedding coordinator will be assigned to a couple. If you have any questions, you may reach Joan Oliphant, our wedding coordinator, at (585) 742-3452 or joanoliphant50@gmail.com. The coordinator will conduct your rehearsal and assist in the celebration of your wedding. While a professional wedding consultant may prove helpful to you in arranging the details of your wedding day, such details are not directly related to the liturgical celebration. Therefore, the responsibilities of your professional wedding consultant cease at the church's door and begin again at your reception.

The Days Ahead and After

We pray that these coming days be truly blessed for you and your families and friends. May the marriage preparation be itself a wonderful experience for you. May your selections of readings, prayers and blessings, your vows, the giving and the receiving of rings be expressions of both your faith in God and in one another. May these also express your faith and confidence that the loving and living presence of God in your lives will strengthen and confirm your love for each other.

Saint Patrick's Church continues to support you in your vocation to the married life. If and when you choose to register and to become a formal member of our faith community, we look forward to hearing from you that together we may promote and celebrate the gifts of marriage and family.

God bless you now and always.

In Christ,

Father Edison and the entire Saint Patrick's Church

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